



CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN OHIO

D I S C I P L E S O F C H R I S T

A covenant network of congregations in mission:

We are the Body of Christ gifted and called in covenant together as Disciples of Christ to be centers of transformation on the new mission frontier of our own communities

BYLAWS

PREAMBLE

"Discernment" is a word that has come to be used for a process that seeks to do the church's business in a way that produces growth and transformation. While some of the Regional Church Council's business is done by means of parliamentary process, other issues are addressed through some form of a "discernment" process. Discernment is understood to require spiritual discipline, the study of scripture, significant dialogue, and prayer. It also requires more time than has traditionally been given in a parliamentary process. Discernment is a way of seeking to allow God to actively shape our work as a church.

As an organizational expression of the one church, the Regional Church Council of the Christian Church in Ohio seeks to understand what it does as "Worshipful Work." The Regional Church Council will begin each session with worship, prayer and reflection. The members also seek to pause, before making decisions, to remind themselves of God's active presence and leading. The Regional Church Council will set its work in the context of Bible study and prayer. These practices of discernment will serve as constant reminders that the Regional Church Council is seeking to express the fullness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as a part of the universal church.

ARTICLE I – BUSINESS PROCEDURES FOR REGIONAL ASSEMBLY Section 1.

Business items or resolutions for the Regional Assembly may be presented by Congregations or instrumentalities of the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) forty-five (45) days prior to the convening of the Assembly. Those business items or resolutions will be published to congregations and instrumentalities of the Christian Church in Ohio no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the Assembly.

Emergency resolutions submitted by or through the Executive Committee of the Regional Church Council will be available for review at the Assembly.

Section 2. Ordained and Commissioned Ministers having standing in the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) and laity who are participating members of local congregations in the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) shall have voting rights in the business sessions of the Regional Assembly.

ARTICLE II – BUSINESS PROCEDURES FOR REGIONAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Section 1. Resolutions and items of business may be presented to the Regional Church Council by members of the Council, a congregation, a chartered Committee or Commission of the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ), five or more members of the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) or any recognized agencies of the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ). To be properly presented for consideration by the Regional Church Council, such resolutions and items of business shall be submitted in writing to the Regional Church Office 45 days prior to a scheduled Council meeting. Business items or resolutions submitted after the deadline are allowable at the discretion of the Regional Moderator and/or Executive Committee.

Section 2. Meetings of the Regional Church Council may be held through alternate communications equipment if all persons participating can hear each other and contemporaneously communicate with each other. Participation in a meeting via such communications equipment shall constitute presence at such meeting. Any council member participating in a meeting through such authorized communications equipment shall be entitled to vote on matters considered by the Council at such meeting.

Section 3. When all members of the Regional Church Council have been notified of a vote to take place without a synchronous meeting, the proposed action shall be taken after a majority vote of the Regional Church Council being secured by mail ballot, online form, or other verifiable means of communication as required by Ohio law. The vote must be confirmed at the next synchronous meeting.

Section 4. These Bylaws may be suspended at any authorized meeting of the Regional Church Council by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the Regional Church Council.

ARTICLE III—MEMBERSHIP OF REGIONAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Section 1. Unless otherwise provided by the Articles of Incorporation, the Constitution, or resolution of the Regional Assembly, persons elected to serve as members of the Regional Church Council shall begin their two-year term of office at the meeting following the Regional Assembly at which such persons were so elected. Members of the Regional Church Council shall serve no more than three consecutive terms. The Regional Church Council membership shall be no more than 20% of the participating congregations recorded in the current Yearbook. "Participating Congregation" is a church who meets at least one of the following criteria: 1) has returned an annual report, 2) employs a minister with DOC standing in Ohio, 3) actively gives to the Region or Disciples Mission Fund (DMF), 4) actively participates in the shared ministries of the Regional Church by attending regional and/or camp events.

Section 2. Officers of the Regional Church Council shall be nominated by the Membership Development committee, elected by members of the Regional Church Council and confirmed by the Regional Assembly. Officers of the Regional Council shall serve a term of two years, renewable once.

Section 3: Membership requires that members are to be committed to making all Regional Church Council meetings and are expected to actively participate within the Region and its ministries. Any member that has missed more than two (2) unexcused absences within a term will be dismissed from the council membership. Absences are determined to be excused at the discretion of the Regional Moderator.

Section 4: Council Member attendance and regional participation will be monitored by the Membership Development Committee of the Regional Church Council. Any member that is not in compliance with the membership guidelines will receive notification from the Membership Development Committee Chair or Moderator in their absence.

Section 5: Vacancies of the Regional Church Council, due to resignation or removal during a term, will be filled by nominations from the Membership Development committee. Nominees will be accepted based on a 2/3 vote of the Regional Church Council present and voting.

