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WESTERN ASSOCIATION BYLAWS
MISSOURI MID-SOUTH CONFERENCE
Revised and Approved 4/22/2017 and Possible Changes

Article I: Conformity, Purpose, Polity and Policy

Section 1: Conformity with the Articles of Incorporation:

The Western Association is a not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Missouri and registered as a not-for-profit corporation with the Secretary of State. These Bylaws are in conformity with the Articles of Incorporation and nothing herein contained shall be construed as being in contradiction of the Articles of Incorporation or to supersede the Articles of Incorporation in any manner whatsoever.

Section 2: Purpose of the Association

The Western Association shall fulfill the role of an Association of the United Church of Christ (UCC) defined by the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ and the Bylaws of the Missouri Mid-South Conference United Church of Christ. The Western Association shall fulfill the purposes for which the corporation is established as given in the Articles of Incorporation, Article Eight (8).

Section 3: Polity of the Association

Paragraph 1: This Association is and shall remain an Association within the United Church of Christ and the Missouri Mid-South Conference United Church of Christ, shall order its affairs and conduct its business in covenant, fellowship, and concert with the national settings of the United Church of Christ, the Missouri Mid-South Conference United Church of Christ, other Associations of the UCC, and all other ministries, organizations, and settings of the UCC. These Bylaws are intended to be consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ and of the Bylaws of the Missouri Mid-South Conference United Church of Christ.

Paragraph 2: The autonomy of the Local Church is inherent, and modifiable only by its own action. Nothing in these Bylaws shall destroy or limit the right of each Local Church to continue to operate in the way customary to it; nor shall be construed as giving the Association now, or at any future time, the power to abridge or impair the autonomy of any Local Church of the UCC in the management of its own affairs, which affairs include, but are not limited to, the right to retain or adopt its own methods of organization, worship and education; to retain or secure its own charter and name; to adopt its own constitution and Bylaws; to formulate its own covenants and confessions of faith; to admit members in its own way and to provide for their discipline or dismissal; to call or dismiss its pastor or pastors by such procedure as it shall determine; to acquire, own, manage, and dispose of property and funds; to control its own benevolence; and to withdraw by its own decision from the Association at any time without forfeiture of ownership or control of any real or personal property owned by it or any rights therein, belonging to a Local Church of the UCC.

Section Four: Policy of the Association

The principles, practices and procedures as outlined in the latest edition of the United Church of Christ "Manual on Ministry" will be used as the primary guide for shaping the policy of the Association. Any changes to the Manual on Ministry will be communicated to the Association at the next called Association Meeting.

This is moved here from Article III (Association Meetings), Section 2. The By-Laws Team did not feel it was appropriate under "Association Meetings" and felt it was more appropriate here. We added the words, "used as the primary guide for" to reflect current practices. This phrase is also consistent with the EA and SLA By-Laws which state "guided in its work by..." (EA) and "shall have as its primary authority..." (SLA). Also added the words, "the latest edition."

54 **Article II: Membership**

55 **Section #: Boundaries**

56 The boundaries of the Association shall include United Church of Christ Congregations west of Highway
57 63 to the Western state line of Missouri, from the north to the south state lines of Missouri, and shall
58 include churches in Fulton, Missouri and Western Arkansas, as well as online/virtual congregations whose
59 legal/corporate address is within the geographical boundaries of the Association.

60
61 *The By-Laws team and the Association Council felt it important to include a geographical clause.*
62 *This is consistent with the EA and SLA By-Laws, with the exception of the “virtual church”*
63 *contingency. This is from another Association in another Conference.*

64
65 **Section 1: ~~Classes of Members~~**

66 ~~The Association shall have three (3) classes of Members: 1) Local Churches holding standing in the~~
67 ~~Association (herein after “Local Church”); 2) Authorized Ministers of the United Church of Christ holding~~
68 ~~standing in the Association (herein after “Minister”); and 3) other persons who are granted membership.~~

69
70 Members of the Association shall include Local churches holding standing in the Association (hereinafter
71 referred to as “Local Church”); Authorized Ministers holding standing in the Association (hereinafter
72 referred to as “Minister”) and other persons who are granted membership.
73 *(2020 By-Laws Team Suggestion)*

74
75 *The By-Laws team felt the 2017 version sounded too hierarchical; like a “caste system” with*
76 *designated “classes”. This rewording eliminates such language and brings equity.*

77
78 **~~Section 2: Admission or Dismissal of Members~~**

79
80 ~~Members of the Association shall be admitted to or removed from membership in the Association by the~~
81 ~~Association Council or the Association Committee on Ministry as provided for in these Bylaws.~~

82
83 *The By-Laws team moved this to Section 4 below (Local Church Membership) and reworded to*
84 *be consistent with EA and SLA By-Laws (Clergy Membership addressed in Section 5)*

85
86 **Section 3: Exclusivity of Membership**

87
88 Paragraph 1: ~~No Local Church may hold membership in the Association, which holds membership in~~
89 ~~another Association of the UCC or other connectional body, which exercises the rights and~~
90 ~~responsibilities of an association.~~

91
92 Local Churches holding membership in the Association shall not hold membership in another Association
93 of the UCC or other connectional body which exercises the rights and responsibilities of an Association.
94 *(2020 By-Laws Team Suggestion)*

95
96 Paragraph 2: ~~No minister may be a member of the Association who holds ministerial standing in another~~
97 ~~Association of the UCC or who is a member of another denomination, except in the case of Ministers with~~
98 ~~Privilege of Call or Dual Standing, Ordained Ministerial Partners with Standing from the Christian Church~~
99 ~~(Disciples of Christ), or persons serving Federated or Dually Aligned Churches whose standing has been~~
100 ~~authorized by the Committee on Ministry.~~

101
102 Ministers holding membership in the Association shall not hold ministerial standing in another Association
103 of the UCC or another denomination, with the exception of ministers with Privilege of Call or Dual
104 Standing; Ordained Ministerial Partners with Standing from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) or
105 the United Church of Canada; or persons serving Federated or Dually Aligned Churches.
106 *(2020 By-Laws Team Suggestion)*

107
108 *The By-Laws team felt these phrasings are more positive than the 2017 versions above*
109

110 **Section 4: Local Church Membership, Admission and Participation**
111

112 ~~Paragraph 1: All Local Churches who hold standing in the United Church of Christ, as determined by the~~
113 ~~Committee on Ministry, are members of the Association. (2017 Version)~~
114

115 ~~Paragraph 1: All Local Churches, who hold standing in the United Church of Christ pursuant to the review~~
116 ~~of the recommendation by the Committee on Ministry, as provided in these Bylaws, are members of the~~
117 ~~Association. (2019 Revision)~~
118

