

1 **BYLAWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

2 **PREAMBLE**

3 100 These Bylaws, consistent with the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, further define
4 and/or regulate the General Synod and its relationships with the Covenanted, Affiliated, and
5 Associated Ministries and Other Bodies which are related to the General Synod, and the United
6 Church of Christ Board, and describe the free and voluntary relationships which the Local
7 Churches, Associations, Conferences, and Ordained, Commissioned and Licensed Ministers
8 sustain with the General Synod and with one another. The pattern of relationships and procedures
9 so described is recommended to Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and authorized
10 ministers to enable them more effectively to accomplish their tasks and the work of the United
11 Church of Christ.

12
13 **ARTICLE I. THE MINISTRY**

14 **Members in Discernment**

15 101 A member of a United Church of Christ Local Church wishing to explore God's call to
16 ministry, and the potential of that call leading to authorized ministry (ordained, commissioned or
17 licensed), requests, along with the member's Local Church, to enter a covenant of discernment
18 with the Association.

19
20 102 The Committee on Ministry of the member's Association interviews the member to decide
21 whether to join with the member and the Local Church in a covenant of discernment. The goal of
22 discernment is to determine whether the member is called to authorized ministry, what the
23 specific character of that ministry might be, and, if authorization is appropriate, what steps are to
24 be taken toward authorization. Normally a covenant of discernment leading to authorization is
25 expected to be for not less than two years.

26
27 103 The Association and the Local Church are in a mutual covenant with the Member in
28 Discernment to offer support, counsel, and direction during this time of decision making and
29 preparation.

30
31 104 A Member in Discernment who is called to authorized ministry will follow a plan of
32 preparation for that ministry which has been prepared with the Association Committee on
33 Ministry. With respect to ordained ministry, a bachelor's degree and Master of Divinity may be
34 included in the plan.

35
36 **Ordained Ministry**

37 105 Not more than six months prior to the completion of theological preparation for
38 authorization, a Member in Discernment preparing for the ordained ministry applies with the
39 Member in Discernment's Local Church to its Association for approval as a candidate for
40 ordination. If the service of ordination is to be performed within an Association other than that of
41 the Member, the procedure, including that described in the following paragraph, is initiated by
42 that Association after consultation with the Association which is in covenant with the Member in
43 Discernment.

44
45 106 The Committee on Ministry of the Association examines the Member in Discernment with
46 respect to Christian faith; character; ability to do the work expected; preparation to meet the
47 responsibilities of the office; educational and theological attainments; and knowledge of the
48 history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ. If, following this examination, the
49 committee is satisfied with the fitness of the Member in Discernment, it makes an affirmative
50 recommendation to the Association. In turn, upon receipt of this recommendation, the

51 Association may opt for further examination or proceed immediately to authorize the ordination,
52 subject to a call recognized by the Association.

53
54 107 Ordination by an Association of the United Church of Christ, in cooperation with the Local
55 Church, confers Ordained Ministerial Standing as an Ordained Minister of the United Church of
56 Christ and recognition as an Ordained Ministerial Partner of the Christian Church (Disciples of
57 Christ) and The United Church of Canada.

58
59 108 After the ordination or in anticipation of it, a certificate is issued bearing the signatures of the
60 proper officers of the Association and the General Minister and President of the United Church of
61 Christ.

62
63 **Ordained Ministerial Standing**

64 109 An Ordained Minister moving from the bounds of one Association to another applies for a
65 transfer of Ordained Ministerial Standing to the new Association.

66
67 110 An Ordained Minister engaged in Local Church ministry has standing in the Association in
68 which the Local Church served has standing. An Ordained Minister engaged in other than Local
69 Church ministry has standing in the Association where the Ordained Minister's Local Church
70 membership is held.

71
72 111 An Ordained Minister engaged in a ministry requiring prolonged absence from the United
73 States, or one that does not permit a fixed residence, may apply to have Ordained Ministerial
74 Standing in the Association of the Ordained Minister's choice.

75
76 112 An Ordained Minister who withdraws from active service in the ordained ministry prior to
77 retirement applies to the Ordained Minister's Association for Leave of Absence. The Association
78 may grant such Leave of Absence for one year at a time. Except in special cases such Leave of
79 Absence is not granted for more than five years in succession.

80
81 113 An Ordained Minister retiring from active service by reason of age or disability retains
82 Ordained Ministerial Standing in the Association of the Ordained Minister's choice. Membership
83 in a Local Church must be maintained.

84
85 114 An Ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ serving a church not affiliated with the
86 United Church of Christ, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), or The United Church of
87 Canada, or serving a local church of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) or The United
88 Church of Canada without Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing retains Ordained Ministerial
89 Standing in the United Church of Christ so long as the Ordained Minister's Association approves.

90
91 115 The church membership of an authorized minister serving in Local Church ministry shall be
92 in the Local Church served. The church membership of an authorized minister serving in a setting
93 other than Local Church Ministry, or of an authorized minister without fixed residence shall be in
94 a Local Church of the United Church of Christ in the Association where the authorized minister
95 holds or seeks authorized ministerial standing.

96
97 **Ordained Ministers from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

98 116 An ordained minister from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) may hold Ordained
99 Ministerial Partner Standing in the United Church of Christ only when serving a United Church
100 of Christ calling body or serving in a ministry capacity directly relating to the United Church of
101 Christ.

102
103 117 Upon demonstrating knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of
104 the United Church of Christ to the Association in which the person resides, an Ordained
105 Ministerial Partner from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) may seek a call in the United
106 Church of Christ.

107
108 118 An Ordained Ministerial Partner from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who accepts
109 a call in the United Church of Christ joins a Local Church in the United Church of Christ and
110 applies for Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing to the Association in which Local Church
111 membership is held.

112
113 119 An ordained minister from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who holds Ordained
114 Ministerial Partner Standing in an Association shall maintain ordained ministerial standing within
115 the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Region in which the United Church of Christ calling
116 body is located.

117
118 120 In the United Church of Christ, Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing is granted by the
119 Association where the ordained minister from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is called
120 to serve and is for the period of call for which it is granted. If a new consecutive call to perform
121 the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ is
122 extended, then Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing may be transferred across Associations
123 pursuant to the process for transferring standing.

124
125 121 Ordained ministers from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) holding Ordained
126 Ministerial Partner Standing in the United Church of Christ are expected to maintain
127 requirements for ongoing ministerial standing from both denominations.

128
129 122 Primary oversight of an ordained minister from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
130 holding Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing is with the United Church of Christ. In the event of
131 a fitness review, the Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in which the person's
132 ordained ministerial standing is maintained shall be informed and invited to participate in the
133 procedures.

134
135 **United Church of Christ Ordained Ministers Serving in the Christian Church (Disciples of**
136 **Christ)**

137 123 An Ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ who holds Ordained Ministerial Partner
138 Standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

- 139
140 (a) shall maintain Ordained Ministerial Standing in the United Church of Christ.
141 Ordained Ministerial Standing shall be held in the Association in which local
142 church membership is held;
143
144 (b) shall hold local church membership in a local church of the Christian Church
145 (Disciples of Christ); and
146
147 (c) shall relate to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for the Ordained
148 Minister's primary support and accountability in ordained ministry.

149
150 124 Ordained Ministers from the United Church of Christ holding Ordained Ministerial Partner
151 Standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are expected to maintain requirements for
152 ongoing ministerial standing from both denominations.

153
154 125 Primary oversight of an Ordained Minister from the United Church of Christ holding
155 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is with the
156 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In the event of a disciplinary procedure, the United
157 Church of Christ Association in which standing is held shall be informed and invited to
158 participate in the procedures. The Association may accept the procedures and outcome of the
159 Region or utilize its own procedures to determine the person's ongoing standing in the United
160 Church of Christ.
161
162 126 When a person no longer has Ordained Ministerial Standing in either the United Church of
163 Christ or Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), that person is no longer an Ordained Ministerial
164 Partner and no longer has Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing.
165
166 **Ordained Ministers from The United Church of Canada**
167 127 An ordained minister from The United Church of Canada may hold Ordained Ministerial
168 Partner Standing in the United Church of Christ only when serving a United Church of Christ
169 calling body or serving in a ministry capacity directly relating to the United Church of Christ.
170
171 128 Upon demonstrating knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of
172 the United Church of Christ to an Association, an Ordained Ministerial Partner from The United
173 Church of Canada may seek a call in the United Church of Christ.
174
175 129 An Ordained Ministerial Partner from The United Church of Canada who accepts a call in the
176 United Church of Christ joins a Local Church of the United Church of Christ, and applies for
177 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing to the Association in which Local Church membership is
178 held.
179
180 130 An ordained minister from The United Church of Canada who holds Ordained Ministerial
181 Partner Standing in an Association shall also maintain ordained ministerial standing within their
182 current presbytery of The United Church of Canada.
183
184 131 In the United Church of Christ, Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing is granted by the
185 Association where the ordained minister from The United Church of Canada is called to serve
186 and is for the period of call for which it is granted. If a new consecutive call to perform the duties
187 and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ is extended,
188 then Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing may be transferred across Associations pursuant to
189 the process for transferring standing.
190
191 132 Ordained ministers from The United Church of Canada holding Ordained Ministerial Partner
192 Standing in the United Church of Christ are expected to maintain requirements for ongoing
193 ministerial standing from both denominations.
194
195 133 Primary oversight of an ordained minister from The United Church of Canada holding
196 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing is with the United Church of Christ. In the event of a
197 fitness review, The United Church of Canada Ministry Personnel Office shall be informed and
198 invited to participate in the procedures.
199
200 **United Church of Christ Ordained Ministers Serving in The United Church of Canada**
201 134 An Ordained Minister from the United Church of Christ who holds Ordained Ministerial
202 Partner Standing in The United Church of Canada
203

- 204 (a) shall maintain Ordained Ministerial Standing in the United Church of Christ.
205 Ordained Ministerial Standing shall be held in the Association in which Local
206 Church membership is held.
207
208 (b) shall hold Local Church membership in a Local Church of the United Church of
209 Christ and in a presbytery of The United Church of Canada.
210
211 (c) shall relate to The United Church of Canada for the Ordained Minister's primary
212 support and accountability in ordained ministry.
213

214 135 Ordained Ministers from the United Church of Christ holding Ordained Ministerial Partner
215 Standing in The United Church of Canada are expected to maintain requirements for ongoing
216 ministerial standing from both denominations.
217

218 136 Primary oversight of an Ordained Minister from the United Church of Christ who holds
219 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in The United Church of Canada is with The United
220 Church of Canada. In the event of a disciplinary procedure, the United Church of Christ
221 Association in which standing is held shall be informed and invited to participate. The
222 Association may accept the procedures and outcome of The United Church of Canada or utilize
223 its own procedures to determine the person's ongoing standing in the United Church of Christ.
224

225 137 When a person no longer has Ordained Ministerial Standing in either the United Church of
226 Christ or The United Church of Canada, that person is no longer an Ordained Ministerial Partner
227 and no longer has Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing.
228

229 **Ordained Ministers from Denominations Other than the Christian Church (Disciples of**
230 **Christ) or The United Church of Canada**

231 138 An ordained minister of a denomination other than the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
232 who desires to enter the ordained ministry of the United Church of Christ applies for Privilege of
233 Call to the Association within whose bounds the minister resides.
234

235 139 The Committee on Ministry of the Association examines the applicant as to the applicant's
236 abilities, reasons for desiring to enter the ordained ministry of the United Church of Christ,
237 educational and theological attainments, knowledge of the history, polity, and practices of the
238 United Church of Christ, and Christian faith and experience. If the applicant is found to be
239 qualified, the Association grants Privilege of Call, thereby declaring said applicant eligible to
240 seek a call in the United Church of Christ. Privilege of Call shall be granted for a period of one
241 year and may be renewed. After accepting a call, the ordained minister applies for Ordained
242 Ministerial Standing in the United Church of Christ to the Association of which the Local Church
243 of membership is a part.
244

245 140 An ordained minister of another denomination other than the Christian
246 Church (Disciples of Christ) or The United Church of Canada who wishes to retain ordained
247 ministerial standing in that denomination and who has become pastor of a Local Church of the
248 United Church of Christ, or serves in a Covenanted, Affiliated or Associated Ministry of the
249 United Church of Christ, or has become pastor of a yoked charge or a federated church one part
250 of which is affiliated with the United Church of Christ, or has been called to an ecumenical
251 ministry one constituent of which is the United Church of Christ, may apply to the Association
252 for dual ordained ministerial standing which is limited to duration of that pastorate or that
253 responsibility, and during that period may have all the rights and privileges of such membership.
254

255 **Commissioned Ministers**

256 141 A Member in Discernment seeking initial recognition and authorization as a Commissioned
257 Minister applies with the Member in Discernment's Local Church to the Association of which
258 that church is a member.

