

CONSTITUTION

CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN KANSAS (Disciples of Christ) INC.

(Adopted April 1963 - Amended May 1965, April 1969, April 1972, November 1976, October 1986, October 1988, October 1990, October 2008 and October 2012)

PREAMBLE

Recognizing that there continues to be a growing unity of fellowship among the Disciples congregations of the Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ) which is in harmony with the nature of the church and the unity of fellowship given by God and recognizing that the administrative units of the Christian Church in Kansas have moved closer together in their planning and labor; we, the Disciples congregations of Kansas, bind ourselves together in a fellowship of churches, that we may foster more adequately this unity and plan and promote more effectively the total program of Christ and His Church.

Whereas, the unification that is necessary to evidence the unity of Christ's Church requires the participation of all areas of life and work of the Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ) in a structural relationship representing the many interests of missionary, educational, benevolent and other functions in a cooperative manner; therefore we the members of the Kansas Disciples congregations do ordain and establish this Constitution and Bylaws for the Disciples congregations in Kansas.

ARTICLE I NAME

Section 1. The name of this body shall be the CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN KANSAS (Disciples of Christ) INC., hereafter referred to as the Christian Church in Kansas. (Hereafter the term Kansas Disciples congregations shall refer to individual congregations.)

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The purposes and objectives of the Christian Church in Kansas are as follows:

Section 1. To devise and execute plans and means for establishing and developing Disciples congregations throughout Kansas and all the world, and to utilize every available means for the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world.

Section 2. To develop and execute program activities prepared to assist the Kansas Disciples congregations in achieving all that Christ designed for His Church.

Section 3. To provide the means by which Kansas Disciples congregations and their members may enjoy the opportunities and blessings of Christian fellowship; engage in free and orderly dialogue in regard to matters pertinent to the life and work of the church; and to provide worship, study and the preaching of the gospel, thus stimulating the members to deepen their spirituality and rededicate themselves to God as revealed in Jesus Christ.

Section 4. To unify the work of the Kansas Disciples congregations by providing an organizational structure through which cooperating agencies of missions, higher education, benevolence, and other organizations or agencies which so desire, may through voluntary and mutual agreements, be coordinated with other cooperative efforts of Disciples congregations in the regional and general expressions of the church; thus bringing the combined strength of all Kansas Disciples congregations to bear upon the common tasks of the church in our state, nation and world.

Section 5. The Christian Church in Kansas shall cooperate with other expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and all the agencies related thereto, and such ecumenical interests as may be approved by the Christian Church in Kansas.

Section 6. The Christian Church in Kansas shall have the authority to own property, to receive bequests and to hold assets.

Section 7. Though the Disciples of Christ is a congregationally governed communion, the necessity for interdependence of congregations and agencies in order to fulfill the mission of the church is recognized. It shall be the policy of the Christian Church in Kansas to advise and counsel Kansas Disciples congregations when requested but not to exercise authority over the government of Kansas Disciples congregations.

ARTICLE III **MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. The Christian Church in Kansas shall be composed of all Kansas Disciples congregations (except those in Johnson, Wyandotte, and Miami counties), all fellowship organizations of the Christian Church in Kansas, and the administrative units of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) unified herein or serving among the Christian Church in Kansas, who desire membership.

Section 2. The associations, groups, organizations, bodies and committees of Kansas Disciples congregations, uniting together in this work shall promote, support and cooperate in advancing Christ's Church as it is represented in the life and work of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

ARTICLE IV **REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

Section 1. The Christian Church in Kansas shall meet regularly, at least once every two years, and the meeting shall be designated as the Regional Assembly.

Section 2. Special assemblies of the Christian Church in Kansas may be called when two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Regional Board shall declare that such necessity exists; provided that notice of said special assembly shall be published in the official publication of the Christian Church in Kansas at least sixty (60) days in advance of said special assembly.

Section 3. Voting representatives to the Regional Assembly shall include:

- A. Voting representatives from congregations. Each Kansas Disciples congregation listed in the latest available *Year Book & Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)* shall be entitled to three voting representatives in addition to ordained and licensed ministers. All congregations of more

than 300 participating members shall be entitled to one additional voting representative for each 100 participating members, or major fraction thereof, above the 300. Men and women should be equally represented as nearly as possible. The participating membership of each congregation shall be that reported in the latest available *Year Book & Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*.