119 *Paragraph 1: All churches within the geographical boundaries of the Association (as defined in Article*
120 *II, Section #) who hold standing in the Association according to the standards and practices as provided*
121 *in these By-Laws, are members of the Association. (2020 By-Laws Team suggestion)*
122

123 *The By-Laws Team feels this wording is more applicable, because it reflects the membership*
124 *policies already stated in this document, instead of trying to redefine membership.*
125

126 *Paragraph # Churches seeking standing and membership in the Association may submit a request for*
127 *standing to the Committee on Ministry. Such churches, following a period of discernment, having*
128 *completed conversations with a Conference Minister and the Committee on Ministry, may be received*
129 *into membership by an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the delegates present at an Annual Meeting of the*
130 *Association, after first being approved by the Committee on Ministry and the Association Council. If the*
131 *request for standing is approved by the Association, the church is welcomed into the covenantal family*
132 *of the United Church of Christ and granted all the rights, privileges and responsibilities that such a*
133 *relationship entails. (2020 By-Laws Team Suggestion)*
134

135 *The By-Laws Team felt there should be some process detailed for admitting a church into*
136 *membership in the Association. Previously there was only clause for removal. This new clause*
137 *is consistent with EA and STL By-Laws. (Covenantal details are listed in paragraph 3)*
138

139 ~~Paragraph 2: Local Churches may be represented at Annual Meetings and Special Meetings by lay~~
140 ~~representatives appointed by the Local Church. Each Local Church shall be entitled to at least one (1)~~
141 ~~representative. Local Churches with 101-200 members shall have two (2) representatives. Those with~~
142 ~~201-300 members shall have three (3) representatives. Churches with more than 300 members shall~~
143 ~~have four (4) representatives for a total of no more than four (4). The number of members listed in the~~
144 ~~most recently published Yearbook of the United Church of Christ shall be the number of members used~~
145 ~~for determining the number of representatives which the Local Church may have at any meeting of the~~
146 ~~Association. (2017 version)~~
147

148 ~~Paragraph 2: Local Churches may be represented at Annual Meetings and Special Meetings by lay~~
149 ~~representatives appointed by the Local Church. Each Local Church shall be entitled to at least one (1)~~
150 ~~representative and one (1) youth representative. Local Churches with 101-200 members shall have two~~
151 ~~(2) representatives and two (2) youth representatives. Those Local Churches with 201-300 members~~
152 ~~shall have three (3) representatives and three (3) youth representatives. Local Churches with more than~~
153 ~~300 members shall have four (4) representatives and four (4) youth representatives for a total of no more~~
154 ~~than eight (8). The number of members listed in the most recently published Yearbook of the United~~
155 ~~Church of Christ shall be the number used for determining the number of representatives which the Local~~
156 ~~Church may have at any meeting of the Association. A youth representative shall be defined as a~~
157 ~~member of the Local Church ages 12-21. (2019 revision)~~
158
159
160

161 Paragraph 2: Each member church is entitled to be represented at meetings of the Association by two
162 Delegates and two Youth Delegates (a communicant member who is less than 21 years old on July 1 of
163 the year in which the meeting will be held) for the first 100 reported members, plus one additional
164 Delegate for each additional 100 members or fraction thereof up to a maximum of seven Delegates. The
165 number of members listed in the most recently published Yearbook of the United Church of Christ shall
166 be the number of members used for determining the number of representatives which the Local Church
167 may have at any meeting of the Association. (2020 By-Laws Team Suggestion)
168

169 *The By-Laws team feels that this revision is more empowering to smaller churches in the*
170 *Association, while maintaining equity for the larger churches. This is also more consistent with*
171 *EA and SLA By-Laws*
172

173 ~~Paragraph 3: Local Churches are requested to participate in the work and mission of the Western~~
174 ~~Association by contributing a per-member amount as voted by the Association at an Annual Meeting.~~
175 ~~Oversight of the Association Treasury is the responsibility of the duly-elected Treasurer and the~~
176 ~~Association Council. Treasury funds will be used to support the work of Association committees and~~
177 ~~programming, the theological training of pastors (including the required psychological testing for~~
178 ~~“Members in Discernment”), and other needs or new possibilities as identified by the Association Council.~~
179

180 Paragraph 3: Local Churches are requested to live into their covenantal relationship as Association
181 members by:

- 182 • Developing and nurturing the life and vitality of the Wider Church
- 183 • Participating in the work and worship of the Association
- 184 • Nurturing partnerships with other churches through clusters and other Wider Church activities
- 185 • Seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our partnership and mission
- 186 • Contributing a per-member dollar amount as voted by the Association at an Annual Meeting.

187
188 *The By-Laws Team felt that rewording and developing paragraph 3 was in order; this is also more*
189 *consistent with the EA and SLA By-Laws. The By-Laws Team felt the treasury section is not*
190 *appropriate here. It describes Association Council duties (Treasurer) not Local Church duties.*
191 *Move to Association Council section.*
192

193 Paragraph 4: The membership of a Local Church within the Association may come to an end in the
194 following ways:

- 195 • A member church may, by its own request, be removed from the roll of members. Such a request
196 must be submitted in writing to the Association Council by an officially recognized officer of the
197 church, for purposes of notification and record. The written request must be accompanied by the
198 official minutes of the Congregational Meeting at which a vote to withdraw was taken.
- 199 • When a church closes. A church considering closing is encouraged to contact the Association
200 Council and the Conference Minister for purposes of counsel, guidance, notification and record.
- 201 • By action of 2/3 of the delegates present at the Annual Meeting of the Association, upon
202 recommendation of the Association Council, after receiving such recommendation from the
203 Committee on Ministry.
- 204 • All closings and withdrawals from membership are to be noted at the Annual Meeting of the
205 Association and the Conference Office is to be notified immediately after the action is taken.