259
260 142 The Committee on Ministry of the Association examines the Member in Discernment with
261 respect to Christian faith, character, ability to do the work expected and preparation to meet the
262 responsibilities of the office to be filled, and make its recommendation of fitness to the
263 Association. If upon acceptance of the recommendation or upon further examination and decision
264 by the Association itself, the applicant is found to be qualified, commissioning thereby is
265 authorized.

266
267 143 Commissioned Ministers are listed separately from Ordained Ministers and from Licensed
268 Ministers on the rolls of the Association.

269
270 144 A Commissioned Minister moving from the bounds of one Association to another and who
271 continues in the specific church-related ministry, applies for a transfer of the commission to the
272 new Association.

273
274 145 A Commissioned Minister seeking to be commissioned for a new or different church-related
275 ministry applies to the Association for commissioning for the new ministry.

276
277 146 A Commissioned Minister who ceases to function in the specific church-related ministry to
278 which the minister was commissioned resigns the commission or applies to the Association for
279 Leave of Absence. Leave of Absence is granted for one year at a time, but not more than three
280 consecutive years.

281
282 147 A Commissioned Minister who retires from service as a Commissioned Minister may be
283 recognized by the Association as a Retired Commissioned Minister of the United Church of
284 Christ. Voting membership in that Association is thereby granted. Such recognition is regularly
285 reviewed.

286
287 **Licensed Ministers**

288 148 A Member in Discernment seeking recognition and authorization as a Licensed Minister
289 applies with the Member in Discernment's Local Church to the Association of which that church
290 is a member.

291
292 149 The Committee on Ministry of the Association examines the Member in Discernment with
293 respect to Christian faith, character, ability to do the work expected, preparation to meet the
294 responsibilities of the office, educational and theological attainments, and knowledge of the
295 history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ. If the applicant is found to be
296 qualified, a license is granted by the Association for not more than one year to serve in a
297 designated Local Church or within that Association. Following a review by the Committee on
298 Ministry, the license may be renewed annually for two more years after which the Association
299 may grant the license for a time determined to be appropriate.

300
301 150 At the request of the Local Church which the person serves, the Association may grant the
302 Licensed Minister the right to administer the sacraments and rites of the Church for this Local
303 Church.

304

305 151 Licensed Ministers are listed separately from Ordained Ministers and from Commissioned
306 Ministers on the rolls of the Association.

307
308 152 A Licensed Minister who retires from service as a Licensed Minister may be recognized by
309 the Association as a Retired Licensed Minister of the United Church of Christ. Voting
310 membership in that Association is thereby granted. Such recognition is regularly reviewed.

311
312 **Calling, Installing and Terminating a Pastor**

313 153 It is the responsibility of a committee of the Local Church to seek a candidate for a vacancy
314 in the office of pastor.

315
316 154 In filling a vacancy or in securing pastoral services during the period of a vacancy, the
317 committee of the Local Church, through its Conference Minister, obtains counsel and access to
318 the services of the "Search and Call" process of the United Church of Christ.

319
320 155 The committee of a Local Church requests the Conference Minister to secure relevant
321 information about any Ordained Minister, Ordained Ministerial Partner, or Licensed Minister
322 whom it wishes to consider or who requests to be considered for the vacancy.

323
324 156 Any Ordained Minister, Ordained Ministerial Partner, or Licensed Minister may confer with
325 the Conference Minister concerning a pastoral vacancy. At the Ordained Minister's request or at
326 the request of the Ordained Ministerial Partner, that person's name shall be submitted by the
327 Conference Minister for consideration by the committee of any Local Church where there is a
328 pastoral vacancy.

329
330 157 All vacancies within the Conference shall be reported promptly to the designated
331 administrative office in the National Setting of the Church.

332
333 158 The committee of the Local Church presents to the Local Church the name of a candidate it
334 recommends to fill the vacancy. The Local Church determines whether or not it wishes to call the
335 person recommended.

336
337 159 In the call agreement the terms of the pastoral relationship are stated, including the agreement
338 of the Local Church to participate in the pension fund on the pastor's behalf. The pastor, the
339 Local Church, Association Committee on Ministry, and the Conference Minister should each
340 receive a copy of the call agreement. The Conference Minister shall inform the designated
341 administrative office in the National Setting of the Church when the call has been accepted.

342
343 160 When an Ordained Minister or Licensed Minister accepts a call to a Local Church, the
344 Minister and the Local Church join in requesting the Association to arrange for a service of
345 installation or recognition.

346
347 161 Report of the service of installation or recognition is signed by the proper officer of the
348 Association and by the Conference Minister, and is reported to the designated administrative
349 office in the National Setting of the Church.

350
351 162 When a pastor or a Local Church decides to terminate the pastoral relationship, notice of the
352 decision is sent to the Conference Minister and the Association. The Association takes action
353 appropriate to the dissolution of the pastoral relationship. The Conference Minister promptly
354 informs the designated administrative office in the National Setting of the Church.

355

356 **Ministerial Accountability**

357 163 All authorized ministers of the United Church of Christ are active partners in a covenant of
358 mutual accountability with their Association of standing, their Local Church, and, in the case of
359 those serving in settings other than a Local Church, with their calling body. Such a covenant
360 includes, but is not limited to, mutual support and care, continued discernment of call, and
361 lifelong learning.

362
363 164 All authorizations for Ordained Ministerial Standing, for Ordained Ministerial Partner
364 Standing, and for commissioned and licensed ministry granted by an Association are subject to
365 oversight by that Association, including periodic consultation and review.

366
367 165 The ecclesiastical oversight of Ordained Ministers, persons with Ordained Ministerial Partner
368 Standing, Commissioned Ministers, and Licensed Ministers is the responsibility of the
369 Association in which their current ecclesiastical authorization is held.

370
371 **ARTICLE II. ASSOCIATIONS AND CONFERENCES**

372 **Associations**

373 166 An Association elects officers and elects or appoints such committees as it deems necessary
374 for the transaction of its business and the correlation of its work with that of the Conference and
375 the General Synod.

376
377 167 An Association determines its own method for securing financial support.

378
379 168 An Association is concerned with the welfare of all Local Churches within its boundaries.

380
381 169 An Association seeks ways and means to assist Local Churches when they are undergoing
382 unusual difficulties requiring help beyond their own resources.

383
384 170 An Association offers encouragement, guidance, and assistance in the organization of new
385 Local Churches.

386
387 171 An Association, with the counsel of the Conference, receives Local Churches into the United
388 Church of Christ.

389
390 172 An Association covenants with members of the United Church of Christ within that
391 Association as together they discern God's call to authorized ministry and prepare for ordination,
392 commissioning or licensing.

393
394 173 An Association ordains, commissions, and licenses qualified candidates; grants standing as a
395 covenantal relationship with Ordained Ministers, Licensed Ministers, Commissioned Ministers,
396 and persons with Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing; certifies to, transfers, and terminates
397 Ordained Ministerial Standing, Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing, commissioned ministerial
398 standing and licenses; installs Ordained Ministers and persons with Ordained Ministerial Partner
399 Standing; covenants with Licensed Ministers, Commissioned Ministers, and the Local Churches
400 to which they are called; grants Privilege of Call and Leaves of Absence; reviews and
401 ecclesiastically oversees Ordained, Commissioned, and Licensed Ministers and persons with
402 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing; and verifies that an Ordained Ministerial Partner has
403 demonstrated knowledge of, and appreciation for, the history, polity, and practices of the United
404 Church of Christ.

405

406 174 An Association receives and acts upon business referred to it by its Local Churches, its
407 Conference, the General Synod, and other bodies.

408
409 175 An Association may petition and overture its Conference or the General Synod.

410
411 **Conferences**

412 176 A Conference elects officers and elects or appoints such committees as it deems necessary
413 for the transaction of its business and the correlation of its work with that of the General Synod.

414
415 177 A Conference employs such salaried personnel as its program may require.

416
417 178 A Conference receives and acts upon business, requests, counsel, and references from Local
418 Churches, Associations, the General Synod, and other bodies.

419
420 179 A Conference provides names to the General Synod Nominating Committee as requested.

421
422 180 A Conference may petition and overture the General Synod.

423
424 181 A Conference chooses delegates and alternate delegates to the General Synod in accordance
425 with the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and these Bylaws.

426
427 182 A Conference receives from the Local Churches contributions for denominational support
428 and keeps detailed records of the same.

429
430 183 A Conference consults on a regular basis with the General Minister and President, or the
431 General Minister and President's designee, acting on behalf of the General Synod, to reach
432 mutual agreement upon the percentage, or the dollar amount, of the undesignated gifts for
433 denominational support to be retained for its own support.

434
435 184 Upon the basis of the agreed upon percentage, or dollar amount, the Conference each month
436 retains the amount necessary for its own support and forwards the balance to the treasury office of
437 the National Setting.

438
439 185 A Conference, in the interest of the Local Churches, discharges those duties and provides
440 those services which will strengthen the witness of the United Church of Christ, such as:

- 441
442 a) Coordinating the work and witness of the Local Churches and Associations;
443
444 b) Rendering counsel to Local Churches and ministers in situations calling for help
445 beyond their own resources;
446
447 c) Rendering an advisory service to Local Churches and to ministers with reference to
448 pastoral search;
449
450 d) Establishing and maintaining Conference offices, Conference centers, institutions, and
451 other agencies needful to its growth and welfare;
452
453 e) Sponsoring in-service training for ministers; and
454
455 f) Conducting conferences, retreats, clinics, and workshops.
456

457 186 A Conference maintains ecumenical and interfaith relations within its boundaries with other
458 fellowships to the end that mutual understanding and cooperation may be advanced.

459

460 **ARTICLE III. THE GENERAL SYNOD**

461 **Meetings of the General Synod**

462 187 The term of the General Synod begins at the opening of the regular meeting of the General
463 Synod and terminates at the opening of the next regular meeting of the General Synod. Regular
464 meetings of the General Synod shall be held biennially until the close of the 2023 General Synod
465 term in 2025. Regular meetings shall be held triennially beginning in 2025, with the next regular
466 meeting of the General Synod following the 2025 meeting to occur in 2028.

467

468 188 Special meetings of the General Synod may be called by resolution of the General Synod, by
469 the United Church of Christ Board, or upon receipt of a petition from at least twenty percent of
470 the Conferences. A special meeting so petitioned shall be convened not earlier than three months
471 nor later than four months after the petition is received by the General Minister and President of
472 the United Church of Christ. The petition and the call for a special meeting shall contain a
473 statement of the purpose of the meeting. In any special meeting only such business may be
474 transacted as is specified in the call.

475

476 189 The time and place of all meetings of the General Synod shall be determined by the United
477 Church of Christ Board unless otherwise directed by the General Synod.

478

479 190 The call for any meeting of the General Synod shall be signed by the General Minister and
480 President of the United Church of Christ. Such call shall be issued at least six months prior to a
481 regular meeting and at least three months prior to a special meeting of the General Synod. All
482 calls shall be sent to the Conferences and the Covenanted, Affiliated, and Associated Ministries,
483 and notice of these calls shall be transmitted to the Local Churches by the Conferences.

484

485 191 All proceedings of the General Synod shall, unless otherwise provided for, be governed by
486 the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, as amended. Any regular or
487 special meeting of the General Synod may be held remotely or in a hybrid format, as determined
488 by the United Church of Christ Board, with all or some delegates attending through
489 communications equipment that allows delegates to communicate contemporaneously with one
490 another.

491

492 192 Expenses of General Synod delegates, including travel expenses for meetings of the General
493 Synod, shall be the responsibility of the sending groups, except expenses of Conference voting
494 delegates as negotiated with the Conferences shall be borne by the General Synod.

495

496 **Membership of the General Synod**

497 193 The membership of the General Synod shall consist of voting delegates and associate
498 delegates. Visitors shall be welcome.

499

500 **Voting Delegates**

501 194 Voting delegates shall consist of Conference delegates, all members of the United Church of
502 Christ Board, and delegates named by the Historically Underrepresented Groups, as these are
503 hereinafter defined. All voting delegates shall be members of a Local Church of the United
504 Church of Christ. Each voting delegate to the General Synod shall be entitled to a single vote at
505 the General Synod.