- B. The ordained and licensed ministers who have ministerial standing in the Christian Church in Kansas in accordance with the policies established by the Regional Assembly.
- C. Members of the Regional Board not otherwise voting members.

Section 4. All members of Kansas Disciples congregations who register for the Regional Assembly may be non-voting participants.

Section 5. The officers of the Christian Church in Kansas shall be the officers of the Regional Assembly.

Section 6. For each Regional Assembly, excluding called assemblies:

- A. There shall be a Regional Assembly Planning Committee responsible for all plans, programs, arrangements, and other details of the Regional Assembly, subject to the approval of the Regional Board. The chairperson of the Regional Assembly Planning Committee shall be the Moderator Elect of the Christian Church in Kansas. The members of the Regional Assembly Planning Committee shall be nominated by the Executive Committee in consultation with the Selection Committee for forwarding by the Regional Board to the Regional Assembly for approval.
- B. There shall be a Selection Committee composed of the Second Vice Moderator and two (2) members elected by each district. The Second Vice Moderator shall serve as chairperson of the committee.
- C. There shall be a Recommendations/Time & Place Committee that shall recommend locations of future regional assemblies and receive proposed recommendations and reports to be presented to the assemblies. They shall study such recommendations and reports and shall make recommendations regarding them to the Regional Assembly. The Recommendations/Time & Place Committee shall be composed of the Third Vice Moderator and two (2) members elected by each district. The Third Vice Moderator shall serve as chairperson of the committee.

ARTICLE V **OFFICERS**

Section 1. Officers of the Christian Church in Kansas shall be Moderator, Moderator Elect, First Vice Moderator, Second Vice Moderator, Third Vice Moderator, Corporate Secretary, Corporate Treasurer and Regional Minister/President. There shall be a balance of men, women, clergy and laity among the elected officers.

Section 2. The Moderator, Moderator Elect, and Vice Moderators shall be elected to serve from the end of the Regional Assembly at which they are elected to the end of the next Regional Assembly, and may not succeed themselves. The Corporate Treasurer and Corporate Secretary shall be paid employees and the offices may be filled by the same person. Such offices shall be filled and directed by the Regional Board.

Section 3. The officers of the Christian Church in Kansas shall be the officers of the Regional Board.

Section 4. The Moderator and Regional Minister/President shall be designated as the legal representatives of the Christian Church in Kansas and shall have authority to buy, sell, exchange or otherwise acquire or dispose of all securities or property and to negotiate all legal affairs of the Christian Church in Kansas as they are instructed by the Regional Board, or as may be specified in the Bylaws, and are hereby authorized to affix the legal seal and signature of the Christian Church in Kansas.

Section 5. Regional Minister/President

- A. The Regional Minister/President shall be the chief administrative officer of the Christian Church in Kansas and shall supervise and direct the work of the Christian Church in Kansas within the approved policies of the Regional Board and shall be a member (without vote) of all boards and committees.
- B. Unless another person is specifically designated, the Regional Minister/President shall represent the Christian Church in Kansas in all interests.
- C. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Regional Minister/President, the Regional Board shall appoint a special committee to seek a replacement for the vacated office. The committee shall make its recommendation to the Regional Board. The call shall be extended to the prospective Regional Minister/President on a two-thirds (2/3) favorable vote of the Regional Board and the approval of the next Regional Assembly. The Regional Board may make an interim appointment.
- D. The Deputy Regional Minister or one of the Associate Regional Ministers shall be designated by the Regional Board to assume the responsibilities of the Regional Minister/President in case of emergency, death, or disability until the Board can meet to make an interim appointment.

ARTICLE VI **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 1. There shall be a Board of Directors of the Christian Church in Kansas herein referred to as the Regional Board.

Section 2. The Regional Board shall be the governing body of the Christian Church in Kansas and shall conduct its business between Regional Assemblies, perform all duties devolving upon the directors of the Christian Church in Kansas, carry out the intent of the Constitution and Bylaws, enforce all amendments and resolutions at meetings of the Christian Church in Kansas and fill vacancies in the Regional Board or the Executive Committee for the remainder of any unexpired terms, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and Bylaws. The Regional Board shall exercise such executive, legislative and judicial powers as are inherent in such governing bodies. The Regional Board shall determine the location of the Regional Church Office of the Christian Church in Kansas, subject to the approval of the Regional Assembly.

