

**Design and Covenant
and
Bylaws of
The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
of Mid-America, Inc.**

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**DESIGN AND COVENANT
of
THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
OF MID-AMERICA, INC.**

A Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, known as the Mid-America Region.

The purpose of this Design and Covenant and these Bylaws is to allow The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mid-America, Inc. to effectively organize itself to conduct and carry out the mission and ministries of the Mid-America Region.

Preamble

As members of the Christian Church, we confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and proclaim him Lord and Savior of the World. In Christ's name and by his grace we accept our mission of witness and service to all people.

We rejoice in God, maker of heaven and earth, and in the covenant of love which binds us to God and one another.

Through baptism into Christ we enter into newness of life and are made one with the whole people of God. In the communion of the Holy Spirit we are joined together in discipleship and in obedience to Christ. At the table of the Lord we celebrate with thanksgiving the saving acts and presence of Christ.

Within the universal church we receive the gift of ministry and the light of scripture. In the bonds of Christian faith we yield ourselves to God that we may serve the One whose kingdom has no end.

Blessing, glory and honor be to God forever.

Amen.

Vision

The Mid-America Region is envisioned as a continuously developing network of relationships that includes broader and deeper participation by congregations, ministers, and laity in congregational clusters, learning communities, and shared mission and ministries.

Mission

The Mid-America Region's mission is to resource and support congregations, individually and collectively, as they seek to be more faithful, effective, and sustainable in the mission to which God calls us.

Values

In keeping with Ephesians 4:11-12, the Mid-America Region also affirms the core values of *true community* (mutual support and accountability), *deep Christian spirituality*, and *a passion for justice*.

Relations

Within the universal Body of Christ, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is identifiable by its testimony, tradition, name, institutions, and relationships.

Across national boundaries this church expresses itself in free and voluntary relationships in congregational, regional and general manifestations. Each expression, with reference to the function for which it is uniquely responsible, is characterized by its integrity, self-government, authority, rights and responsibilities. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and constantly seeks in all its actions to be obedient to his authority.

The Mid-America Region shall serve as a region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). According to the Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), "The primary purpose of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in regions is twofold: 1) to extend the ministry of Christ in mission, teaching, witness, and service among the people and social structures of the region; and 2) to establish, receive, and nurture congregations in the region, providing help, counsel, and pastoral care to members, ministers, and congregations in their mutual relationships, and relating them to the worldwide mission and witness of the whole church."

BYLAWS
of
THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
OF MID-AMERICA, INC.

ARTICLE I - Name

The name of this organization shall be The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mid-America, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the Mid-America Region.

ARTICLE II - Membership

Section 1. The Members of the Mid-America Region shall include all Congregations and other expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) within the Region as listed in the then current Year Book of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the individual members or regular participants of each such Congregation in the Region, and such other Congregations within the Region and their members or regular participants that may express their desire for membership and which are accepted by the Mid-America Region through the Regional Board.

Section 2. The Members of the Mid-America Region shall also include any persons or groups desiring fellowship with the Region who because of circumstances have no opportunity for participation in the life of the church and whose petition to the Regional Board for membership is approved. Record of such membership will be maintained in the designated Regional Office.

ARTICLE III - Regional Board

Section 1. The Regional Board shall be composed of the following voting members: Moderator, the Moderator-Elect, the Past Moderator, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Regional Minister Team Leader, and the Directors.

Other members of the Regional Minister Team, if any, shall be non-voting ex-officio members of the Regional Board.

Section 2. The Regional Board shall manage the affairs of the Mid-America Region and perform all duties devolving upon a board of directors of a corporation, including but not limited to:

- carry out the intent of the Articles of Agreement and Bylaws;

- implement all amendments and resolutions adopted at Assemblies of the Mid-America Region;
- fill vacancies in the Regional Board and all other organized entities of the Mid-America Region for the remainder of unexpired terms;
- exercise such executive, legislative and judicial powers as are inherent in such governing bodies;
- adopt a budget for the operation of the Mid-America Region;
- delegate such duties as it deems proper;
- establish and disestablish such resource teams, councils, commissions, task forces, constituency, and other groups as it determines from time to time to be necessary or appropriate to accomplish the mission and ministries of the Mid-America Region;
- develop appropriate relationships with other units and institutions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada; and
- determine all other matters pertaining to the affairs of the Mid-America Region in conformity with state law, the Articles of Agreement, and these Bylaws.