506

507 **Conference Delegates**

508 195 The number of Conference delegates shall be allocated to each Conference by the United
509 Church of Christ Board on the basis of the number of persons who have membership in the Local
510 Churches of the Conference. There shall not, however, be fewer than three delegates allocated to
511 any Conference. The total number of Conference delegates in any ~~biennium~~ General Synod term
512 shall not be fewer than 675 nor more than 725. Delegates and alternate delegates shall be chosen
513 by each Conference from among its authorized ministers in full standing and persons with
514 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing and the members of its Local Churches. Conferences may
515 initiate and consider nominations from the Associations. From each Conference, except in
516 Conferences having three delegates, (a) lay persons shall constitute at least fifty percent of the
517 delegates and (b) the delegation shall reflect the United Church of Christ's commitment to the
518 values of diversity, equity, and inclusion; it shall be representative of people of diverse races,
519 ethnicities, genders, gender expressions and youth and young adults (at least twenty percent of
520 each delegation shall be under 30 years of age at the time of the commencing of their terms, and
521 where possible, be represented equally by (1) youth, persons of high school age; and (2) young
522 adults, persons graduated from high school or over 19 years of age). In Conferences with three
523 delegates the above requirements for representation are recommended but shall not be mandatory.
524 Despite any lack of exact compliance with these requirements, actions of a General Synod which
525 is constituted in substantial compliance with these representation requirements, as determined by
526 the United Church of Christ Board, shall be valid.
527

528 ~~196 The term of Conference delegates, other than any elected to fill unexpired terms, shall begin~~
529 ~~at the opening of the next regular meeting of the General Synod following their election and shall~~
530 ~~continue for a General Synod term, a period of four years, terminating at the opening of the third~~
531 ~~second regular meeting of the General Synod following such election; provided, however, that~~
532 ~~each Conference delegation shall be divided into two classes with terms expiring in alternate~~
533 ~~bienniums. Conference delegates may serve two consecutive terms. Conferences are encouraged~~
534 ~~to have delegates serving initial terms and delegates serving second terms in their delegations.~~
535 ~~When the number in one class from a given Conference exceeds the number in the other class by~~
536 ~~more than one, the Conference shall at the earliest possible opportunity make use of a two-year~~
537 ~~term for one delegate or fill any delegate vacancy that may occur in such a way as to equalize the~~
538 ~~two classes. No delegate who has served a full two consecutive terms shall again be elected until~~
539 ~~after at least two years have one General Synod term has elapsed. Delegates shall be members of~~
540 ~~all regular and special meetings of the General Synod which are held during their term of office~~
541 ~~unless they have become separated from the Conference which elected them. Conferences~~
542 ~~electing delegates to a four-year term for the 2023 meeting of the General Synod under the 2021~~
543 ~~United Church of Christ Bylaws may extend the terms of delegates to 2028 or hold such~~
544 ~~additional elections to special terms as necessary to ensure a full delegation to any special~~
545 ~~meetings and the 2028 meeting of the General Synod, and compliance with this Bylaw thereafter.~~
546

547 **United Church of Christ Board Delegates**

548 197 The members of the United Church of Christ Board shall be voting delegates at the General
549 Synod, and their term shall be concurrent with their terms as members of the United Church of
550 Christ Board.
551

552 **Historically Underrepresented Groups Delegates**

553 198 There shall be forty (40) Historically Underrepresented Groups delegates, four (4) from each
554 of the Historically Underrepresented Groups: Council for American Indian Ministry; The
555 Colectivo de UCC Latinx Ministries; Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice; Pacific
556 Islander and Asian American Ministries; United Black Christians; UCC Disabilities Ministries;
557 Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries; the United Samoan Ministries; the Open and
558 Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ; and the UCC Mental Health Network. The

Commented [HK1]: We have heard that it is difficult to find GS delegates to serve for two General Synods. This change is designed to encourage, but not require, Conferences to keep delegates for 6 years. It eliminates the two classes of delegates but allows for that possibility.

Commented [HK2]: Conferences will be without GS delegates between 2027 and 2028 unless given a mechanism to cover the gap.

559 term of Historically Underrepresented Groups delegates, other than any elected to fill unexpired
560 terms, shall begin at the opening of the next regular meeting of the General Synod following their
561 election and shall continue for a ~~period of four years~~ General Synod term, terminating at the
562 opening of the ~~second third~~ regular meeting of the General Synod following such election.
563 Historically Underrepresented Groups delegates may serve two consecutive terms. No delegate
564 who has served ~~a full term~~ two consecutive terms shall again be elected until after at least ~~two~~
565 years have one General Synod term has elapsed. Historically Underrepresented Groups electing
566 delegates to a four-year term for the 2023 meeting of the General Synod under the 2021 United
567 Church of Christ Bylaws may extend the terms of delegates to 2028 or hold such additional
568 elections to special terms as necessary to ensure a full delegation to any special meetings and the
569 2028 meeting of the General Synod, and compliance with this Bylaw thereafter.

Commented [HK3]: Similar provision to Conferences.

571 Associate Delegates

572 199 Unless otherwise serving as a voting delegate to the General Synod, the chairperson of the
573 governing body and the principal minister(s) or executive(s) of each Conference; the chairperson
574 of each Task Force created by the General Synod not otherwise represented on the United Church
575 of Christ Board; the chairperson of each General Synod standing committee; a representative of
576 the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ); and one representative of each of the seminaries of
577 the United Church of Christ not otherwise represented, chosen by the seminary, shall be
578 Associate Delegates, with voice but without vote.
579

580 Ecumenical Delegates

581 200 In each ~~biennium~~ General Synod term the United Church of Christ Board may invite a
582 representative from each of its U.S. and Canada full communion partners as an associate delegate
583 to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. In addition, the United Church of Christ
584 Board may invite a representative from up to three other partner churches in the United States.
585 These representatives shall be accorded the same privileges as Associate Delegates.
586

587 Moderators of the General Synod

588 201 The Moderator shall be elected by the General Synod. The office of Moderator shall be filled
589 alternately by lay persons and authorized ministers or persons with Ordained Ministerial Partner
590 Standing. The Moderator shall take office upon the adjournment of the regular meeting at which
591 the Moderator is elected and shall hold office through the next regular meeting or until a
592 successor has been qualified and installed.
593

594 202 The Moderator shall preside at the sessions of the General Synod.
595

596 203 There shall be elected an Assistant Moderator of the General Synod to assist the Moderator in
597 presiding at sessions of the General Synod. The Assistant Moderator shall take office upon
598 adjournment of the regular meeting at which the Assistant Moderator was elected and shall hold
599 office through the next regular meeting. The Assistant Moderator will be eligible for nomination
600 and election to the position of Moderator, upon completion of the term of Assistant Moderator.
601

602 204 The Moderator and Assistant Moderator shall include an authorized minister or a person with
603 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing and a layperson, and shall reflect the diversity to which the
604 United Church of Christ is committed.
605

606 Committees of the General Synod

607 205 The General Synod shall have such Committees as it may deem necessary, including but not
608 limited to those named hereafter.
609

610 206 **Nominating Committee** The Nominating Committee shall consist of 16 members elected by
611 the General Synod as follows:

612
613 a) Ten members will be elected from a pool of nominees provided by the Conferences, as
614 follows: At least nine months before each regular meeting of the General Synod, the
615 United Church of Christ Board shall invite each Conference not currently represented on
616 the Nominating Committee to submit the name of an authorized minister or a person with
617 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing and the name of a layperson for possible
618 membership on the Nominating Committee as an at-large member. The United Church of
619 Christ Board shall submit these names, to the General Synod. Not more than one of the
620 at-large members of the Nominating Committee shall be from any one Conference.
621 Notwithstanding this requirement, if a member of the Nominating Committee moves to a
622 Conference from which there is another member of the Committee currently serving, the
623 member moving to the Conference currently served by another member shall continue to
624 serve as a member of the Nominating Committee until the end of the ~~biennium~~**General**
625 **Synod term**. The position on the Nominating Committee held by the member who moved
626 becomes vacant at the end of the ~~biennium~~**General Synod term** during which the above
627 change in Conference occurs.

628
629 b) Four members will be elected from a pool of nominees provided by the following
630 groups: the Council for American Indian Ministry; The Colectivo de UCC Latinx
631 Ministries; Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice; Pacific Islander and Asian
632 American Ministries; United Black Christians; United Samoan Ministries, the Open and
633 Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ; UCC Disabilities Ministries; the
634 Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries; and the UCC Mental Health Network. At
635 least nine months before each regular meeting of the General Synod, the United Church
636 of Christ Board shall invite each of the six groups not currently represented on the
637 Nominating Committee to submit the names of an authorized minister or a person with
638 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing and a layperson for possible membership on the
639 Nominating Committee. The United Church of Christ Board shall submit to the General
640 Synod for election the number of names needed to maintain four members from these
641 groups on the Nominating Committee. Two members will be an authorized minister or a
642 person with Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing and two members will be laypersons.
643 The Conference affiliations of the representatives from these groups will not affect the
644 determination of the Conference affiliation of the at-large members elected in accordance
645 with paragraph ~~201a206a~~.

646
647 c) Two members will be appointed from among the members of the United Church of
648 Christ Board.

649
650 d) The diversity of the Nominating Committee shall reflect the diversity requirements for
651 the United Church of Christ Board, as set forth in these bylaws.

652
653 e) (i) A member of the Nominating Committee who has served a full term shall not be
654 eligible for re-election until a ~~biennium~~**General Synod term** has elapsed. Terms of
655 members shall begin at the close of the General Synod ~~meeting~~ at which the members
656 have been elected and continue to the close of the third regular General Synod ~~term~~ after
657 their election. The Chairperson of the Nominating Committee shall be named by the
658 United Church of Christ Board from the members of the Nominating Committee within
659 six months after each regular meeting of the General Synod. (ii) ~~Notwithstanding the~~
660 ~~preceding provision, the terms and eligibility for Nominating Committee members called~~

Commented [HK4]: Amendment missed in earlier revisions.

Commented [HK5]: No change to number of terms of Nominating Committee, but number of years is extended from 6 to 9. This means the terms of the Nom Com members will be automatically extended. Nom Com should be on our list of folks to communicate with in advance, specifically.

661 at meetings of the General Synod from 2015 through 2025 shall be governed by the
662 Transitional Nominating Committee Terms chart in Appendix A to these Bylaws, to
663 account for a time of transition as the General Synod term changes from two years to
664 three years.
665

666 207 The Nominating Committee of the General Synod, prior to the call for nominations, reviews
667 the composition of the continuing membership of the United Church of Christ Board and
668 determines the needed nominations. In its call for suggestions of names, the Nominating
669 Committee will indicate the criteria consistent with the provisions of these Bylaws which will be
670 used for filling positions on the United Church of Christ Board. Each Conference or group to be
671 represented shall provide at least two names for each of the positions.
672

673 208 The Nominating Committee shall make all nominations for election by the General Synod for
674 which the Constitution and Bylaws do not otherwise provide. The Nominating Committee shall
675 consider, but not be limited to, such attributes as candidates' leadership, a wide range of life
676 experience and background including socio-economic, cultural competency, financial knowledge,
677 fund raising experience, community building skills, commitment to justice, and understanding of
678 good governance. The Nominating Committee shall maintain records of suggested nominees and
679 their qualifications.
680

681 209 The Nominating Committee is responsible for ensuring that the membership of the United
682 Church of Christ Board embodies the commitment of the United Church of Christ to diversity and
683 balance, both in its overall composition and in its internal segments. In order to achieve this end,
684 the Nominating Committee may, if necessary, approach any group submitting and/or
685 recommending names with the request that they assist in that task by presenting additional names.
686

687 210 When selecting candidates for offices, the Nominating Committee shall consider all names
688 submitted.
689

690 211 The Nominating Committee shall submit its report to the General Synod at least twenty-four
691 hours before the elections are scheduled to take place, unless the General Synod, by a three-
692 fourths vote, consents to an earlier election.
693

694 **Credentials Committee**

695 212 The Credentials Committee shall be the United Church of Christ Board or persons designated
696 by the United Church of Christ Board from its own membership. The Credentials Committee will
697 review the composition of the Conference and other voting delegations for compliance with the
698 composition requirements of these Bylaws and is empowered to request changes in membership
699 to all voting delegations so that said delegations and the Delegation as a Whole will be in
700 compliance with the provisions of these Bylaws.
701

702 **Budget Committee, Business Committee, and Committee of Disposition**

703 213 The Budget Committee, the Business Committee, and the Committee of Disposition at each
704 regular and special meeting of the General Synod shall be the United Church of Christ Board or
705 persons designated by the United Church of Christ Board from its own membership. The role and
706 scope of the Budget Committee, Business Committee and the Committee of Disposition shall be
707 determined by the United Church of Christ Board.
708

709 **Officers of the United Church of Christ**

710 214 The General Synod shall call by election, from among the members of the United Church of
711 Christ, the General Minister and President, the Associate General Ministers, and such other
712 officers of the United Church of Christ as the General Synod may from time to time determine.
713

714 215 Each Officer of the United Church of Christ serves at the will of the General Synod, and may
715 be terminated as an Officer of the United Church of Christ by the United Church of Christ Board
716 acting as the General Synod ad interim in accordance with the United Church of Christ Board's
717 procedures.
718