206
207 *This is a rewording of what was Section 2 above; reworded to be consistent with EA and SLA By-*
208 *Laws*
209
210
211
212
213

214 **Section 5: Ministers**

215 **All Authorized Ministers holding standing within the Association are members of the Association and shall**
216 **have voting rights in the Association. Standing shall be determined by the Committee on Ministry, using**
217 **the guidelines of the UCC By-Laws and the United Church of Christ "Manual on Ministry."**

218
219 *This is consistent with the EA and STL By-Laws. Both have one simple paragraph. This allows*
220 *us to eliminate the excessively wordy paragraphs 1-8 below.*

221
222 ~~Paragraph 1: Any person holding standing as an ordained, licensed, or commissioned minister in this~~
223 ~~Association at the time these bylaws are adopted is a member of the Association with voice and vote at~~
224 ~~all meetings.~~

225
226 ~~Paragraph 2: Any person who shall be granted standing as an Ordained Minister of the United Church of~~
227 ~~Christ by the Committee on Ministry shall become a member of the Association and shall have voice and~~
228 ~~vote at all meetings of the Association. Membership in the Association shall continue until that minister's~~
229 ~~standing is transferred or terminated.~~

230
231 ~~Paragraph 3: Any person who shall be authorized as a licensed or commissioned minister of the UCC~~
232 ~~and who shall serve a Local Church or other setting recognized by the Association becomes a member~~
233 ~~of the Association during the term of that license or commission and shall have voice and vote at all~~
234 ~~meetings of the Association.~~

235
236 ~~Paragraph 4: Any person who shall be authorized by the Committee on Ministry for ministry in yoked,~~
237 ~~ecumenical, judicatory, or other recognized ministries within the Association becomes a member of the~~
238 ~~Association during the term of that ministry and shall have voice and vote at all Association meetings.~~

239
240 ~~Paragraph 5: Any person who shall receive Privilege of Call or Dual Standing according to the provisions~~
241 ~~of the Manual on Ministry and who shall be serving a Local Church becomes a member of the Association~~
242 ~~during the term of that ministry and will have voice and vote at all Association meetings.~~

243
244 ~~Paragraph 6: Any person who holds Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing as approved by the~~
245 ~~Committee on Ministry as an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) **or the United**~~
246 ~~**Church of Canada** and who shall have been called and installed to an authorized ministry in a Local~~
247 ~~Church or to another recognized ministry in this Association shall become a member of the Association~~
248 ~~during the term of that ministry and shall have voice and vote at all Association Meetings.~~

249
250 ~~Paragraph 7: Any person who has been a minister of the United Church of Christ and/or its predecessor~~
251 ~~denominations and who shall be granted standing as a retired minister by the Committee on Ministry,~~
252 ~~and who is a member of a Local Church within the Association becomes a member of the Association~~
253 ~~and shall have voice and vote at all Association Meetings. Membership shall continue during the time of~~
254 ~~retirement.~~

255
256 ~~Paragraph 8: Any person called to a Local Church or to any other ministry within the Association and~~
257 ~~whose installation by the Association to that Local Church or other ministry is pending shall be a member~~
258 ~~of the Association and shall have voice and vote at all Association Meetings.~~

259
260 **Paragraph #: Membership of Authorized Ministers in the Association may be revoked in accordance with**
261 **provisions stated in Article V, Section 5 of these By-Laws.**

262
263 *Added to replace the removed Section 2 above*

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267

268 **Section 6: Other Members**

269
270 Paragraph 1: Persons who are Directors of Christian Education in Local Churches and who have been
271 certified by the Worship and Education Ministry of Local Church Ministries of the UCC are members of
272 the Association and shall have voice and vote at all meetings of the Association.
273

274 Paragraph 2: The Conference Minister, Associate Conference Ministers, and delegates to the General
275 Synod of the UCC from the Missouri Mid-South Conference UCC and official representatives to the
276 Association from other ministries and settings of the UCC are honorary members of the Association and
277 shall have voice but no vote at any meeting of the Association.
278

279 Paragraph 3: Lay Members of the Association Council and the Committee on Ministry who are not named
280 as voting delegates by the Local Churches of which they are members are members of the Association
281 and have voice and vote at all meetings of the Association.
282

283 Paragraph 4: Any person having been granted standing as a Member in Discernment of the Association
284 shall be a member of the Association and shall have voice and vote at all Association Meetings.
285

286 **Article III: Association Meetings**

287
288 **Section 1: Annual and Special Meetings**
289

290 **This section is not about Special Meetings, just Annual Meetings. Delete the word "Special"**

291
292 Paragraph 1: The Association shall meet annually at a time and place determined by the Association
293 Council to elect members to the Association Council, to elect members to the Committee on Ministry,
294 and to conduct any other business that shall properly come before the Association.
295

296 Paragraph 2: At each Annual Meeting, the ~~Chairperson~~ **Moderator** of the Association shall report on the
297 spiritual state of the Association, the Secretary and Treasurer of the Association shall report on the
298 activities and financial condition of the Association since the last annual meeting, and the Chair of the
299 Committee on Ministry shall report the actions it has taken since the last Annual Meeting.
300

301 ~~Paragraph 3: At each Annual Meeting the Association shall elect an Association Council, which shall~~
302 ~~consist of the Officers of the Association (Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer)~~
303 ~~and four (4) Cluster Representatives. The Association Council shall strive to be composed of four clergy~~
304 ~~and four lay persons whenever possible. All Officers and Cluster Representatives shall serve for one (1)~~
305 ~~year and shall be eligible for re-election for a maximum of six (6) consecutive years in any or all offices.~~
306 ~~A committee appointed in advance of the Annual Meeting by the Chairperson of the Association shall~~
307 ~~have nominated the four (4) Officers. The four (4) Area Clusters shall each have nominated one (1)~~
308 ~~Cluster Representative, who holds membership within a local church of that Cluster, for election to the~~
309 ~~Association Council. If a Cluster fails to nominate a candidate for the Cluster Representative position, the~~
310 ~~Association Council shall name an "at large person" to fill this vacancy. (2017 Version)~~
311

312 ~~Paragraph 3: At each Annual Meeting of the Association, the Association members shall elect an~~
313 ~~Association Council, which shall consist of the Officers of the Association (Chairperson, Vice-~~
314 ~~Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer), the Association Chaplain, the Youth Coordinator, the~~
315 ~~Communications Coordinator, and a Member at Large. The Association Council shall strive to be~~
316 ~~composed of six clergy and six lay persons whenever possible. The four Area Clusters each shall appoint~~
317 ~~one (1) Cluster Representative at the Annual Business Meeting, who holds membership within a local~~
318 ~~church of that Cluster, for election to the Association Council. If a Cluster fails to appoint a candidate for~~
319 ~~the Cluster Representative position, the Association Council shall name an "at large person" to fill the~~
320 ~~vacancy. A committee appointed in advance of the Annual Business Meeting by the Chairperson of the~~
321 ~~Association shall have nominated the four (4) Officers, the Chaplain, Youth Coordinator, Communications~~

322 Coordinator, and Member at Large. All Council members shall serve for one (1) year and shall be eligible
323 for re-election for a maximum of six (6) consecutive years in any and all offices. (2019 Version)