Section 3. The Regional Board shall be composed of the elected officers of the Christian Church in Kansas; the moderator from each District; the moderator/presidents of the Kansas Christian Youth Fellowship (KCYF), the Kansas Disciples Men (KDM) and the Kansas Disciples Women (KDW); the

General Board member(s) from Kansas; two (2) ecumenical members elected by the Regional Assembly and the chairs of the Regional Ministries as stated in the Bylaws. Members without vote shall be one (1) paid executive from each Christian Church administrative unit, the Executive Staff, the Corporate Secretary and the Corporate Treasurer.

ARTICLE VII **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Section 1. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Regional Board composed of the elected officers of the Christian Church in Kansas, the General Board member from Kansas and the chairs of the Regional Priority Ministry. Members without vote shall be the Executive Staff, the Corporate Secretary and the Corporate Treasurer.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall be vested with power to act for the Regional Board when it is not in session, except it shall not reverse a previous action of the Regional Board.

Section 3. The function of the Executive Committee shall be to supervise the program of the Christian Church in Kansas and to act upon emergency program items.

ARTICLE VIII **MINISTRIES**

Section 1. Ministries shall be established to act as program planning groups. They shall plan and present program to the Regional Board for approval.

Section 2. Ministries, standing committees and task forces may be established to carry out work as deemed necessary by the Regional Board. Ministries shall be named and described in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX **DISTRICTS**

Section 1. The Christian Church in Kansas shall establish Districts and provide guidelines for their organization. District organizations shall be auxiliaries to the Christian Church in Kansas. Location of any district offices shall be determined by the Regional Board. District boundaries shall be determined by the Regional Board, with approval of the Districts whose territories are being modified. The number of Districts shall be determined by the Regional Board and ratified by a two-third (2/3) favorable vote of the Regional Assembly.

Section 2. The membership of a District organization shall be composed of the Disciples congregations and their members within its boundaries.

Section 3. The purposes, objectives, functions and procedures of the District organizations shall be in harmony with those of the Christian Church in Kansas.

ARTICLE X
OFFICE, RECORDS, FUNDS, AND TRANSACTIONS

Section 1. The Regional Church Office of the Christian Church in Kansas shall be in Topeka, Kansas, or at such other place as the Regional Board shall designate from time to time.

Section 2. All records pertaining to official actions of the Christian Church in Kansas shall be kept in the Regional Church Office and open to inspection by members of Kansas Disciples congregations.

Section 3. All funds designated to the Christian Church in Kansas shall be received through this office and properly receipted from there.

Section 4. The Christian Church in Kansas shall have full power to acquire and dispose of real and personal property, by itself or in association with others; to borrow and loan money and to give and receive security therefore; to invest and reinvest monies and properties which may come into its hands; to do and perform all matters and kinds of things and acts as may now or hereafter be provided by the laws of the State of Kansas concerning or appertaining to corporations of the character of the Christian Church in Kansas.

ARTICLE XI
AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-third (2/3) vote of the qualified representatives present and voting at a Regional Assembly of the Christian Church in Kansas. A proposed amendment shall be presented in writing to the Regional Board at one meeting and acted on at the next meeting. If approved by the Board, it shall be submitted to the Recommendations/Time & Place Committee for presentation to the Regional Assembly. The Regional Board shall direct the Regional Minister/President to give at least a sixty (60) day written notice of the impending amendment through the official publication of the Christian Church in Kansas, and/or through a general mailing to Kansas Disciples congregations.

ARTICLE XII
ENACTMENT AND REPEAL

Section 1. The foregoing Constitution was adopted upon a two-thirds (2/3) favorable vote of the Annual Assembly (Kansas Christian Church State Convention) in 1963. The organization was activated as rapidly as possible so as to become operative by the 1964 Annual Assembly.

Section 2. All articles and provisions of any previous Constitutions that are not in accord with the foregoing Constitution are hereby repealed upon the effective date of this Constitution as stated in Section 1 of this Article (XII).