719 216 (a) The term of each Officer of the United Church of Christ shall be two regular ~~meetings~~
720 ~~terms~~ of the General Synod, terminating at the opening of the third regular ~~meeting-term~~ of the
721 General Synod following such election, ~~not to exceed three terms~~, and shall commence within
722 ninety days following call by election by the General Synod. Officers of the United Church of
723 Christ shall hold office until their successors have been elected and qualified and have assumed
724 the duties of their office. Officers of the United Church of Christ may be reelected, but not more
725 than ~~twice~~once, subject to the call by election of the General Synod. (b) ~~Notwithstanding the~~
726 ~~preceding provision, the terms and eligibility for reelection of Officers called at meetings of the~~
727 ~~General Synod from 2015 through 2025 shall be governed by the Transitional Officer Terms~~
728 ~~chart in Appendix A to these Bylaws, to account for a time of transition as the General Synod~~
729 ~~term changes from two years to three years.~~
730

731 **General Minister and President**

732 217 The General Minister and President, who shall have Ordained Ministerial Standing or
733 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing, is called to ministry in and on behalf of the United Church
734 of Christ upon election by the General Synod.
735

736 a) Spiritual Leader of the Church:

737 The General Minister and President is the spiritual leader and pastor of the Church,
738 charged with the care and nurture of the spiritual life of the Church. The General Minister
739 and President is responsible for the unity and well-being of the Church, and for nurturing
740 its covenantal life and ecumenical and interfaith relationships, and leading the visioning,
741 planning, coordination and implementation of the total mission of the United Church of
742 Christ.
743

744 b) Theological Interpreter:

745 The General Minister and President is the principal leader in interpreting the theological
746 perspectives and values of the United Church of Christ as guided by the General Synod
747 and in consultation with the Officers of the United Church of Christ. The General
748 Minister and President is the chief representative of the United Church of Christ in the
749 public square and at ecumenical, interdenominational and interfaith tables.
750

751 c) Convener:

752 The General Minister and President will convene and preside at the meetings of the
753 Officers of the United Church of Christ. The General Minister and President is
754 responsible for coordinated communication, fund raising and planning in collaboration
755 with the Associate General Ministers. The General Minister and President is a member of
756 the Mission Planning Council.
757

758 d) Chief Executive Officer:

759 The General Minister and President is the Chief Executive Officer of the General Synod
760 and is its principal spokesperson. The General Minister and President oversees the

761 administration of the National Setting offices. The General Minister and President leads
762 and directs the work of the Associate General Ministers and the Officers of the United
763 Church of Christ. The General Minister and President is the executive ultimately
764 responsible for all hiring and termination decisions in the National Setting of the United
765 Church of Christ. The General Minister and President may from time to time delegate
766 administrative responsibilities as the needs of the Church and good judgment dictate.
767

768 The General Minister and President serves as the corporate President of the United Church of
769 Christ Board, each of the Covenanted Ministries, and all other corporations related to the
770 Covenanted Ministries. The General Minister and President determines the delegation and
771 direction of the work of the Covenanted Ministries to the Associate General Ministers, with the
772 affirmation of the United Church of Christ Board.
773

774 The General Minister and President serves as an ex-officio member in all meetings of the
775 Affiliated and Associated Ministries. The General Minister and President shall serve as an ex-
776 officio member, with voice, but not vote, in the meetings of all Commissions, Councils, and
777 Committees of the United Church of Christ, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and
778 Bylaws of the United Church of Christ; except that the General Minister and President shall not
779 participate in the work of the Search Committee for the General Minister and President. The
780 General Minister and President shall be the official representative of the Church in ecumenical,
781 interdenominational, and interfaith relations. The General Minister and President may appoint a
782 representative for such occasions as the General Minister and President deems advisable.
783

784 218 The General Minister and President is accountable to the General Synod and the United
785 Church of Christ Board, acting as the General Synod ad interim.
786

787 219 The candidate for the position of General Minister and President is nominated for an initial
788 term by a search committee of the United Church of Christ, broadly representative of the Church,
789 and appointed by the United Church of Christ Board. The search committee includes at least one
790 Conference Minister named by the Council of Conference Ministers and one representative of the
791 Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries to be selected, in the first instance, from the COREM
792 members on the United Church of Christ Board, each with voice and vote. At least one member
793 shall be a youth or young adult. The affirmative action commitment of the Church is to be fully
794 respected in the search process and diversity maintained in the membership of the Officers of the
795 United Church of Christ. The candidate chosen by the search committee is confirmed by a two-
796 thirds vote of the United Church of Christ Board before the candidate's name is placed before the
797 General Synod. Only one nominee may be presented for election, and nominations may not be
798 made from the floor. An affirmative vote of at least sixty percent of the General Synod is
799 necessary for election and call. The General Minister and President does not participate in the
800 work of the search committee choosing a successor. The General Minister and President is
801 evaluated regularly through a process approved by the United Church of Christ Board. In the
802 event that the General Minister and President is unable to discharge the responsibilities of that
803 Office, or if there is a vacancy in that Office, the United Church of Christ Board shall name an
804 Associate General Minister to serve as Acting General Minister and President until the General
805 Minister and President returns to service or is replaced by a successor elected by the General
806 Synod after a search process.
807

808 **Associate General Ministers**

809 220 An Associate General Minister may be a lay person, an authorized minister, or a person with
810 Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing. Each Associate General Minister serves as an appointed

811 member of the United Church of Christ Board and accordingly as a member of the Board of
812 Directors of each Covenanted Ministry.

813
814 221 Each Associate General Minister will be responsible for the work of the Covenanted
815 Ministries, as delegated and directed by the General Minister and President and affirmed by the
816 United Church of Christ Board of Directors.

817
818 222 As led by the General Minister and President, each Associate General Minister will be
819 involved in the overall functions of the National Setting, including visioning and planning,
820 communications, development and management of budgets, development and leadership of staff,
821 and implementation of policies adopted by the General Synod and the United Church of Christ
822 Board.

823
824 223 Each Associate General Minister will be accountable to the General Synod through the
825 United Church of Christ Board. Each Associate General Minister serves at the will of the United
826 Church of Christ Board and may be terminated by the United Church of Christ Board, acting as
827 the General Synod ad interim, in accordance with its procedures.

828
829 224 Each Associate General Minister is an Officer of the United Church of Christ.

830
831 225 Each Associate General Minister is to be nominated for an initial term by a search committee
832 of the United Church of Christ broadly representative of the Church, appointed by and from the
833 United Church of Christ Board. The search committee shall include the General Minister and
834 President; one Conference Minister, named by the Council of Conference Ministers; one
835 representative of the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries to be selected, in the first instance,
836 from the COREM members on the Board of Directors and one representative of the UCC
837 Disabilities Ministries to be selected, in the first instance, from the UCC Disabilities Ministries
838 member on the Board of Directors, each with voice and vote. At least one member shall be a
839 youth or young adult. The affirmative action commitment of the Church is to be fully respected in
840 the search process and diversity maintained in the membership of the Officers of the United
841 Church of Christ. The candidate chosen by the search committee is to be confirmed by a two-
842 thirds vote of the United Church of Christ Board of Directors before the candidate's name is
843 placed in nomination before the General Synod. Only one nominee may be presented for election,
844 and nominations may not be made from the floor. An affirmative vote of at least sixty percent of
845 the General Synod is necessary for the call by election. An Associate General Minister does not
846 participate in the work of the search committee choosing a successor. The Associate General
847 Minister is evaluated regularly by a process approved by the United Church of Christ Board of
848 Directors. The evaluation process shall include the General Minister and President, with voice
849 and vote. Terms of office shall begin within ninety days following their election. An Associate
850 General Minister shall hold office until the Associate General Minister's successor has been
851 elected and qualified and has assumed the duties of the Office.

852
853 226 In the event that an Associate General Minister is unable to discharge the responsibilities of
854 that position, or if there is a vacancy in the office, the United Church of Christ Board of
855 Directors, in consultation with the General Minister and President, may appoint an Acting
856 Associate General Minister, who shall be an Acting Officer of the Church, according to its rules
857 and procedures acting as the General Synod ad interim. An Acting Associate General Minister
858 shall serve until the Associate General Minister returns to service, or is replaced by a successor
859 called by election by the General Synod.

860
861 **United Church of Christ Board**

862 227 The United Church of Christ Board continues the work of, and acts as agent for, predecessor
863 bodies, and continues other ministries, as specified in the Constitution of the United Church of
864 Christ.

865
866 228 The United Church of Christ Board shall consist of up to 52 members. Thirty-six members
867 shall serve in at-large positions and up to 16 members shall be appointed members with voice and
868 vote. The composition of the United Church of Christ Board shall embody the commitment of the
869 United Church of Christ to be a diverse, equitable, and inclusive Church open and accessible to
870 all, reflecting a balance of leadership among people of diverse races, ethnicities, genders, gender
871 expressions, and sexuality. All members of the United Church of Christ Board shall be voting
872 members, except as legally proscribed and noted below.

873
874 229 The 36 at-large members, nominated by the General Synod Nominating Committee, and
875 elected by the General Synod as members of the United Church of Christ Board, shall reflect the
876 following composition at the time of their election:

- 877
- 878 • A majority shall be persons of color.
 - 879 • A majority shall be persons who identify as women, both transgender and cisgender; non-binary
880 persons; or gender non-conforming persons. The remaining members may be persons who
881 identify as men, both transgender and cisgender.
 - 882 • One-third shall be authorized ministers or persons with Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing.
 - 883 • Two-thirds shall be laypersons.
 - 884 • Twenty percent shall be under 30 years of age. To the extent possible, the under 30 years of age
885 members shall include both youth of high school age and young adults. All such members shall
886 be voting members except as legally proscribed.
 - 887 • At least one member shall be a person who self-identifies as having a disability.
 - 888 • At least one member shall be a person who self-identifies as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or asexual.
- 889 At least one member shall be a person who self-identifies as transgender, non-binary, or gender
890 non-conforming.

891
892 a) i) At-large members shall serve one term of three regular meetings of the General
893 Synod, which shall commence at the close of the General Synod meeting at which the
894 person is elected and qualified and shall terminate at the close of the General Synod
895 meeting in which a successor is elected and qualified. At-large members shall be divided
896 into three classes of 12 members each, with a class of 12 members being elected at each
897 General Synod. No at-large member who has served more than one-half of a full term
898 shall be nominated to serve again until at least one regular meeting of the General Synod
899 has elapsed. Nominations for the at-large positions shall be solicited from all entities and
900 organizations within the United Church of Christ. There shall not be more than three at-
901 large members from any one Conference at the time of an individual's election. ii)
902 Notwithstanding the previous provision, the terms of at-large members elected at
903 meetings of the General Synod from 2019 to 2031 shall be governed by the Transitional
904 UCCB Member Terms chart in Appendix A to these Bylaws, to account for a time of
905 transition as the General Synod term changes from two years to three years.

906
907 b) The General Synod Nominating Committee nominates these persons after submission
908 of names, according to the procedures established in these Bylaws, and criteria
909 determined by the Nominating Committee. In order to fulfill its responsibilities to ensure
910 that the membership of the United Church of Christ Board reflects the diversity to which
911 the United Church of Christ is committed, the Nominating Committee may ask for
912 additional names to be submitted.