324
325 Paragraph 4: At each Annual Meeting the Association shall elect a sufficient number of members to fill
326 all vacancies on the Association Council and the Committee on Ministry. ~~to serve three (3) year terms,~~
327 ~~shall provide that at least three (3) of the four (4) areas of the Association shall be represented on the~~
328 ~~Committee on Ministry at any given time, and shall provide that no individual person shall serve more~~
329 ~~than six (6) consecutive years on the Committee on Ministry. An exception would be any person filling~~
330 ~~an unexpired term will be eligible for two (2) full terms if the duration of the unexpired term does not~~
331 ~~exceed one-half (1/2) of a full term.~~

332
333 *The By-Laws Team feels The Definitions of the Association Council and the Committee on*
334 *Ministry including term limits and how they are elected should not be here. We are proposing*
335 *moving these definitions to their respective Articles in these By-Laws*
336

337 Paragraph 5: ~~The Association shall nominate persons to the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the~~
338 ~~United Church of Christ for election as General Synod delegates.~~

339
340 *The By-Laws team feels This should be done by the Nominating Committee or the Association*
341 *Council, not wait until an Association meeting*
342

343 Paragraph 6: ~~The Association shall elect or nominate such other persons as may be required or~~
344 ~~requested by the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ.~~

345
346 *The By-Laws team feels This should be done by the Nominating Committee or the Association*
347 *Council, not wait until an Association meeting*
348

349 Paragraph 7: ~~The terms of the Officers, Cluster Representatives and members of the Committee on~~
350 ~~Ministry shall begin immediately after the Annual Meeting at which they are elected. (2017 version)~~

351
352 Paragraph 7: The terms of all Council members and members of the Committee on Ministry shall begin
353 immediately after the Annual Meeting at which they are elected. (2019 revision)

354
355 *Keep the 2019 revision above*
356

357 Paragraph 8: ~~Any Officer, Director, or member of the Committee on Ministry shall vacate her/his~~
358 ~~respective office when she/he is no longer a member in good standing of a Local Church, upon her/his~~
359 ~~voluntary resignation, or when removed from office by an Annual or Special Meeting of the Association~~
360 ~~for inability or failure to faithfully execute the duties of said office. (2017 version)~~

361
362 Paragraph 8: Any member of the Western Association Council or the Committee on Ministry shall vacate
363 their respective office when they are no longer a member in good standing of a Local Church, upon
364 voluntary resignation, or when removed from office by an Annual or Special Meeting of the Association
365 for inability or failure to faithfully execute the duties of said office. (2019 revision)

366
367 *The By-Laws team feels that neither of these paragraphs should be here; they should be moved*
368 *to the Association Council and COM sections, respectively.*
369

370 **Section 2: Special Meetings**

371
372 Paragraph 1: A Special Meeting shall be convened at the Call of the Chairperson **Moderator** of the
373 Association upon the request of the Committee on Ministry or by written request of the Board or Council
374 of ten (10) Local Churches of the Association and/or ten (10) ministers holding standing in the
375 Association.

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Paragraph 2:
A Special Meeting will consist of representatives as defined in Article II, Section 4, Paragraph 2.

Paragraph 3: The Chairperson **Moderator** of the Association shall preside at all Special Meetings.

~~Paragraph 4: A request for an appeal of a "Fitness Review" must be made in writing to the Association Council within one year of the Committee on Ministry's decision. The appeal can only question whether the Committee on Ministry properly followed the procedure for a "Fitness Review" as outlined in the Manual on Ministry. The written appeal must contain specific descriptions of the Committee on Ministry's failure to follow the procedure outlined in the Manual on Ministry. The two outcomes of the appeal are: 1) the Association Council reaffirms the Committee on Ministry's decision; or 2) if the Association Council determines that the Committee on Ministry failed to follow the procedure in the Manual on Ministry and the Association Council shall instruct the Committee on Ministry to re-examine the matter following the procedure as outlined in the Manual on Ministry. No matter may be appealed from the Committee on Ministry more than once.-(2017 version)~~

~~Paragraph 4: A request for an appeal of a "Fitness Review" must be made in writing to the Association Council within three months of the Committee on Ministry's decision. The appeal can only question whether the Committee on Ministry properly followed the procedure for a "Fitness Review" as outlined in the Manual on Ministry. The written appeal must contain specific descriptions of the Committee on Ministry's failure to follow the procedure outlined in the Manual on Ministry. The two outcomes of the appeal are: 1) the Association Council reaffirms the Committee on Ministry's decision; or 2) if the Association Council determines that the Committee on Ministry failed to follow the procedure in the Manual on Ministry and the Association Council shall instruct the Committee on Ministry to re-examine the matter following the procedure as outlined in the Manual on Ministry. No matter may be appealed from the Committee on Ministry more than once.-(2019 revision)~~

The By-Laws team recommends keeping the 2019 revision; BUT- this paragraph is really out of place here. It should be moved to COM (Article V)

~~Paragraph 5: The principles, practices and procedures as outlined in the United Church of Christ "Manual on Ministry" will be **used as the primary guide for shaping** the policy of the Association. Any changes to the Manual on Ministry will be communicated to the Association at the next called Association Meeting.~~

This paragraph is out of place here. We have moved it to Article I, Section 4.

~~Paragraph 6: The principles, practices and procedures as outlined in the United Church of Christ "Manual on Ministry" will be the policy of the Association. Any changes to Manual on Ministry will be communicated to the Association and, where appropriate, voted by the Association at the Annual Meeting or a Special Meeting.~~

The By-Laws Team agrees with the 2019 recommendation to eliminate the above paragraph. It is redundant, basically restating paragraph 5.

Section 3: Special Meetings

~~The Association may meet at other times and places at the call of the Association Council to conduct business. Special Meetings shall be limited to the items of business for which the meeting was called.~~

The By-Laws Team feels this section is extraneous and redundant. This is already detailed in Section 5.

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\Section 4: Quorum

~~A quorum for the Annual Meeting or any Special meeting shall consist of lay delegates from at least ten (10) Local Church Members, and at least ten (10) Ministers authorized by the Association, including at least one (1) person from at least three (3) of the four (4) Area Clusters. (2017 version)~~

A quorum for the Annual Meeting or any Special meeting shall consist of lay delegates from at least ten (10) Local Churches and at least ten (10) Ministers authorized by the Association, including at least one (1) person from at least three (3) of the four (4) Area Clusters. (2019 revision)

The By-Laws team recommends keeping the 2019 revision

Section #: Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all Association Meetings in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with these By-Laws, the Articles of Incorporation, or any special rules of order the Association may adopt.