ARTICLE IV—INSTRUMENTALITIES AND COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Section 1. Pursuant to its authority under Section 5 of Article VI of the Constitution, the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) may from time to time establish and maintain committees, commissions, and task forces to serve as instrumentalities of work and fellowship in order to fulfill the mission of the Christian Church in Ohio. These instrumentalities shall have those duties assigned to them by the Regional Church Council and shall be responsible to and work under the direction of the Regional Church Council. They shall report regularly, but not less than annually to the Regional Church Council. An updated list of committees, commissions, and task forces can be found in Appendix A.

Section 2. Standing committees of the Regional Church Council shall be appointed by the Moderator of the Regional Church Council, in consultation with the Regional Pastor and President and confirmed by the Regional Church Council. The standing committees include the following: Executive, Finance, Membership Development, Personnel, and Visioning.

- a. Executive Committee exercises the authority of the Regional Church Council in between meetings. Executive Committee shall be comprised of the officers of the Regional Church Council, Chairpersons of the standing committees and additional appointed members. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of no more than twelve members.
- b. The Finance Committee will work with the Treasurer to develop the ministry plans and income and expense projections into an annual fiscal budget. The proposed budget shall be submitted to the Executive Committee for their review and recommended to the Regional Church Council for approval. The committee will also on behalf of the Regional Church Council give oversight to the spending policies, investment policies, and any financial professional services.
- c. Membership Development Committee is charged with casting a wide net in order to nominate persons for election by the Regional Assembly to the Regional Church Council. The membership development committee is also responsible for orienting new members and providing continuing education opportunities to Regional Church Council members.
- d. Personnel Committee shall recommend personnel policies to the Regional Church Council, ensure annual staff evaluations are complete and recommend salary adjustments. In the absence of a Regional Pastor and President or designate, the Personnel Committee should act in the capacity to call staff to serve the region.
- e. Vision Committee is to lead the Regional Church Council in review of the vision and emerging trends and recommend strategic direction.

ARTICLE V – MINISTERIAL STAFF VACANCIES

Upon a vacancy in the office of the Regional Pastor and President or of one of the Associate Regional Pastors, the Moderator for the Regional Church Council will appoint a Search Committee, using the criteria of the “Executive Search Model”. If the office to be filled is that of Regional Associate Pastor, the Regional Pastor and President and Moderator will work collaboratively to appoint the Search Committee and the Regional Pastor and President shall serve as chair of this committee. The Search Committee will be approved by the Regional Church Council.

The Search Committee will develop a process of spiritual discernment to include the prayerful counsel of Clergy and Congregational Leaders of this Region, other Regional church staff and General Units of the Christian Church. The Committee will review the current position description and develop a regional profile for the office and report their work to the Regional Church Council.

The Search Committee will select one (1) candidate for consideration. The candidate may be extended the call by a two-third (2/3) vote of the members of the Regional Church Council. The call extended by the Regional Church Council shall be for an indefinite period of service at the discretion of the Regional Church Council.

ARTICLE VI – FINANCE

Section 1. The fiscal year of the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) shall be the calendar year. The annual ministry plans and financial income and expense projections shall be presented to the Regional Church Council for their approval as the official budget for the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) during the fiscal year and shall remain in effect until new ministry plans are adopted.

Section 2. The annual budget for the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) shall be prepared in the following manner:

- a. Each recognized Regional Church Ministry shall develop ministry plans and make financial income and expenses projections to support their plans.
- b. A proposed administrative ministry support budget to undergird the work of the Regional Church shall be developed by the Regional Pastor and President and Treasurer.

ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to these Bylaws may be submitted by a local congregation of the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) to the Regional Church Council or may be submitted directly by a member of the Regional Church Council. These Bylaws may be altered, changed, or amended in any respect, or superseded by new Bylaws in whole or in part, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Regional Church Council. No vote for amendments, changes, or modifications to the By-laws can be entertained in the same meeting as proposed.

APPENDIX A

Current Regional Church Ministry Committees, Commissions, and Task Forces

Adult Conference

Advance Conference

Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Commission

Camp Christian Committee

Chi Rho Commission

Children's Ministries

Christian Education Commission

Christian Youth Fellowship Commission

Commission on Ministry

Congregational Transformation Ministry Team

Disciples Fellowship

Metropolitan Commissions

- Cleveland Area Disciples
- Columbus Area Disciples
- Disciples of Christ in Southwest Ohio

New Church Committee

Ohio Black Pastors

Ohio Disciples Men's Ministries

Ohio Disciples Women's Ministries

Regional Elders

Spiritual Life Committee