Section 3. The Regional Board shall have the authority to adopt any Policies to govern the business and affairs of the Mid-America Region that are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

Section 4. Meetings and Quorum.

a. The Regional Board shall hold Regular Meetings at least two times annually, at such times and places as it shall determine.

b. Special Meetings of the Regional Board shall be held upon call of the Moderator or upon written request of five voting members of the Regional Board.

c. A majority of the voting members of the Regional Board shall constitute a quorum. Unless otherwise provided, all proceedings shall be governed by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

ARTICLE IV - Regional Assembly

Section 1. The general representative body of the Mid-America Region shall be the Regional Assembly, hereinafter referred to as the Assembly. In all of its worship, deliberation, and work, the Assembly

shall seek to manifest the wholeness and unity of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) within the one Body of Christ.

Section 2. Participation. All Members of the Mid-America Region who register for the Assembly shall have all privileges of the Assembly except voting rights. Voting Delegates, with the right to vote at the Assembly, shall be limited to the following:

- a. Each Congregation is entitled to be represented in the Assembly by two Voting Delegates, plus one additional Voting Delegate for each 100 participating members or major fraction thereof over the first 100. These Voting Delegates are in addition to the Congregation's Ordained and Commissioned Ministers.
- b. All Ordained and Commissioned Ministers with standing in the Mid-America Region shall be Voting Delegates.
- c. All voting members of the Regional Board shall be Voting Delegates.
- d. An Ecumenical Voting Delegate shall be invited to participate in the Assembly from each denomination with whom the Mid-America Region has a working relationship. The denominations will be determined by the Regional Board for each Assembly.

Section 3. Purpose and functions. The Assembly shall:

- a. Plan and conduct Assembly programs for worship, development of relationships, the education of its Members, and the transaction of business;
- b. Receive and act upon proposed policy and program, reports and resolutions, and other items of business duly referred to it as hereinafter provided;
- c. Elect the elected officers of the Mid-America Region; and
- d. Determine the basis of cooperative relationships of the Mid-America Region with other religious bodies, organizations and agencies, and be responsible for authorizing unity and union conversations, consultations and negotiations with other Christian communions.

Section 4. Meetings. Regular meetings of the Assembly shall be held every second year, alternating with the General Assembly, at a time

and place to be fixed by the Regional Board. Under extraordinary circumstances the Regional Board may call special meetings of the Assembly. The dates of any regular or special meetings of the Assembly shall be communicated to Congregations and all Ordained and Commissioned Ministers with standing in the Mid-America Region at least sixty days in advance of such meeting.

Section 5. Business Items.

a. The Assembly shall act on the following items of business: procedural matters related to the Assembly, proposed revisions of the incorporation and bylaws of the Mid-America Region and the Mid-America Christian Foundation, the election of officers, and any other business which the Regional Board deems necessary.

b. The Assembly shall receive reports of organized entities or programs of the Mid-America Region which the Regional Board deems appropriate.

c. The Assembly shall receive the reports of the Regional Minister Team and opportunity shall be given for participants to make suggestions with regard to the policies and programs of the Mid-America Region.

d. All items of business to be considered by the Assembly, except in the cases of emergency, shall be received by or originate with the Regional Board which shall make appropriate recommendations to the Assembly as to their disposition. Items of business may be filed with the Regional Board by any Member. Such items of business must be filed through the office of the Regional Minister Team Leader at least 120 days in advance of a meeting of the Assembly in order to allow sufficient time for the Regional Board to review and refer them with appropriate recommendations to the Assembly. All items of business shall be circulated among the Congregations by the office of the Regional Minister Team Leader thirty (30) days in advance of a meeting of the Assembly.

Section 6. Emergency Items. An item of business may be considered an emergency if its content is of such nature that it could not have been regularly filed 120 days prior to the Assembly. Such items of business may be considered if delivered in writing to the Regional Minister Team Leader or the Moderator prior to the first business session of the

Assembly or when submitted by ten or more Voting Delegates. The Regional Board shall decide whether such items are emergencies and, if so, make appropriate recommendations to the Assembly as to their disposition. The determination by the Regional Board regarding whether an item of business is an emergency is final and may not be appealed.

Section 7. Action by the Assembly.