This is a new section; we currently do not have a Parliamentary Authority noted. This is very important in matters of civil discourse to maintain order, give voice to the minority, and ensure majority rule.

Section 5: Notice of Meetings Required

~~Written notice of Annual Meetings and Special Meetings shall be given by the Association Council to the Members of the Association at least ten (10) days, or if notice is mailed by other than first class or registered mail, thirty (30) days, but not more than sixty (60) days before the date of the meeting. The Notice of Meeting shall include the time, date, and location at which the meeting is to be held. Notices for Special Meetings shall include a specific and detailed description of the matter or matters for which the Special Meeting is called. No item not described in the Notice shall be discussed or determined at any Special Meeting except the time, date, and location for the reconvening of the Special Business Meeting if such shall be recessed before the completion of the matter or matters for which the meeting was called.~~

Section 5: Notice of Meetings Required

Written notice of Annual Meetings and Special Meetings shall be given by the Association Council to the Members of the Association. Notice of Meeting shall include the time, date, and location at which the meeting is to be held. In case of Annual Meetings, Notice shall be mailed or electronically communicated ninety (90) days before the date of the meeting.

Notices for Special Meetings shall include a specific and detailed description of the matter or matters for which the Special Meeting is called. No item not described in the Notice shall be discussed or determined at any Special Meeting. In case of Special Meetings, Notice shall be mailed or electronically communicated thirty (30) days before the date of the meeting.

Notice of all meetings will also be conveyed utilizing social media.

The By-Laws Team felt Section 5 was unclear; the above rewording and reorganizing of the section clears it up, plus adds the mandate to utilize electronic communication and social media.

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Section 6: Other Meetings

The Association, or members of the Association, may gather at any other time or place for fellowship, worship, education, or other matters which shall further the purposes of the Association. Such gatherings may not take actions or make statements in the name of the Association.

Article IV: ~~The Officers and Cluster Representatives~~ **The Association Council**

Section 1: ~~Governing Body~~ **Purpose**

~~Paragraph 1: The Association Council shall be the governing body of the Association subject to the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws, and the actions or instructions of the Association Annual Meetings. (2017 version)~~

Paragraph 1: The Association Council shall be the governing body of the Association subject to the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws and the actions or instructions of the Association Annual Meetings. They shall make all **final** decisions regarding Association policies and their interpretation. (2019 revision)

The By-Laws team recommends keeping the 2019 revision, adding the word "final"

~~Paragraph 2: The Association Council shall meet at least annually at a time and place of its choosing and at other times and places as it shall deem necessary for the carrying out of the business of the Association. (2017 version)~~

Paragraph 2: The Association Council shall meet at least quarterly at a time and place of its choosing and at other times and places as it shall deem necessary for the carrying out of the business of the Association. (2019 revision)

The By-Laws team recommends keeping the 2019 revision

Paragraph #: The rules contained in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all Association Council Meetings in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with these By-Laws, the Articles of Incorporation, or any special rules of order the Association Council may adopt.

This is a new paragraph inserted noting Parliamentary Authority. This is very important in matters of civil discourse to maintain order, give voice to the minority, and ensure majority rule.

The Association Council shall consist of the four Officers of the Association (**Moderator, Vice Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer**); a representative from the Committee on Ministry, representatives from the Association Standing Ministry Teams (Communications Ministry, Youth Ministry, Pastoral Care Ministry and Social Justice Ministry), and representatives from the four area clusters. All of these positions will be voting members of the Council. All terms of office will be for two years. After serving four consecutive years (two terms) no Council Member shall be eligible for re-election until a one-year period has passed. Any vacancies on Association Council or Committee on Ministry between elections shall be filled by the Association Council, in consultation with the ministry represented.

The Association Council shall be elected according to the following schedule:

535 Even Numbered Years: Moderator, Vice Moderator, and representatives from the Committee on Ministry,
536 Communications Ministry Team, Youth Ministry Team, Lafayette Cluster and Ozark Cluster.
537 Odd Numbered Years: Secretary, Treasurer, and representatives from the Pastoral Care Ministry Team,
538 Social Justice Ministry Team, Central Cluster and Kansas City/St. Joseph Cluster.

539
540 *These two paragraphs were reworked closely by both the Association Council and the By-Laws*
541 *team with the intention of bringing a new direction to the Association and Association Ministry.*
542 *With these changes, we hope to make the Association more purpose-driven by identifying key*
543 *ministries and focusing our work on the implementation of these. Two-year staggered terms and*
544 *a desire for succession planning in leadership was also paramount in the discussions.*

545
546 Paragraph #: The Association Council shall strive to be as equitable as possible representing both clergy
547 and lay members of the Association, and in regard to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender
548 identity.

549
550 Paragraph #: The Association Council shall appoint a Nominating Committee at least three months prior
551 to the Annual Meeting of the Association to nominate a slate of candidates for election to the Association
552 Council, the Committee on Ministry, and any other committees or task forces needed.

553
554 ~~Paragraph 3: The Officers of the Association become the officers of the Association Council and shall be~~
555 ~~a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer who shall have been elected at the Annual~~
556 ~~Meeting and who shall serve in the normal capacity and with the usual prerogatives and responsibilities~~
557 ~~associated with those offices.~~

558
559 Paragraph #: The Duties of the Officers of the Association/Association Council shall be those which fall
560 generally to their respective offices according to the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order. In addition,
561 the Moderator of the Association shall be an ex-officio member of all Committees, Ministry Teams or
562 Task Forces of the Association with voice but without vote.

563
564 *The By-Laws Team feels this rewording of paragraph 3 is clearer. This rewording is consistent*
565 *with the EA and SLA By-Laws*

566
567 Paragraph #: Oversight of the Association Treasury is the responsibility of the duly-elected Treasurer and
568 the Association Council. Treasury funds will be used to support the work of Association committees and
569 programming, the theological training of pastors (including the required psychological testing for
570 "Members in Discernment"), and other needs or new possibilities as identified by the Association Council

571
572 *This is moved here from Article II, Section 4, Paragraph 3*

573
574 ~~Paragraph 4: A quorum for meetings of the Association Council shall consist of at least two (2) of the~~
575 ~~Officers and two (2) of the elected or appointed Cluster Representatives then in office from at least two~~
576 ~~(2) of the Area Clusters. (2017 version)~~

577
578 Paragraph 4: A quorum for meetings of the Association Council shall consist of at least two (2) of the
579 Officers and ~~four (4)~~ five (5) of the other Council members from at least two of the Area Clusters.
580 *(2019 revision)*

581
582 *Robert's Rules of Order say a quorum should be one more than half. If we are going to have 13*
583 *Council members as outlined above, we need to adjust this to count 7.*

584
585 ~~Paragraph 5: The Association Council may fill any vacancy in Officers or Cluster Representatives of the~~
586 ~~Association, or members of the Committee on Ministry that occurs between Annual Meetings.~~
587 *(2017 version)*

588

589 ~~Paragraph 5: The Association Council may fill any vacancy in officers on the Association Council or in~~
590 ~~members on the Committee on Ministry that occurs between Annual Business Meetings. (2019 revision)~~

591
592 *The By-Laws team recommends deleting this paragraph, as it is redundant.*

593
594 Paragraph 6: The Association Council may appoint any persons integral to the work of the Association
595 Council as temporary members of the Association Council with full voice but not vote at all meetings of
596 the Association Council.