913
914 230 Appointed members of the United Church of Christ Board with voice and vote shall include:
915

- 916 a) The Officers of the United Church of Christ.
917
918 b) The Moderator and the Assistant Moderator of the General Synod.
919
920 c) One member designated by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to serve a term
921 of two years. Any such member shall be eligible to serve up to two additional terms and
922 not to exceed three terms.
923
924 d) Six principal ministers of Conferences, one to be elected from each Region by the
925 Council of Conference Ministers for a term of ~~two years~~ one General Synod term, not to
926 exceed two consecutive terms. If any such member ceases during the member's term of
927 office on the United Church of Christ Board to be the principal minister of a Conference
928 within the Region from which said member was elected, a vacancy shall be thereby
929 created to be filled by election by the Council of Conference Ministers.
930
931 e) The Executive of the United Church Funds, Inc.
932
933 f) The Executive of The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ
934
935 g) The Executive of the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries
936

937 231 Although members of the United Church of Christ Board may be nominated or selected by
938 particular groups, each member serves on behalf of, and bears responsibility for, the well-being of
939 the whole Church.
940

941 232 The United Church of Christ Board shall elect, from its members who are elected by the
942 General Synod, a chairperson and a vice-chairperson according to its own Standing Rules.
943

944 233 The United Church of Christ Board shall appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall not
945 be members of the United Church of Christ Board, and shall have voice but no vote. The
946 Secretary and the Treasurer may be appointed from staff members at the National Setting, who
947 shall report to the General Minister and President, who is directly accountable to the United
948 Church of Christ Board.
949

950 234 The Secretary and the Treasurer shall have the customary duties of a corporate secretary and
951 treasurer to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.
952

953 **Responsibilities of the United Church of Christ Board**

954 235 The United Church of Christ Board shall act for the General Synod ad interim, and, in
955 cooperation with the Officers of the United Church of Christ, shall provide coordination and
956 evaluation of the work of the Church and shall carry out such other responsibilities as may be
957 from time to time delegated to it by the General Synod or as provided for in these Bylaws or the
958 Constitution.
959

- 960 a) The United Church of Christ Board shall be responsible for strategic planning and
961 policymaking. The Committees of the United Church of Christ Board shall make
962 recommendations to the members of the United Church of Christ Board for strategic
963 planning, policymaking, and oversight purposes. The United Church of Christ Board

964 shall receive recommendations from the Investment and Endowment Committee
965 regarding the annual draw rate on invested funds that may be used to carry out the
966 mission entrusted to the Covenanted Ministries. Recommendations as to the annual draw
967 rate and as to the allocation of the annual dollar amounts resulting from the application of
968 the annual draw rate to each of the restricted endowment funds and to each of the historic
969 donor intended uses of each of the unrestricted endowment funds shall not be modified
970 by the United Church of Christ Board except upon a two-thirds vote of the members
971 present of the full Board.
972

973 b) The United Church of Christ Board is responsible for policies relating to the mission
974 of the United Church of Christ in its National Setting. It shall support the on-going work
975 of the General Synod through its various ministries, planning for and encouraging
976 cooperation among those ministries, with Local Churches, Associations, and
977 Conferences, and with other expressions of the Church which contribute to and embody
978 God's mission in Jesus Christ. It shall support the spiritual and financial health of the
979 Church, and shall ensure the presence and implementation of policies which contribute to
980 the health of the Covenanted Ministries in relationship with one another and their
981 accountability to the General Synod. It shall receive reports from the Officers of the
982 United Church of Christ and provide oversight and support for the work of that body. It
983 shall facilitate the business of the General Synod and assume such other tasks as may be
984 assigned to it by the General Synod. It shall be a focal point for decision-making, overall
985 planning and evaluation, and budgeting in the National Setting. It shall receive and report
986 upon divergent points of view and maintain an open channel for the consideration of
987 minority or dissenting opinion. It shall submit a report of its work to the General Synod at
988 each regular meeting. In cooperation with the Covenanted, Affiliated, and Associated
989 Ministries it shall make an annual informational report to the Local Churches and the
990 Conferences about the total program of the Church in the National Setting.
991

992 236 Vacancies occurring in offices, commissions, or committees of the General Synod, or in the
993 membership of the United Church of Christ Board, shall, unless otherwise provided, be filled by
994 the United Church of Christ Board acting as the General Synod ad interim, such actions to be
995 reported to the next General Synod.
996

997 237 The United Church of Christ Board shall make such elections, nominations or appointments
998 as these Bylaws or action of the General Synod may require.
999

1000 238 Acting as the Budget Committee for the General Synod, the United Church of Christ Board
1001 shall determine the allocation of funds from denominational support. The United Church of Christ
1002 Board, acting as the Budget Committee, shall also receive and review the past and projected use
1003 of denominational funds allocated to each Covenanted Ministry and recommend the
1004 denominational support threshold amount for each General Synod regular meeting interval.
1005

1006 239 The United Church of Christ Board shall be an incorporated body in order to ensure that it
1007 may effectively and expeditiously perform all legal functions of the General Synod and all of its
1008 other functions as provided for in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.
1009 The membership of the Corporation shall consist of those persons described in the Bylaws as
1010 members of the Board of Directors of the United Church of Christ, who shall be elected or
1011 affirmed in the manner therein provided and who shall have the right to vote only to the extent
1012 granted by the Bylaws. Those members shall also be the Directors of the Corporation. The
1013 Corporation shall have such officers as required by law and as provided in these Bylaws. The
1014 Corporation may adopt for its government and the management of its affairs bylaws and rules not

1015 inconsistent with its Articles of Incorporation nor with the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and
1016 regulations of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ.

1017
1018 240 The United Church of Christ Board shall serve as the Business Committee of the General
1019 Synod during its sessions, and as such shall prepare the agenda and schedule for all meetings of
1020 the General Synod, recommend changes therein during sessions, and appoint committees not
1021 otherwise provided.

1022
1023 **Administration of the National Setting Offices**

1024 241 The General Minister and President shall oversee the administration of the National Setting
1025 offices.

1026
1027 **Committees of the United Church of Christ Board**

1028 242 The United Church of Christ Board shall have such other Committees as it may deem
1029 necessary, including but not limited to those named hereafter, and each may draw on expertise
1030 beyond the Board if necessary.

1031
1032 **Ministry Committees**

1033 243 The United Church of Christ Board shall establish committees relating to the mission and
1034 ministry of the United Church of Christ (the Ministry Committees). Each Ministry Committee
1035 shall make recommendations to the United Church of Christ Board regarding ministry priorities
1036 and policy. The Ministry Committees will honor the diversity commitments of the United Church
1037 of Christ and work in covenant with each other and National Setting staff. To the extent possible
1038 while still maintaining expertise needed on the Ministry Committees, the composition of each
1039 Ministry Committee shall embody the commitment of the United Church of Christ to a
1040 multicultural and multiracial Church, with leadership reflecting race and gender diversity, open
1041 and accessible to all. To the extent possible while still maintaining expertise needed on the
1042 Ministry Committees, each United Church of Christ Board member will be assigned to a Ministry
1043 Committee based on that individual's experience, expertise, personal passion and spiritual calling.
1044 Individuals also will be considered based on the role that they may serve as members of the
1045 Common Global Ministries Board, the mission partnership between the United Church of Christ
1046 and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Each Ministry Committee will elect a chairperson
1047 and a vice-chairperson, subject to the requirement that at least one of these positions must be held
1048 by a person of color in each Ministry Committee.

1049
1050 **Executive Committee**

1051 244 The Executive Committee shall consist of up to 16 members of the United Church of Christ
1052 Board, as follows:

- 1053
1054 a) Chairperson and vice-chairperson of the United Church of Christ Board
1055
1056 b) Chairperson of the Audit Committee, Finance and Budget Committee, Governance
1057 Committee, Investment and Endowment Committee, and Development Committee
1058
1059 c) The Officers of the United Church of Christ
1060
1061 d) One Conference Minister
1062
1063 e) Moderator of the General Synod
1064
1065 f) Three additional at-large members, one from each of the three classes

1066
1067 g) To the extent possible while still maintaining diversity and expertise, the composition
1068 of the Executive Committee shall embody the commitment of the United Church of
1069 Christ to a multicultural and multiracial Church, with membership reflecting age, race,
1070 and gender diversity, open and accessible to all.
1071

1072 245 The Executive Committee shall have the responsibility to ensure that visioning and strategic
1073 planning be done on behalf of the National Setting of the Church. It will lead the United Church
1074 of Christ Board in developing and articulating comprehensive and integrated strategies and goals
1075 for the National Setting. The Executive Committee will facilitate the United Church of Christ
1076 Board's identification of concerns and ideas related to communications, identity, fundraising,
1077 fund development, strategic planning, evangelism, and other critical issues for the life of the
1078 whole Church. The decision-making power and authority of the Executive Committee shall be
1079 governed by the standing rules of the United Church of Christ Board.
1080

1081 **Finance and Budget Committee**

1082 246 The Finance and Budget Committee shall consist of up to 12 members of the United Church
1083 of Christ Board, including:

- 1084 a) Chairperson or vice-chairperson of the United Church of Christ Board
1085
1086 b) Six representatives of the United Church of Christ Board
1087
1088 c) General Minister and President
1089

1090 247 The duties and responsibilities of the Committee include:

- 1091 a) Reviewing the annual available resources and being responsible for financial planning.
1092
1093 b) Reviewing the proposed Annual Budget recommended by the General Minister and
1094 President in consultation with key staff and mission partners, such as Common Global
1095 Ministries.
1096
1097 c) Recommending the Annual Budget to the United Church of Christ Board.
1098
1099 d) Receiving and reviewing regular financial reports.
1100
1101

1102 **Investment and Endowment Committee**

1103 248 The Investment and Endowment Committee shall consist of up to 14 members and shall be
1104 members of the United Church of Christ Board (except as noted below), including:

- 1105 a) Six representatives from the United Church of Christ Board
1106
1107 b) The Officers of the United Church of Christ
1108
1109 c) The Executive of the United Church Funds, Inc., with voice but without vote
1110
1111 d) The United Church of Christ Board, by vote of its membership, may add up to three
1112 individuals with legal and/or investment expertise who are not members of the United
1113 Church of Christ Board but are members of the United Church of Christ.
1114
1115
1116

- 1117 249 The duties and responsibilities of the Committee include:
1118
1119 a) Assuring that the legacy/historic restrictions on the use of restricted funds and the
1120 intended use restrictions of the unrestricted funds of each of the historic ministries are
1121 monitored, accounted for, maintained and reported to the United Church of Christ Board
1122 annually. The Committee shall monitor and oversee the allocation of both restricted and
1123 unrestricted funds to ensure that they will be allocated based on donor intent, whenever
1124 that can be determined and to provide the full Board an overview of all funds in order to
1125 encourage the most effective collaborative and holistic use of those funds to meet the
1126 missional needs of the Church.
1127
1128 b) Recommending to the United Church of Christ Board investment policies including
1129 investment screens that reflect the commitment of the United Church of Christ to
1130 corporate social responsibility.
1131
1132 c) Managing the investment of the endowed funds and other assets including real
1133 property in accordance with investment policies approved by the United Church of Christ
1134 Board.
1135
1136 d) Monitoring and reporting on the management of invested funds to the United Church
1137 of Christ Board.
1138
1139 e) Recommending to the United Church of Christ Board the annual draw rate on invested
1140 funds that may be used to carry out the mission entrusted to the Covenanted Ministries.
1141 Recommendations as to the annual draw rate and as to the allocation of the annual dollar
1142 amounts resulting from the application of the annual draw rate to each of the restricted
1143 endowment funds and to each of the historic donor intended uses of each of the
1144 unrestricted endowment funds shall be accepted by the United Church of Christ Board
1145 unless modified by a vote of two-thirds of the members present of the full Board.
1146
1147 f) Reviewing, monitoring and recommending to the United Church of Christ Board the
1148 allocation of the annual dollar amounts resulting from the application of the spending rate
1149 to each of the restricted endowment funds and to each of the historic donor intended uses
1150 of each of the unrestricted endowment funds.
1151
1152 g) Providing Board representation to the Investment Committee of the United Church
1153 Funds, Inc.
1154

1155 **Audit Committee**

1156 250 The Audit Committee shall consist of such members as determined by the United Church of
1157 Christ Board, provided that members of the Board must comprise a majority of the members of
1158 the Audit Committee. The United Church of Christ Board, by vote of its membership, may
1159 include on the Audit Committee individuals with legal and/or financial expertise who are not
1160 members of the United Church of Christ Board but are members of the United Church of Christ.
1161 All Committee members shall be voting members.
1162

- 1163 251 The duties and responsibilities of the Committee include:
1164
1165 a) Retaining the audit firm to perform the annual financial audit.
1166

1167 b) Receiving and reviewing the audit report from the auditors and reporting to the United
1168 Church of Christ Board.

1169
1170 c) Such other duties as assigned by the United Church of Christ Board.
1171

1172 **Regions**

1173 252 The United Church of Christ Board shall make an appropriate assignment of the several
1174 Conferences into Regions. The Regions as thus determined shall form the basis for Conference
1175 representation on national bodies wherever required by the Bylaws.

1176
1177 **Organization of the United Church of Christ Board**

1178 253 The United Church of Christ Board shall organize itself as it deems necessary to carry out its
1179 responsibilities and fulfill its mandates.

1180
1181 **Advisory Commissions**

1182 254 The United Church of Christ Board may provide for special advisory commissions on
1183 subjects of pervasive interest to the entire Church on which the United Church of Christ Board
1184 and/or the General Minister and President need policy or substantive advice. Members of such
1185 commissions and its chairperson shall be appointed by the United Church of Christ Board
1186 pursuant to its Standing Rules and shall include at least one member of the United Church of
1187 Christ Board.

1188
1189 **ARTICLE IV. ORGANIZATION**

1190 255 The work of the United Church of Christ shall be carried out by the United Church of Christ
1191 Board, the Covenanted, Affiliated, Associated Ministries, Councils, and other such bodies as may
1192 from time to time be created by, or related to, the General Synod or the United Church of Christ
1193 Board.

1194
1195 **COVENANTED MINISTRIES**

1196 256 The Covenanted Ministries are Local Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries, and
1197 Wider Church Ministries.

1198
1199 257 The General Minister and President oversees the programmatic work of the Covenanted
1200 Ministries, which shall be carried out in accordance with the policies, planning, and broad
1201 oversight of the United Church of Christ Board as provided in these Bylaws.