- a. Voting at the Assembly shall be by voice vote except in case of doubtful result, then the Moderator shall order a standing vote.
- b. In case of an issue of great importance the Moderator, or any Voting Delegate, may call for a ballot vote and, if supported by fifteen (15) Voting Delegates, a ballot vote may be taken.
- c. Items of business requiring action may be approved, disapproved or referred back to the Regional Board for further study, modification and recommendation.

Section 8. Quorum. A quorum for the transaction of business by the Assembly shall be 40% of the Voting Delegates certified by the credentials committee as registered and present at the Assembly. If a quorum is not present at any business session, matters to be considered will be referred to the next business session. If a quorum is not present in the final business session, matters which were to be considered shall be referred to the Regional Board. The Regional Board may take interim action within the established policies of the Assembly, subject in all matters to a review of its action by the next Assembly.

ARTICLE V - Additional Assemblies

The Regional Board may establish and disestablish such other Assemblies as necessary and appropriate to accomplish the mission and ministries of the Mid-America Region.

ARTICLE VI - Officers, Directors, & Staff

Section 1. Officers. The elected officers of the Mid-America Region shall be a Moderator, a Moderator-Elect, a Past Moderator, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other elected officers as the Regional Board may from time to time determine to be necessary or appropriate.

- a. Election of Officers. The Moderator-Elect shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Assembly for a two-year term. At the end of that term, the Moderator-Elect shall become the Moderator for a two-year term. At the end of that term, the Moderator shall become the Past Moderator for a two-year term. Other elected officers shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Assembly for a two-year term and may serve three consecutive terms.
- b. The Moderator. The Moderator shall preside at the business sessions of the Assembly and the Regional Board, and assume such other responsibilities as may be assigned by these bodies.
- c. The Moderator-Elect. The Moderator-Elect shall assist the Moderator in presiding at the business sessions of the Assembly and the Regional Board and assume such other responsibilities as may be assigned by these bodies.
- d. The Past Moderator. The Past Moderator shall chair the Personnel Committee, assist the Moderator and Moderator-Elect in presiding at the business sessions of the Assembly and the Regional Board, and assume such other responsibilities as may be assigned by these bodies.
- e. The President. The Regional Minister Team Leader shall serve as the corporate president.
- f. The Secretary. The Secretary shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Assembly for a two-year term. The Secretary shall keep the record of the proceedings of the Assembly and the Regional Board, serve as the corporate secretary, perform such other duties as may be normally associated with this office, and assume such other responsibilities as may be assigned by the Regional Board or Assembly. The Secretary shall provide a report following each Assembly to the Regional Board.
- g. The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Assembly for a two-year term. The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping the financial records of the Mid-America Region, chair the budget committee, serve as the corporate treasurer, perform such other duties as may be normally associated with this office, and assume such other responsibilities as may be assigned by the Regional Board or Assembly.

Section 2. Directors. There shall be nine (9) Directors. The Directors shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Assembly for a four-year term with approximately half the Directors elected at each Assembly. Directors may serve two consecutive terms.

Section 3. Staff. The Regional Board shall employ such staff and other employees as it may from time to time determine to be necessary or appropriate. The duties of any staff or other employees shall be determined and established by the Regional Board.

Section 4. Assumption of Office.

a. Elected Officers and Directors shall take office immediately upon the conclusion of the Assembly at which they are elected and shall serve through the Assembly after which their term of office shall end.

b. Other elected or appointed officers shall take office following their election or appointment. Their term shall be for two (2) years.

d. Staff and other employees shall be employed for such terms and on such conditions as determined by the Regional Board.

ARTICLE VII - Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended by two-thirds vote of those present and voting at the Assembly, provided the Regional Board shall give at least thirty (30) days written notice through a general communication to the Congregations concerning the proposed amendments in the call thereof, or without notice at an Assembly by unanimous ballot vote of those present and voting. Any proposed amendment may be approved as proposed, rejected, or approved as amended by the Assembly at which it is proposed.

ARTICLE VIII - Adoption of These Bylaws

These Bylaws shall supersede any previous Bylaws and shall be in full force and effect upon approval by the Assembly of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mid-America, Inc. to be held in October of 2015, at which time the necessary Officers and Directors shall be elected for such terms as will allow future elections as provided above. The necessary steps for the effective implementation can be or have been accomplished and the Regional Board is authorized to take any additional actions necessary to implement these Bylaws.