597
598 ~~Paragraph 7: The Association Council may appoint other ex-officio members, as it deems proper and~~
599 ~~may give voice but no vote to those members at its discretion. (2017 version)~~

600
601 *The By-Laws team recommends striking this paragraph as also recommended in the 2019*
602 *revision as it is a duplication of the paragraph above it.*

603
604 ~~Paragraph 8: The Association Council may form and organize such committees or task forces as seem~~
605 ~~necessary and expedient for the carrying out of the business of the Association. (2017 version)~~

606
607 Paragraph 7: The Association Council may form or organize such committees or task forces as seem
608 deemed necessary and expedient for carrying out the business of the Association. (2019 revision)

609
610 *The By-Laws team recommends keeping the 2019 revision*

611
612 ~~Paragraph 8: The Association Council may, as deemed necessary, go into closed session for confidential~~
613 ~~matters. These sessions would only include Council members. (2019 revision)~~

614
615 *The By-Laws Team feels there is no need for this section. Robert's Rules of Order detail the*
616 *procedures for a committee to go into closed session (majority vote of members present). It need*
617 *not be detailed here.*

618
619 ~~Paragraph 9: The Association Council shall make all decisions regarding the storage, handling, and~~
620 ~~access to the records of the Western Association. The records of ministers and churches and any other~~
621 ~~files shall be held at Salem UCC in Higginsville with access by the Chair of the Committee on Ministry,~~
622 ~~other designated COM members who have need for access and handling, the Chair of the Association~~
623 ~~or a designated representative from the Council, and members of the Missouri Mid-South Conference~~
624 ~~Staff who have need for access and handling. (2019 revision)~~

625
626 *The By-Laws Team feels this should be struck. This is policy that should be determined by the*
627 *Association Council; it does not belong in By-Laws.*

628 629 630 **Article V: Committee on Ministry**

631 632 **Section 1: Purpose of the Committee on Ministry**

633 ~~The Committee on Ministry is that body within the Association which is responsible for maintaining, within~~
634 ~~the Association, the sacred covenant by which the United Church of Christ is held together in essential~~
635 ~~unity as the Body of Christ. (2017 version)~~

636
637 The Committee on Ministry is that body within the Association which is responsible for maintaining, within
638 the Association, the sacred covenant by which the United Church of Christ is held together in essential
639 unity as the Body of Christ through its work on authorizing ministers and churches in the Western
640 Association. (2019 revision)

641

642 *The By-Laws Team recommends adopting the 2019 revision, with the exception of the*
643 *strikethrough words as we feel they are extraneous.*
644

645 **Section 2: Guidance of the Committee**

646 ~~The Committee on Ministry is to be guided in its work by all policies adopted by the Association Council~~
647 ~~relating to Committee on Ministry matters, and by the most recent edition of the Manual on Ministry of~~
648 ~~the United Church of Christ which in its entirety is made a part of these bylaws. (2017 version)~~
649

650 Pursuant to Article IV, Section 1 and Article V, Section 1, the Committee on Ministry is to be guided in its
651 work by all policies adopted by the Association Council relating to Committee on Ministry matters, and
652 by the most recent edition of the Manual on Ministry of the United Church of Christ which is made a part
653 of these bylaws. (2019 revision)
654

655 *The By-Laws Team recommends adopting the 2019 revision, although the references will need*
656 *to be adjusted when this document is finalized (Currently Article I, Section Four)*
657

658 **Section 3: Organization of the Committee**

659
660 *Paragraph #: The Committee on Ministry shall consist of twelve (12) persons. Four (4) members shall*
661 *be elected each year by the Association at its Annual Meeting and shall serve a term of three (3) years*
662 *with eligibility for election to a second three (3) year term. No members of the Committee on Ministry*
663 *shall serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms. Persons filling unexpired terms will be eligible for*
664 *election to two (2) terms after filling the duration of the unexpired term. Every effort should be made to*
665 *ensure geographic equity is represented; at least three (3) of the four (4) geographic areas of the*
666 *Association shall be represented at any given time.*
667

668 *Paragraph #: The Committee on Ministry shall strive to be as equitable as possible representing both*
669 *clergy and lay members of the Association, and in regard to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender*
670 *identity.*
671

672 *The By-Laws Team feels the defining article for the Committee on Ministry should be here, not in*
673 *Article III, Section 4 where it was. This article defines the number of people on COM as 12,*
674 *whereas the previous version did not define the number.*
675

676 *Paragraph 1: At the first meeting of the Committee on Ministry following each Annual Meeting of the*
677 *Association, the Committee shall elect a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary/Registrar.*
678 *Members of the Committee may serve successive terms as Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson or*
679 *Secretary/Registrar during their term on the Committee. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall*
680 *perform the usual and customary duties associated with such offices. The Secretary/Registrar shall keep*
681 *full and accurate minutes of all meetings and shall complete and submit official records of ordinations,*
682 *transfers, and all other matters carried out by the Committee to the proper offices and settings within the*
683 *Conference and the National UCC.*
684

685 ~~Paragraph 2: The Association Council Chairperson or her/his designated representative shall be an ex-~~
686 ~~officio member of the Committee on Ministry with voice but no vote in all matters brought before the~~
687 ~~Committee on Ministry. (2017 version)~~
688

689 Paragraph 2: The Association Council Chairperson Moderator or a designated representative shall be a
690 member of the Committee on Ministry with full voice and shall be fully involved in all Committee on
691 Ministry matters, but shall not vote on any matters brought before the Committee on Ministry. (2019
692 revision)
693

694 *The By-Laws team recommends the 2019 revision, with the exception of the word change*
695 *indicated in red and strikethroughs, which we considered redundant.*

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Section 4: The Committee on Ministry and Local Churches

Paragraph 1: The Committee on Ministry is charged with the maintenance of the covenant bonds between Local Churches and between Local Churches and the Association and, through the Association, to other settings of the United Church of Christ. To do so, the Committee on Ministry shall provide opportunity for Local Churches to share with one another and the Committee the life and ministry of that Local Church and to seek the covenantal perspective of other Local Churches and the Committee on that church's life and ministry.