1202
1203 **LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES**

1204 **Purpose and Mission**

1205 258 The purpose and mission of Local Church Ministries shall be to encourage and support the
1206 Local Churches of the United Church of Christ in the fulfillment of God's mission. It continues
1207 the work of, and acts as agent for, predecessor bodies, and continues other ministries, as specified
1208 in the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and as described in its articles of incorporation.
1209 The program, administrative, and financial development functions of Local Church Ministries
1210 shall be carried out in cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board. The United Church of
1211 Christ Board shall oversee these functions, which will be coordinated and implemented by staff
1212 assigned by the General Minister and President. Local Church Ministries shall retain
1213 responsibility for all legacies and other property received, maintained or held by it, and shall have
1214 sole authority to approve any use, expenditure or disposal of its legacies or other property.

1215
1216 259 In overseeing the purpose and mission of Local Church Ministries, the United Church of
1217 Christ Board shall encourage Local Churches to shape their life and mission in partnership with

1218 one another, with other expressions of the Church, and with ecumenical and interfaith
1219 communities. The United Church of Christ Board will work to promote the vocation of all
1220 members, leadership of laity and clergy, and facilitate a system of ecclesiastical call. The United
1221 Church of Christ Board will nurture stewards, and will coordinate and promote denomination-
1222 wide mission funding. The United Church of Christ Board will work with Local Churches in
1223 striving for the vitality of Local Churches as inclusive and accessible communities of mission,
1224 evangelism, church development, education, unity, worship, nurture, and justice so that the good
1225 news of Jesus Christ will be proclaimed in word and deed.

1226
1227 260 The United Church of Christ Board shall work in interactive partnership with Local
1228 Churches, Associations, Conferences, and national expressions of the Church.

1229 1230 **Governance and Leadership**

1231 261 Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, Local Church Ministries shall be
1232 incorporated and governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the members of the United
1233 Church of Christ Board. It shall act pursuant to the provisions as defined in the Constitution and
1234 Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, its own articles of incorporation and bylaws, and by the
1235 rules of its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors of Local Church Ministries performs the
1236 functions normally associated with boards of directors, and such additional tasks necessary to
1237 carry out its purposes and mandates, including the formation of associated auxiliary corporations.
1238 Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, it has legal corporate status for the
1239 purpose of holding, receiving, and managing unrestricted, restricted, and designated allocated
1240 funds, and funds donated to it from all sources. It is responsible for its articles of incorporation
1241 and required corporate documents, and establishes its own rules and bylaws. It has responsibility
1242 for organizing its ministries in order to carry out its mandates, for providing necessary staffing,
1243 and for determining the manner and site(s) of its office(s). The Board of Directors may grant
1244 authority to sub-units, ministry teams, or other appropriate entities, to speak and act on its behalf
1245 within its own broad policy statements and those of the General Synod of the United Church of
1246 Christ. The Board of Directors may form task groups representing a variety of groups of the
1247 Church necessary for implementing its mission.

1248
1249 262 Members of the Board of Directors of Local Church Ministries serve on behalf of the whole
1250 Church.

1251 1252 **JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES**

1253 **Purpose and Mission**

1254 263 The purpose and mission of Justice and Witness Ministries shall be to enable and encourage
1255 Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and national expressions of the United Church of
1256 Christ to engage in God's mission globally by direct action for the integrity of creation, justice,
1257 and peace. It continues the work of, and acts as agent for, predecessor bodies, and continues other
1258 ministries, as specified in the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and as described in its
1259 articles of incorporation. The program, administrative, and financial development functions of
1260 Justice and Witness Ministries shall be carried out in cooperation with the United Church of
1261 Christ Board. The United Church of Christ Board shall oversee these functions, which will be
1262 coordinated and implemented by staff assigned by the General Minister and President. Justice and
1263 Witness Ministries shall retain responsibility for all legacies and other property received,
1264 maintained or held by it, and shall have sole authority to approve any use, expenditure or disposal
1265 of its legacies or other property.

1266
1267 264 In overseeing the purpose and mission of Justice and Witness Ministries, the United Church
1268 of Christ Board shall encourage the Church in all of its expressions to speak prophetically on

1269 matters of justice, power, and public policy. The United Church of Christ Board shall assist the
1270 Church in all of its expressions to confront expressions of injustice and alienation in the Church
1271 and in the society. The United Church of Christ Board shall provide support for the Church's
1272 ministry of service on behalf of those who are poor, the forgotten and the oppressed, and for those
1273 marginalized by stigma and discrimination because of their sexual orientation or their disabilities,
1274 including mental illness. The United Church of Christ Board may provide public witness on
1275 behalf of the justice and witness policies of the General Synod.
1276

1277 265 The United Church of Christ Board shall work in interactive partnership with Local
1278 Churches, Associations, Conferences, national expressions of the Church, and with ecumenical
1279 and interfaith groups, and community organizations.
1280

1281 **Governance and Leadership**

1282 266 Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
1283 shall be incorporated and governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the members of the
1284 United Church of Christ Board. It shall act pursuant to the provisions as defined in the
1285 Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, its own articles of incorporation and
1286 bylaws, and by the rules of its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors of Justice and Witness
1287 Ministries performs the functions normally associated with boards of directors, and such
1288 additional tasks necessary to carry out its purposes and mandates, including the formation of
1289 associated auxiliary corporations. Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, it
1290 has legal corporate status for the purpose of holding, receiving, and managing unrestricted,
1291 restricted, and designated allocated funds, and funds donated to it from all sources. It is
1292 responsible for its articles of incorporation and required corporate documents, and establishes its
1293 own rules and bylaws. It has responsibility for organizing its ministries in order to carry out its
1294 mandates, for providing necessary staffing, and for determining the manner and site(s) of its
1295 office(s). The Board of Directors may grant authority to sub-units, ministry teams, or other
1296 appropriate entities, to speak and act on its behalf within its own broad policy statements and
1297 those of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. The Board of Directors may form task
1298 groups representing a variety of groups of the Church necessary for implementing its mission.
1299

1300 267 Members of the Board of Directors of Justice and Witness Ministries serve on behalf of the
1301 whole Church.
1302

1303 **WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES**

1304 **Purpose and Mission**

1305 268 The purpose and mission of Wider Church Ministries shall be to encourage and support
1306 Local Churches, Associations, Conferences, and national expressions of the United Church of
1307 Christ to participate in the global, multiracial, multicultural church, accessible to all, and to
1308 support United Church of Christ ministries around the world and the nation. It continues the work
1309 of, and acts as agent for, predecessor bodies and continues other ministries, as specified in the
1310 Constitution of the United Church of Christ and as described in its articles of incorporation. The
1311 program, administrative, and financial development functions of Wider Church Ministries shall
1312 be carried out in cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board. The United Church of
1313 Christ Board shall oversee these functions, which will be coordinated and implemented by staff
1314 assigned by the General Minister and President. Wider Church Ministries shall retain
1315 responsibility for all legacies and other property received, maintained or held by it, and shall have
1316 sole authority to approve any use, expenditure or disposal of its legacies or other property.
1317

1318 269 In overseeing the purpose and mission of Wider Church Ministries, the United Church of
1319 Christ Board shall strengthen relationships with partner churches and oversee participation in the

1320 Common Global Ministries Board in joint venture with the Christian Church (Disciples of
1321 Christ). The United Church of Christ Board shall provide support for institutional ministries in
1322 health care, education, disaster relief, and social services in the United States and internationally.
1323 It shall also coordinate volunteer ministries in all expressions of the Church. In cooperation with
1324 partner churches it shall promote interfaith dialogue and global education and advocacy issues.
1325 Through the Common Global Ministries Board, the United Church of Christ Board shall oversee
1326 the sending and receiving of missionaries.
1327

1328 270 The United Church of Christ Board shall work in interactive partnership with Local
1329 Churches, Associations, Conferences, and national expressions of the Church and of the
1330 ecumenical and interfaith bodies.
1331

1332 **271 Governance and Leadership** Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ,
1333 Wider Church Ministries shall be incorporated and governed by a Board of Directors comprised
1334 of the members of the United Church of Christ Board. It shall act pursuant to the provisions as
1335 defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, its own articles of
1336 incorporation and bylaws, and by the rules of its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors of
1337 Wider Church Ministries performs the functions normally associated with boards of directors, and
1338 such additional tasks necessary to carry out its purposes and mandates, including the formation of
1339 associated auxiliary corporations. Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, it
1340 has legal corporate status for the purpose of holding, receiving, and managing unrestricted,
1341 restricted, and designated allocated funds, and funds donated to it from all sources. It is
1342 responsible for its articles of incorporation and required corporate documents, and establishes its
1343 own rules and bylaws. It has responsibility for organizing its ministries in order to carry out its
1344 mandates, for providing necessary staffing, and for determining the manner and site(s) of its
1345 office(s). The Board of Directors may grant authority to sub-units, ministry teams, or other
1346 appropriate entities, to speak and act on its behalf within its own broad policy statements and
1347 those of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. The Board of Directors may form task
1348 groups representing a variety of groups of the Church necessary for implementing its mission.
1349

1350 272 Members of the Board of Directors of Wider Church Ministries serve on behalf of the whole
1351 Church.
1352

1353 **OFFICERS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

1354 273 The Officers of the United Church of Christ, defined in Article IV of the Constitution of the
1355 United Church of Christ, support and consult with the United Church of Christ Board and the
1356 Covenanted Ministries in carrying out their work in a spirit of coordination and cooperation. The
1357 General Minister and President is the presiding Officer. Led by the General Minister and
1358 President, the Officers of the United Church of Christ are responsible for providing leadership for
1359 the mission programming in the United Church of Christ and for the proper implementation of
1360 General Synod actions. The Officers of the United Church of Christ coordinate research, long-
1361 range planning, program evaluation, and report on the ongoing programs of the United Church of
1362 Christ.
1363

1364 274 The Officers of the United Church of Christ are convened by the General Minister and
1365 President as the presiding officer and consult with the United Church of Christ Board and the
1366 General Synod. They shall consult regularly with the leaders of the Affiliated and Associated
1367 Ministries of the United Church of Christ. They meet regularly with the Cabinet of the Council of
1368 Conference Ministers.
1369

1370 **MISSION PLANNING COUNCIL**

1371 275 The Mission Planning Council provides a multi-missional setting which brings together the
1372 Officers of the United Church of Christ, and principal staff of the United Church of Christ Board
1373 and the Covenanted, Associated, and Affiliated Ministries of the United Church of Christ, for
1374 planning coordinated ministries and for visioning and exploring new perspectives over a wide
1375 range of mission, theological, ecumenical, spiritual, stewardship, financial, justice,
1376 communications, gender, disability, and racial issues and concerns. The Mission Planning
1377 Council is responsible for the coordination and correlation of mission and purpose and for
1378 maintaining mutual trust, mutual accountability, and the wise use of leadership and talents. It is
1379 designed to encourage cooperation and sharing of talents among the Ministries. The Mission
1380 Planning Council may invite others to participate, including representatives of Conferences and
1381 partner churches, as it deems appropriate. The General Minister and President coordinates the
1382 tasks, meetings, agendas, and follow-up actions of the Mission Planning Council.

1383
1384 **AFFILIATED MINISTRY**

1385 276 Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, The Pension Boards—United
1386 Church of Christ is an Affiliated Ministry of the United Church of Christ and serves the Church
1387 and its United Church of Christ Board and Covenanted Ministries as a separate corporation.

1388
1389 277 The purpose of The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ is to make available
1390 ministerial welfare activities and a system of employee benefit programs designed to assist
1391 authorized ministers and lay workers in achieving financial security during working and
1392 retirement years.

1393
1394 278 The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ continues as a nonprofit membership
1395 corporation which determines its own governance and leadership. The Pension Boards—United
1396 Church of Christ will have membership on the United Church of Christ Board.

1397
1398 **ASSOCIATED MINISTRY**

1399 279 Pursuant to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, the United Church Funds, Inc., is
1400 an Associated Ministry of the United Church of Christ Board of the United Church of Christ, and
1401 serves the Church, the United Church of Christ Board and the Covenanted Ministries as a
1402 separate corporation related to the United Church of Christ Board.

1403
1404 280 The purpose of the United Church Funds, Inc. is to provide a means by which individuals and
1405 organizations of the Church may further exercise their stewardship of resources for the sake of
1406 strengthening the mission of the Church as set forth in the Constitution of the United Church of
1407 Christ.

1408
1409 281 The United Church Funds, Inc. will work cooperatively with the United Church of Christ
1410 Board to facilitate comprehensive financial planning and development; and will continue its
1411 relationship with The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ. It shall have membership on the
1412 United Church of Christ Board.

