

***Amendment to the Proposed Changes to the Constitution and Bylaws***  
**Approved June 29, 2009**

38 An Association is that body within a Conference of the United Church of Christ which is composed of all Local Churches in a geographical area, all Ordained Ministers holding standing or ordained ministerial partner standing therein, all Commissioned Ministers and Licensed Ministers in that Association.

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50 When a Conference meets, its voting membership includes lay delegates selected by and representing the Local Churches of that Conference, all Ordained Ministers holding standing or ordained ministerial partner standing in its Associations or in the Conference itself when acting as an Association, all Commissioned Ministers and Licensed Ministers in its Associations.

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

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

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106 The Committee on the Ministry of the Association examines the Member in Discernment with respect to Christian faith, character, ability to do the work expected; preparation to meet the responsibilities of the office; **educational and theological attainments;** knowledge of the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ. If following this examination, the committee is satisfied with the fitness of the Member in Discernment; it makes an affirmative recommendation to the Association. In turn, upon the receipt of this recommendation, the Association may opt for further examination or proceed immediately to authorize the ordination, subject to a call that is recognized by the Association.

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

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