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Paragraph 2: Recognizing that conflict sometimes arises within any human endeavor and that the church is not exempt from conflict, the Committee on Ministry is to be open to receiving and shall respond to any invitation to assist Local Churches in resolving internal conflict, resolving conflict between churches, resolving conflict between a Local Church and its pastor or pastors, and resolving issues of disagreement which may arise over actions taken by other Local Churches or other settings of the United Church of Christ.

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Paragraph 3: Mindful that the Committee on Ministry may not in any way compromise the local autonomy of any Local Church in any matter, the Committee is never-the-less enjoined to seek every opportunity and avenue to open lines of communication that each Local Church may have the benefit of the perspective of other Local Churches and the Committee upon its life and ministry.

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Paragraph 4: The Committee on Ministry may release a Local Church from Membership in the Association when that church requests such a release or ~~when a Local Church has affiliated with some other denomination or covenantal body, which exercises the powers and responsibilities of an Association of the United Church of Christ~~ **by initiating procedures to remove that church from membership in the Association pursuant to Article II, Section 4, Paragraph 4. Churches whose possible release is not of their own request shall be notified in writing at least 30 days before the Annual or Special meeting at which that action will be on the agenda.**

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~~Paragraph 5: If, in the opinion of the Committee on Ministry, a Local Church of the Association is continually and willfully engaging in actions that are injurious to the well-being of the United Church of Christ, and after repeated and earnest effort by the Committee on Ministry to bring that Local Church within the bonds of our covenant, it seems that reconciliation to covenant is impossible, the Committee on Ministry may request that the Chairperson of the Association convene a Special Meeting to address the matter. (2017 Version)~~

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~~Paragraph 5: If, in the opinion of the Committee on Ministry, a Local Church of the Association is continually and willfully engaging in actions injurious to the well-being of the United Church of Christ, and after repeated and earnest effort by the Committee on Ministry to bring the Local Church within the bonds of covenant, it seems that reconciliation to covenant is impossible, the Committee on Ministry may request that the matter be addressed at an Annual Meeting of the Association, or at a specially convened meeting called by the Chairperson of the Association. (2019 Revision)~~

Section 5: The Committee on Ministry and Authorized Ministers

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Paragraph 1: The Committee on Ministry is entrusted with primary responsibility for maintaining the sacred covenant between authorized ministers who hold, who may come to hold, and who shall seek to hold standing in this Association and the whole United Church of Christ.

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Paragraph 2: The Committee on Ministry shall act in all matters relating to the granting or the transfer of standing of ordained ministers, the granting of Privilege of Call or Dual Standing, the granting of full Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing to ministers of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) **or the United Church of Canada**, the granting of standing as a Member in Discernment of the Association, the installation of ministers, the granting of standing as licensed or commissioned ministers, ecclesiastical

750 endorsement and approval of persons for certification by professional organizations, government
751 chaplaincies, and chaplaincy programs, the periodic review of ministers, the granting or continuation of
752 leaves of absence, the discipline of ministers, and the termination of standing as **an Authorized** minister.
753

754 **Section 6: Quorum**

755 ~~A quorum for meetings of the Committee on Ministry shall consist of one-third (1/3) of the members then~~
756 ~~in office. (2017 version)~~
757

758 A quorum for meetings of the Committee on Ministry shall consist of seven members then in office.
759 (2019 revision)

760 *The By-Laws team recommends keeping the 2019 revision*

763 **Section 7: Action of the Committee Final**

764 ~~The action of the Committee on Ministry in all matters before it is final and is the action of the Association~~
765 ~~until and unless such matter is appealed to the Association Council, returned to the Committee on Ministry~~
766 ~~by the Association Council, re-examined by the Committee, and the original determination of the~~
767 ~~Committee is reaffirmed or a new determination is made. (2017 version)~~
768

769 The Action of the Committee on Ministry in all matters related to its responsibilities pursuant to Article V,
770 Section 5, Paragraph 2 shall be final and is the action of the Association, except in the appeal of a Fitness
771 Review as stated in Article 3, Section 2, Paragraph 4. (2019 revision)
772

773 *The By-Laws team recommends keeping the 2019 revision with strikethrough*

775 **Section 8: Appealing a Fitness Review**

776 *A request for an appeal of a "Fitness Review" must be made in writing to the Association Council within*
777 *thirty (30) days of the Committee on Ministry's decision. The appeal can only question whether the*
778 *Committee on Ministry properly followed the procedure for a "Fitness Review" as outlined in the Manual*
779 *on Ministry. The written appeal must contain specific descriptions of the Committee on Ministry's failure*
780 *to follow the procedure outlined in the Manual on Ministry. The two outcomes of the appeal are: 1) the*
781 *Association Council reaffirms the Committee on Ministry's decision; or 2) if the Association Council*
782 *determines that the Committee on Ministry failed to follow the procedure in the Manual on Ministry and*
783 *the Association Council shall instruct the Committee on Ministry to re-examine the matter following the*
784 *procedure as outlined in the Manual on Ministry. No matter may be appealed from the Committee on*
785 *Ministry more than once.*
786

787 *This is moved here from Article III- "Association Meetings." The By-Laws Team did not feel that*
788 *was the appropriate place for it.*
789

790 **NEW ARTICLE #- STANDING MINISTRY TEAMS**

793 **Section 1: Definition**

794 *The Standing Ministry Teams of the Western Association shall be the Communications Ministry Team,*
795 *the Youth Ministry Team, the Pastoral Care Ministry Team and the Social Justice Ministry Team.*
796

797 *Each Standing Ministry Team will provide an accurate description of its mission and work annually to the*
798 *Association Council and the Nominating Team, and a regular report of activity and finances to the*
799 *Association Council and the Annual Meeting of the Association.*
800

801 **Section 2: Structure**

802 *Each Ministry Team shall consist of at least four (4) members representing each of the four (4) area*
803 *clusters; one of whom shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Association who shall represent the*

804 Ministry Team on the Association Council and act as convener of the team. Teams may have more than
805 four (4) members at their discretion as ministry tasks warrant.
806

807 Each Ministry Team shall strive to be as equitable as possible representing both clergy and lay members
808 of the Association, and in regard to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity.
809

810 **Section 3: Budgets**

811 Each Ministry Team shall submit a budget to the Association Council at a time designated by the Council
812 Moderator, to be submitted for approval with the rest of the Association Budget at the Annual Meeting of
813 the Association.
814