1413
1414 282 The corporate membership of the United Church Funds, Inc. shall consist of 15 persons
1415 nominated and elected by the United Church of Christ Board for ~~three General Synod terms of six~~
1416 ~~years~~, one-third to be elected each ~~biennium~~ General Synod term and to serve until their
1417 respective successors are elected and qualified. The General Minister and President of the United
1418 Church of Christ and the chairperson of the United Church of Christ Board shall be appointed
1419 members. At least two of the members elected ~~each biennium~~ General Synod term shall not be
1420 members of the United Church Funds, Inc. at the time of their election. The United Church of

1421 Christ Board may remove a member of the United Church Funds, Inc. and shall fill vacancies for
1422 unexpired terms.

1423

1424 **Other Provisions**

1425 283 No person shall serve in more than one General Synod elected position simultaneously.

1426 Further, no employee of a Covenanted, Associated, or Affiliated Ministry shall serve as a voting
1427 member of the United Church of Christ Board, except as otherwise set forth in these Bylaws.

1428

1429 284 All members of the United Church of Christ Board, with the exception of the representatives
1430 from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), shall be members of the United Church of Christ.

1431

1432 **ARTICLE V. INDEMNIFICATION**

1433 285 Any Officer of the United Church of Christ, or any member, including officers and directors,
1434 of the General Synod, the United Church of Christ Board or the Councils, Commissions, and
1435 Committees of the General Synod may, to the full extent allowed by law, be indemnified by the
1436 United Church of Christ Board against all judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement of,
1437 and against all reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees, actually and necessarily, incurred
1438 in defense of any lawsuit, proceeding or prosecution (including appeal thereof) wherein such
1439 person is made a party by reason of being such officer or member to the extent such person is not
1440 otherwise indemnified by another entity. This provision shall also extend to any lawsuit,
1441 proceeding, or prosecution in which such officer or member is made a party in such person's
1442 capacity as an officer or member of another organization in which the person serves at the request
1443 of any of the above entities or bodies.

1444

1445 286 In all other lawsuits, proceedings, or prosecutions, indemnity shall not be made unless the
1446 officer or member acted in good faith and for a purpose which the person reasonably believed to
1447 be in the best interests of the Entity or body of which the person is an officer or member and in
1448 criminal actions or proceedings only upon the additional requirement that the person had no
1449 reasonable cause to believe that the operative conduct or inaction was unlawful.

1450

1451 287 These indemnity provisions shall also operate for the benefit of anyone duly serving in a
1452 representative capacity for such member or officer.

1453

1454 288 The United Church of Christ Board is authorized to purchase insurance providing
1455 indemnification pursuant to the provisions of the preceding. Any such contract of insurance may
1456 afford coverage for matters as to which the United Church of Christ Board may not give
1457 indemnity.

1458

1459 **ARTICLE VI. OTHER BODIES**

1460 The following groups are identified as related in covenant to the United Church of Christ, through
1461 a primary relationship with the United Church of Christ Board.

1462

1463 **COUNCILS**

1464 **Council for American Indian Ministry**

1465 289 Created by the Eighth General Synod in 1971 (71-GS-77) and given its present mandate by
1466 the Sixteenth General Synod in 1987 (87-GS-58), the Council for American Indian Ministry
1467 (CAIM) is a national body with primary responsibility for providing Christian ministry and
1468 witness in American Indian settings, and is a resource to the whole United Church of Christ in
1469 understanding and supporting American Indian churches and communities. The Council for
1470 American Indian Ministry supports and gives general direction to the American Indian members
1471 and congregations of the United Church of Christ, advocating with them, through CAIM's

1472 Recognized Unit of Ministry, to embody their own cultures and values and to be vital parts of the
1473 United Church of Christ and the Conferences in which they are located. The Council for
1474 American Indian Ministry encourages and supports the identification, enlistment, and support of
1475 American Indian candidates for authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ. Working with
1476 American Indian people throughout the United Church of Christ, the Council seeks to develop
1477 broad bases of visibility, nurture and support for American Indian people, communities, and
1478 churches. The Sixteenth General Synod vote calls for CAIM to be accountable to the General
1479 Synod through the United Church of Christ Board and to be funded from one-third of the net
1480 income of the neighbors in need offering.

1481
1482 **Council for Higher Education**

1483 290 The Council for Higher Education (CHE) shall be composed of the academics, colleges, and
1484 theological schools that indicate their desire to be recognized as related to the United Church of
1485 Christ and that are accepted by the Council as conforming to its standards; and of
1486 representative(s) from the United Church of Christ Board. For purposes of business and policy
1487 making, member academics, colleges, and theological schools shall be represented by each
1488 institution's executive head or other key officer as designated by each institution's executive
1489 head. The Council shall organize with its own chairperson, secretary, and any other officers
1490 needed to carry on its work. All officers shall be executive heads of their institutions. The Council
1491 shall be administratively related to the General Synod through the United Church of Christ Board;
1492 this provision not precluding the Council's right to direct access to the General Synod concerning
1493 any matters in which it may feel that its interests in program or budget require the exercise of
1494 such access. An Associate General Minister appointed by the General Minister and President
1495 shall be an advisory member of the Council with voice but without vote. The Council shall be
1496 organized in two sub-sections: College and Academy Section, and Seminary Section. The
1497 Council for Higher Education shall advance and interpret higher education in the United Church
1498 of Christ, including the cultivation of closer relationships between the educational institutions and
1499 the Church, the expression of the connection between faith and knowledge in those institutions,
1500 and, in cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board, the promotion of education as an
1501 integral part of the Church's mission.

1502
1503 **Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries**

1504 291 Created by the Fourteenth General Synod (83-GS-43) the Council for Racial and Ethnic
1505 Ministries (COREM) provides a place where racial and ethnic groups can develop their common
1506 agenda, collaborate with appropriate program and mission bodies of the United Church of Christ
1507 so that resources for racial and ethnic ministries will be effective and relevant, discern appropriate
1508 ways by which the many and varied gifts of racial and ethnic groups may be made available to the
1509 Church, and advocate for racial and ethnic concerns within the United Church of Christ. It is
1510 composed of two representatives each from the Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministry
1511 (PAAM), The Colectivo de UCC Latinx Ministries, the Council for American Indian Ministry
1512 (CAIM), United Black Christians (UBC), Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice
1513 (MRSEJ), and United Samoan Ministries (USM) who are accountable to the groups that send
1514 them. COREM is accountable to the United Church of Christ Board.

1515
1516 **Council for Theological Education**

1517 292 The Council for Theological Education (CTE) shall be responsible for fostering mutual
1518 accountability between the United Church of Christ and the Seminaries of the United Church of
1519 Christ, for periodic reviews of the criteria for being designated as a Seminary of the United
1520 Church of Christ, and for the general well-being of the relationship between the seminaries and
1521 the United Church of Christ. The Council will exercise care for the Seminaries, explore ways by
1522 which theological education contributes to the leadership needs of the Church, foster cooperation

1523 among the Seminaries, and facilitate communication and appropriate engagement between
1524 Seminaries of the United Church of Christ and Historically Related Seminaries and with other
1525 seminaries which provide theological education for persons preparing for authorized ministry in
1526 the United Church of Christ. Seminaries of the United Church of Christ retain full membership
1527 and responsibility in the Council for Higher Education and its seminary section. The Council will
1528 provide comment to the United Church of Christ Board whenever the United Church of Christ
1529 Board prepares to recommend a seminary for recognition as a Seminary of the United Church of
1530 Christ. The Council shall be composed of the President and one additional representative from
1531 each of the Seminaries of the United Church of Christ, a representative from one of the
1532 Historically Related Seminaries, two representatives from the Council of Conference Ministers
1533 elected by that Council, two conference staff persons who relate to a Committee on Ministry
1534 and/or work with the search and call process from a conference not otherwise represented on the
1535 Council, four persons who serve on a Committee on Ministry, the General Minister and President,
1536 and an Associate General Minister appointed by the General Minister and President. The General
1537 Minister and President will assign staff members as necessary to support the programmatic work
1538 of the Council. An intentional effort will be made to ensure that those who have been historically
1539 under-represented be present in the membership of the Council. The Council shall meet annually
1540 and shall elect its own officers each ~~biennium~~General Synod term.

1541 1542 **Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries**

1543 293 The Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries (CYAM) shall serve to advocate,
1544 support programs, and be a resource for youth and young adult ministries throughout the United
1545 Church of Christ and shall report to the United Church of Christ Board and to the General Synod
1546 on issues, developments, and concerns in youth and young adult ministries in church and society.
1547 It shall monitor to ensure that the unique gifts and talents of youth and young adults are present in
1548 all aspects of the life of the Church. It shall inform, envision, and shape national youth and young
1549 adult ministry priorities across the Church. The Council and its membership will act as a resource
1550 regarding youth and young adult ministry opportunities across the Church (including but not
1551 limited to internships, mission trips, Regional Youth Events, National Youth Event, and the
1552 General Synod). The Council shall organize itself as needed in order to carry out its work and
1553 shall have direct access to the United Church of Christ Board and the General Synod in areas of
1554 program and budget. The Council's composition shall reflect the United Church of Christ's
1555 commitment to having a diversity of perspectives in church governance.

1556 1557 **Council of Conference Ministers**

1558 294 The Council of Conference Ministers (CCM) shall be composed of the Conference Ministers
1559 of the several Conferences. The General Minister and President shall be a member ex-officio,
1560 without vote, of the Council and its Cabinet. It shall select a chairperson and such other officers
1561 and committees as it shall deem necessary. It shall elect from its members those who are to serve
1562 on the United Church of Christ Board and in other representative positions, distributing those
1563 positions among the Regions. It shall maintain a close relationship with the Officers of the United
1564 Church of Christ, the United Church of Christ Board, and national units the Covenanted
1565 Ministries, the Affiliated Ministry, and the Associated Ministry with respect to matters affecting
1566 the life of the Church.

1567 1568 **Historical Council**

1569 295 The Historical Council (HC) shall be composed of twelve members, with at least one
1570 representing the following historical organizations: Eden Seminary Archives, Evangelical and
1571 Reformed Historical Society (ERHS), Congregational Library and Archives, the Amistad Center,
1572 the Franklinton Center, and the UCC Archives. The remaining six shall be appointed by the
1573 United Church of Christ Board (including one rep from the Christian Connection/Christian

1574 Tradition). One-third shall be named each biennium-General Synod for a term of six-yearsthree
1575 General Synod terms, to serve until their respective successors are named and qualified, and not
1576 to exceed two terms. The United Church of Christ Board will name from these twelve members
1577 the chairperson. The Council shall meet at the call of the General Minister and President or the
1578 chairperson. It shall act in an advisory capacity to the General Minister and President and the
1579 United Church of Christ Board in engaging with the archives of the United Church of Christ and
1580 of the other historical organizations, in expressing interest and concern for all archival collections
1581 related to the several heritages of the denomination, in recommending the amount to be allocated
1582 in the contributions budget for the historical organizations, and in reminding the United Church
1583 of Christ of its traditions. The Council shall receive financial support through the United Church
1584 of Christ Board and staff support as assigned by the General Minister and President.
1585

1586 **Council for Health and Human Service Ministries**

1587 296 The Council for Health and Human Services Ministries (CHHSM) was recognized by the
1588 Fifteenth General Synod as an organization composed of institutions and programs in health and
1589 welfare related to the United Church of Christ and accepted by the CHHSM as conforming to its
1590 standards. The CHHSM is organized with its own Directorate and Officers. The purposes and
1591 functions of the CHHSM shall include: 1) The support and nurture for its member institutions and
1592 programs in fulfillment of their ministries as part of the mission of the United Church of Christ;
1593 2) Representation of the ministries of its member institutions and programs to the General Synod
1594 and United Church of Christ Board in the conduct of the mission of the United Church of Christ
1595 in health and welfare; 3) Cooperation with the Conferences and the United Church of Christ
1596 Board in the process of Conference recognition of health and human service ministries,
1597 monitoring the authorization to seek funds within Conferences, and approval of requests to
1598 conduct capital campaigns; 4) Provision, annually, to the United Church of Christ Board, the
1599 names of those member institutions and programs which conform to the standards set by
1600 CHHSM; 5) Cooperation with the United Church of Christ Board in collecting information on
1601 institutions and programs in health and welfare to be listed in the *United Church of Christ*
1602 *Yearbook*; and 6) Participation in secular, ecumenical, and inter-faith networks in the field of
1603 health and welfare.
1604

1605 **SELF-CREATED GROUPS**

1606 **The Colectivo de UCC Latinx Ministries**

1607 297 The Colectivo de UCC Latinx Ministries is a diverse community of children of a God who
1608 created us to flourish in this world, to live in interconnection with one another and creation
1609 through intentional relationships grounded in love, justice, and peace. We believe in Jesus' Good
1610 News message of extravagant welcome to ALL at the table of God, the acknowledgement and
1611 value of the diversity of people and their gifts, the promise of life in abundance, and freedom and
1612 wholeness for all of creation. In the spirit of mutual accountability, The Colectivo de UCC Latinx
1613 Ministries commits to sharing our experience and gifts with the whole church as we claim our
1614 place within the body of Christ, seeking to be members, not a mission of the United Church of
1615 Christ. Our membership is comprised of individuals, congregations, Associations, Conferences,
1616 and nationally based ministries of United Church of Christ who have endorsed the values and
1617 goals of the Colectivo and agree to join in covenant to strengthen and support the mission and
1618 ministry of Latinx people in the UCC. We also welcome dialogue and connections with
1619 ecumenical partners and community-based organizations that share our values.
1620

1621 **Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice**

1622 298 Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice (MRSEJ) is a group which brings together
1623 clergy who advocate on behalf of African Americans in church and society, providing a caucus of
1624 ministers for fellowship, for sharing mutual concerns, and for actions regarding the agenda of the

1625 black constituency within the United Church of Christ. MRSEJ challenges, monitors, initiates,
1626 and supports the cause of African American involvement to the fullest possible measure in the
1627 life of the United Church of Christ.