815 **Section 4: Meetings**

816 Each Ministry Team shall meet at least quarterly at a time and place of its choosing and at other times
817 and places as it shall deem necessary for the carrying out of their Ministry Work.
818

819 **Section 5: Authority**

820 Exemplifying the covenant we share as various settings of the United Church of Christ, each ministry
821 team shall coordinate their work with entities and/or staff members at the Conference and National
822 settings that have similar duties, or may have resources to offer.
823

824 The rules contained in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all Ministry Team
825 Meetings in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with these By-Laws,
826 the Association Articles of Incorporation, Association Policies, or any special rules of order the
827 Association Council may adopt.
828

829 Each Ministry Team shall designate one person to keep a record of their meeting minutes, reports to the
830 Association and Association Council, and all correspondence pertaining to their ministry work. These
831 records will be kept with the Ministry Team recorder and shared with new members and the Association
832 Council as requested.
833

834 **Section 6: Duties and Responsibilities**

835 The Communications Ministry Team shall work with the Association Council, the Committee on Ministry
836 and the Standing Ministry Teams to build webs of communication among entities of the Association and
837 share information about Association concerns and events. Specific attention will be focused on publicity
838 and technology, sharing information about the ministries and relevance of entities of our Association,
839 including local churches.
840

841 The Youth Ministry Team shall work with Youth and Youth Leaders to encourage Youth Ministry in the
842 Association, providing avenues and/or events for enhanced youth ministry, continuing education, spiritual
843 formation and growth. Specific attention will be focused on providing congregations with opportunities
844 for enhanced Youth Ministry.
845

846 The Pastoral Care Ministry Team shall work to communicate with Authorized Ministers in the Association
847 to bring comfort and pastoral care; and shall provide avenues and/or events for continuing education and
848 action to promote and encourage their physical, social and mental health. Specific attention will be
849 focused on maintaining covenantal connection with retired clergy and chaplains as well as active clergy
850 in times of distress.
851

852 The Social Justice Ministry Team shall work to identify issues of social injustice, systemic injustice and
853 inequity globally and locally; and provide avenues and/or events for continuing education and action that
854 can be implemented in the Association. Specific attention will be focused on disseminating information
855 about local justice issues and social concerns.
856

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858

859 **Article VI: Area Clusters**

860
861 **Section 1: Purpose**

862 Area Clusters are groups of Local Churches and/or ministers and/or other persons which exist to foster
863 fellowship and cooperative efforts among Association members within their respective areas, to provide
864 a forum for discussion and dissemination of information from other settings of the United Church of Christ,
865 and to encourage mutual care and concern among and between the churches and ministers within their
866 areas.

867
868 **Section 2: Structure**

869 The four (4) clusters are organized by geographical areas: Central Area, Lafayette Area, Kansas City-
870 St. Joseph Area, and Ozark Area. Any adjustment of the Area Cluster boundaries or transfer of
871 membership of churches between Area Clusters will be done by the Association Council with the
872 agreement of the Local Churches concerned.

873
874 **Section 3: Authority**

875 Area Clusters may not take actions or make statements in the name of the Association. Area Clusters
876 may gather, convene, discuss, worship, plan and carry out program and activities for their own members,
877 and are encouraged to become an active and integral part of the mission and ministry of the Association
878 and of United Church of Christ to and with its members.

879
880 **Section 4: Quorum**

881 No quorum is necessary for Area Cluster meetings.

882
883 **Article #: Gifts and Property**

884 The Association may receive, refuse, ~~take~~, or hold by gift, purchase, devise, bequest or otherwise, any
885 property, whether real, personal or mixed, in order to provide for any lawful uses and purposes of the
886 Association; and may convey, lease, improve, mortgage or otherwise encumber such property for such
887 purposes.

888
889 The Association may purchase or sell real property, only after appraisal and advise of legal counsel and
890 only after proper notice has been given to all Association members, and such purchase or sale is
891 approved by majority vote at a duly called Association meeting.

892
893 *This added Article would allow the Association to accept bequests or assets if gifted; and liquidate*
894 *them as needed. While this may never happen, if it does, it would be important to have this in*
895 *place. This is consistent with EA and SLA By-Laws*

896
897 **Article #: Dissolution**

898 Should the Association dissolve for any reason, voluntarily or otherwise, all money, assets and property
899 of the Association shall be delivered, transferred and conveyed to the Missouri Mid-South Conference of
900 the United Church of Christ or its successor, for whatever uses and purposes it may designate in the
901 pursuit of its religious endeavors. Under no circumstances shall said assets ever benefit one or more
902 private individuals.

903
904 *While we hope this will never happen, we should make provisions for this eventuality. This*
905 *language is consistent with EA and SLA By-Laws, as well as most of our church By-Laws.*

906
907 **Article #: By-Laws Review**

908 The Association Council shall appoint an ad-hoc team to review these By-Laws at least every five (5)
909 years, or sooner at the discretion of the Council. Any revisions or amendments will be suggested to the
910 Association Council, who will then choose whether to bring such action to the Association.

911

912 *The By-Laws team feels the Association should be required to review the By-Laws at least every*
913 *five years, if not before. This is consistent with EA and SLA By-Laws.*
914

915 **Article VII: Amendments**

916
917 ~~Any member may recommend an amendment to these Bylaws in writing to any Annual Meeting of the~~
918 ~~Association. The Bylaws are amended when any recommended Bylaw change receives a two-thirds~~
919 ~~(2/3) majority vote of the members present at the Annual Meeting to which the recommended Bylaw~~
920 ~~change is presented. Amendments shall take effect at the conclusion of the meeting of the Association~~
921 ~~Council at which the minutes of the said Annual Meeting are approved.~~

922
923 *These By-Laws may be amended or revised by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at any meeting of the*
924 *Association provided such amendments or revisions have been reviewed at a previous meeting of the*
925 *Association Council; and provided that written notice of the vote to be taken on amendments or revisions*
926 *shall have been sent to Association members at least 60 days prior to the meeting at which the proposed*
927 *amendments or revisions will be presented for approval.*

928
929 *The By-Laws team felt the 2017 version (strikethrough above) was dangerous; it allowed the By-*
930 *Laws to be amended too easily at an Association meeting without informing Association members*
931 *ahead of time. The suggested revision above is consistent with the EA and SLA By-Laws*
932

933 **Article VIII: Declaration**

934 These Bylaws shall become the Bylaws of the Association and shall be in force upon their adoption and
935 shall remain in force until and unless amended, superseded, or set aside by the Association according
936 to **Article XI** of these Bylaws.