1628

1629 **UCC Disabilities Ministries**

1630 299 The UCC Disabilities Ministries (UCCDM) strives for the full inclusion of persons with
1631 disabilities in the life and mission of the Church. The UCCDM encourages all settings of the
1632 United Church of Christ to be open, inclusive, affirming, and accessible in their buildings,
1633 worship, education, fellowship, and service so that they may proclaim God's word to and with all
1634 persons, including those with disabilities. It seeks to enable all members of the United Church of
1635 Christ to affirm the theological/biblical affirmations of the wholeness of all people, and to
1636 recognize the ministry to and with persons with disabilities as a part of the ministry of all the
1637 baptized. The UCCDM Board of Directors includes persons with disabilities, members of
1638 families of persons with disabilities, experts on disabilities, and other persons from the United
1639 Church of Christ who support the purposes of the UCCDM and reflect the diversity of the United
1640 Church of Christ.

1641

1642 **Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries**

1643 300 Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries (PAAM), organized in 1974 and recognized
1644 by the Tenth General Synod, advocates for the presence, participation and contributions of
1645 PAAM in the life of the United Church of Christ and serves its constituent members and
1646 churches, initiating and supporting their life, and working for greater representation in wider
1647 church settings. It seeks to strengthen Local Churches, to nurture and develop lay and clergy
1648 leadership for the church, and to address issues of justice. As an advocate group for the rights of
1649 people, PAAM is involved in issues of the rights of Pacific Islander and Asian people in the
1650 United States and in the United Church of Christ and works in the areas of rights for women and
1651 children, the poor on welfare, institutional racism, and political prisoners.

1652

1653 **United Black Christians**

1654 301 United Black Christians (UBC) is a special interest group which represents over 50,000
1655 African-American members of the United Church of Christ. It stands in the affirmation that each
1656 person has gifts to offer to the Church, and that each is entitled to full rights and privileges as
1657 children of God. UBC dedicates itself to providing voice for all African-American members of
1658 the United Church of Christ, seeking to witness to, and preserve the history and legacy of the
1659 African-American people and churches. UBC is an active advocate for liberation and social
1660 justice at home and abroad.

1661

1662 **The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ**

1663 302 The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ (The Coalition) is
1664 composed of members and friends of the United Church of Christ who affirm the good news that
1665 all persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions are loved and
1666 empowered by God. The Coalition actively works to combat prejudice and seeks justice for, and
1667 the full inclusion and involvement of, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Christians in all
1668 expressions of the United Church of Christ. In its leadership and outreach, The Coalition is
1669 committed to ending exclusion based on sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and
1670 expression, race, age, size, class and/or ableness. It promotes mutual ministries of pastoral care,
1671 education, and advocacy within the United Church of Christ and society as a whole; encourages
1672 Local Churches, Associations and Conferences to become "Open and Affirming" (ONA); and
1673 organizes within Conferences to make resources of The Coalition available to all.

1674

1675 **United Samoan Ministries**

1676 303 United Samoan Ministries was organized in 2010 and recognized by the Twenty Ninth
1677 General Synod in Long Beach, California, in 2013. USM conducted its reorganization process
1678 between 2011 and 2014. USM is established to provide a setting for members of Samoan
1679 congregations in the United Church of Christ to gather for fellowship, spiritual nurturing, mutual
1680 support, and communications to strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ. USM also seeks but is not
1681 limited to: strengthening channels of communication among Samoan congregations in the United
1682 Church of Christ (UCC) and their respective ministries; exchanging of information and building
1683 communication about the UCC in all its settings including local congregations, Associations,
1684 Conferences, National Ministries and Global Partners; establishing a setting for collective
1685 decision-making that will fulfill the USM Mission Statement and strengthen the covenantal
1686 relationships among Samoan congregations within the UCC; providing a setting to develop and
1687 enhance the leadership and cultural identities among Samoan congregations in order to empower
1688 them in the UCC; and recognizing and celebrating the unique insights and contributions of
1689 Samoans throughout the life of the UCC. USM encourage all Samoans of all ages to affirm their
1690 unique ethnic and cultural identities while embracing the Still Speaking God and find joy,
1691 spiritually “no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”
1692

1693 **UCC Mental Health Network**

1694 304 The UCC MHN faithfully seeks to understand and address the impact of mental health
1695 challenges on the members of our congregations, in our communities, and our society. We
1696 encourage all settings of the UCC to be welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and engaged with
1697 persons who are living with a mental health challenge, brain disorder, and substance use disorder.
1698 All are invited into the Body of Christ, and those living with mental health conditions are
1699 welcomed into the work and leadership of the Church. Through educational materials,
1700 conferences across the country, practical resources, stories from individuals and congregations,
1701 and the WISE for Mental Health certification, the UCC MHN answers Jesus’ call to build the
1702 Kingdom of God. We urge congregations, Associations, and Conferences of the UCC to become
1703 WISE about mental health as a way to live fully with justice, peace, and love. The UCC MHN
1704 Board of Directors does this work through a diversity of people, especially those who are
1705 personally living with mental health challenges, brain disorders, substance use disorders, and
1706 their loved ones, as well as professionals in mental health and recovery from addiction.
1707

1708 **Alliance of Associate Conference Ministers**

1709 305 The Alliance of Associate Conference Ministers (AACM) is in service of all persons who
1710 serve in the role either designated as Associate Conference Minister or all the various titles of
1711 those functioning in similar job responsibilities and expectations. The AACM serves to support,
1712 equip, and network those who serve in a staff or called position doing Conference ministry in the
1713 support of the Conference Minister and the Conference.
1714

1715 **Relationships**

1716 306 Unless otherwise designated in these Bylaws, each of the aforementioned bodies shall have a
1717 primary relationship with the United Church of Christ Board which shall serve as its primary
1718 linkage to the national expressions of the United Church of Christ, to which it shall report
1719 annually. This primary relationship shall be defined by the United Church of Christ Board in
1720 consultation with the respective group. The designated relationship shall be reviewed each
1721 ~~biennium~~ **General Synod term** by the appropriate partners, and may be changed upon the mutual
1722 consent of those partners, and so declared by vote of the United Church of Christ Board. The
1723 General Minister and President shall be responsible for initiating said review.
1724

1725 In effect July 3, 2017; amendments approved by the General Synod in 2017 that were contingent upon ratification of the amendments
1726 to the Constitution were effective October 13, 2018. Updated effective June 25, 2019 upon recognition by the General Synod of The
1727 Colectivo de UCC Latinx Ministries and UCC Mental Health Networks as Historically Underrepresented Groups.

1728
1729
1730
1731
1732

In effect July 18, 2021; amendments approved by the General Synod; Alliance of Associate Conference Ministers was recognized by the General Synod as a Self-Created Group; Historical Council description updated.

DRAFT

1733
1734
1735
1736
1737

APPENDIX A

Transitional United Church of Christ Board Terms

<u>General Synod Year Board Composition</u>	<u>Board Class</u>		
	<u>Year of Election</u>		
	<u>Number of At-Large Members</u>		
<u>2023</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2027/2028*</u>	<u>Class of 2031**</u>
	<u>Elected in 2019</u>	<u>Elected in 2021</u>	<u>Elected in 2023</u>
	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>2025</u>	<u>Class of 2027/2028</u>	<u>Class of 2031</u>	<u>Class of 2034</u>
	<u>Elected in 2021</u>	<u>Elected in 2023</u>	<u>Elected in 2025</u>
	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>2028</u>	<u>Class of 2031</u>	<u>Class of 2034</u>	<u>Class of 2037</u>
	<u>Elected in 2023</u>	<u>Elected in 2025</u>	<u>Elected in 2028</u>
	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>2031</u>	<u>Class of 2034</u>	<u>Class of 2037</u>	<u>Class of 2040</u>
	<u>Elected in 2025</u>	<u>Elected in 2028</u>	<u>Elected in 2031</u>
	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>

1738
1739
1740
1741
1742
1743
1744
1745
1746

* The class of 2027, elected in 2021, will become the class of 2028 following the bylaws amendment, and serve a seven-year term. It will serve GS terms 2021-2023, 2023-2025, and 2025-2028.

** The class of 2031, elected in 2023, serves an eight-year UCCB term, consisting of the following GS terms: 2023-2025, 2025-2028, and 2028-2031.

1747
1748
1749

Transitional General Synod Nominating Committee Terms

<u>General Synod Year Nominating Committee Composition</u>	<u>Nominating Committee Class</u>		
	<u>Year of Election</u>		
	<u>Number of Members</u>		
<u>2023</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2027/2028*</u>	<u>Class of 2031**</u>
	<u>Elected in 2019</u>	<u>Elected in 2021</u>	<u>Elected in 2023</u>
	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>2025</u>	<u>Class of 2027/2028</u>	<u>Class of 2031</u>	<u>Class of 2034</u>
	<u>Elected in 2021</u>	<u>Elected in 2023</u>	<u>Elected in 2025</u>
	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>2028</u>	<u>Class of 2031</u>	<u>Class of 2034</u>	<u>Class of 2037</u>
	<u>Elected in 2023</u>	<u>Elected in 2025</u>	<u>Elected in 2028</u>
	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>2031</u>	<u>Class of 2034</u>	<u>Class of 2037</u>	<u>Class of 2040</u>
	<u>Elected in 2025</u>	<u>Elected in 2028</u>	<u>Elected in 2031</u>
	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>2034</u>	<u>Class of 2037</u>	<u>Class of 2040</u>	<u>Class of 2043</u>
	<u>Elected in 2028</u>	<u>Elected in 2031</u>	<u>Elected in 2034</u>
	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

1750
1751
1752
1753
1754
1755
1756
1757

* The class of 2027 will become the class of 2028 following the bylaws amendment, and serve a seven-year term. The class will serve 2021-2023, 2023-2025, and 2025-2028.

** The class of 2031, elected in 2023, serves an eight-year Nominating Committee term, consisting of the following GS terms: 2023-2025, 2025-2028, and 2028-2031.

1758
1759
1760

Transitional Officer Terms*

<u>Officer Elected at GS:</u>	<u>First Re-Election</u>	<u>Second Re-Election</u>	<u>Final Expiration</u>	<u>Possible GS Terms</u>	<u>Total Possible Time</u>
<u>2017</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2028</u>	5: <u>2017-2019</u> <u>2019-2021</u> <u>2021-2023</u> <u>2023-2025</u> <u>2025-2028</u>	<u>11 years</u>
<u>2019</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2028</u>	<u>2031</u>	5: <u>2019-2021</u> <u>2021-2023</u> <u>2023-2025</u> <u>2025-2028</u> <u>2028-2031</u>	<u>12 years</u>
<u>2021 (Special)</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2028</u>	<u>2031</u>	4: <u>2021-2023</u> <u>2023-2025</u> <u>2025-2028</u> <u>2028-2031</u>	<u>10 years</u>
<u>2023</u>	<u>2028</u>	Not eligible	<u>2034</u>	4: <u>2023-2025</u> <u>2025-2028</u> <u>2028-2031</u> <u>2031-2034</u>	<u>11 years</u>
<u>2025</u>	<u>2031</u>	Not eligible	<u>2037</u>	4: <u>2025-2028</u> <u>2028-2031</u> <u>2031-2034</u> <u>2034-2037</u>	<u>12 years</u>

1761 * In the case of an Officer election that occurs at a special meeting of the General Synod
1762 not reflected on the Transitional Officer Terms chart, the UCCB will recommend and the
1763 General Synod will determine such an Officer's term and eligibility for reelection at the
1764 time of election, adhering as closely as possible to the Transitional Officer Terms chart.
1765