

1 **The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City**
2 **By Laws**
3 **(Draft 12/4/2018)**
4 **PREAMBLE**

5
6 As faithful members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City
7 we know ourselves to be a part of the universal church of Jesus Christ, specifically the
8 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. Our primary
9 source for guidance is the Bible (both Hebrew and Christian Scriptures) and our primary
10 relational guide is the Design of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Our
11 principles for ministry are stated in two documents: Marks of a Faithful Regional Church,
12 and the Theological Foundations, Policy & Criteria for the Ordering of Ministry in the
13 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) rev. 2014.

14
15 We encourage incorporation of the current mission priorities of the Christian Church
16 (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada into our own Regional mission priorities.

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18 To this end, in response to God’s covenant with us, we do hereby commit ourselves to
19 one another in adopting these Bylaws and Rules of Procedure for the Christian Church
20 (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City.

21
22 **ARTICLE I.**
23 **NAME and INCORPORATION**

24
25 **A. NAME**

26
27 The name of this body shall be THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
28 OF GREATER KANSAS CITY, hereinafter referred to as the Greater Kansas City
29 Region, GKC, Regional Church or the Region. The Regional Church is an integral part
30 of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, also
31 known as the General Church.

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33 **B. INCORPORATION**

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35 The Regional Church shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri as a
36 not-for-profit corporation and holds its IRS 501 (C) 3 status through the General
37 Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.
38 The IRS Letter of Determination is on file with and available from the General Minister
39 and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

40
41 **C. PREDECESSOR ORGANIZATIONS**

42
43 The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City became a Region of
44 the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on January 1, 1988, after thirteen (13) years of
45 being known as an “Area” which related to the two Regions known as the Christian

46 Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mid-America and the Christian Church (Disciples of
47 Christ) in Kansas.

48
49 It is the legal successor to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas
50 City (The "Area" Church), the Christian Church Commission of Kansas City, The Joint
51 Boards of the Christian Churches of Kansas City as well as the organizations known as
52 the Christian Conference Foundation, Metropolitan Camp and Conference Committee,
53 District IV Missouri, District I Missouri (that portion in Clay and Platte Counties), District
54 IV CWF in Missouri, and District I in Kansas (primarily Johnson, Wyandotte, Douglas,
55 and Leavenworth Counties).

56
57 Prior to 1968, the region related to the International Convention of the Christian
58 Churches (Disciples of Christ); thereafter, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in
59 the United States and Canada.

60
61 **ARTICLE II. CORPORATION**

62
63 The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City is a non-profit
64 corporation and may exercise any and every power that a non-profit corporation is
65 authorized to exercise according to the laws of the state of Missouri.

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67 **ARTICLE III. PURPOSE**

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69 The primary nature of the Regional Church is drawn from the Acts of the Apostles in
70 Paul's desire to nurture, support, and engage congregations as unique entities related
71 to one another in their mission. Regions embody the character of ministry to which
72 Christ calls His people in their mutual commitment to Him and one another.

73
74 The purpose of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City shall
75 be as follows:

- 76
77 A. To creatively extend the ministry of Christ in mission, teaching, witness, and service
78 among the people and social structures of the Region by calling congregations to an
79 awareness of their opportunities and responsibilities beyond local concerns.
80
81 B. To establish, receive, nurture, and renew congregations in the Region, providing
82 help, counsel, and pastoral care to members, ministers, and congregations in their
83 mutual relationships and in relationship to the total ministry of the whole church.
84
85 C. To offer leadership in matters of mutual concern such as standing, credentialing of
86 ministers, ministerial search and call, ordination, licensing and establishment and
87 dissolution of pastoral relationships, and installations of ministers.

88
89 **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP**

90
91 A. IDENTIFICATION AND QUALIFICATION

92 Members of the region shall include the following categories and qualifications:

93 1. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

94 As a member of the Body of Christ, every member of a recognized congregation
95 may be a member of the Regional Church.

96 2. MINISTERS

97 Ministers recognized by this region and who are in compliance with the
98 provisions of the General Commission on Ministries of the DOC (hereafter known
99 as “with Standing”) who reside within the geographical boundaries of the region.

100 3. MEMBER CONGREGATIONS

101 Member congregations shall be those recognized congregations that are listed in
102 the current Yearbook and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

103 4. VOTING MEMBERS

104 a. Each congregation may designate two (2) lay members and one (1) Minister
105 to be their voting members of the Regional Assembly.

106 b. Ministers with standing who reside within the geographical boundaries of the
107 region.

108
109 B. AFFILIATION OR WITHDRAWAL

110
111 A congregation that desires to affiliate or to withdraw from recognition in the Christian
112 Church (Disciples of Christ) shall follow the established procedures for Year Book and
113 Directory listing, as provided for in the Design for the Christian Church (Disciples of
114 Christ).

115
116 C. GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES

117
118 The Regional Church is composed of those congregations located within the geographic
119 boundaries of Johnson, Wyandotte, and Miami Counties in the State of Kansas
120 (including Second Christian Church in Atchison County); and those congregations
121 residing within the boundaries of Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties and the Cities of
122 Raymore, Pleasant Hill, Cleveland and Belton in Cass County in the State of Missouri.

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124 **ARTICLE V. REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

125
126 A. DESCRIPTION

127
128 The Regional Assembly is a biennial gathering of Members that shall be used for the
129 building up of the Church embodied in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of
130 Greater Kansas City as we gather for the purpose of worship, spiritual enrichment,
131 inspiration, education, to elect officers of the corporation, to elect seven lay members at
132 large to the board, and conduct other business of the Region as directed by the
133 Regional Board.

134
135 B. QUORUM

136
137 A quorum shall be used to determine legitimacy of votes.

- 138 1. A Quorum shall exist when at least one delegate from thirty-three (33) percent of
139 the Region’s congregations are present at the Assembly either in person or in
140 contact through an electronic media authorized by the Regional Board.
141 2. A vote will carry with a simple majority of those present and voting unless
142 otherwise provided for in these Bylaws or the Rules of Procedure.
143

144 **ARTICLE VI. REGIONAL BOARD**

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146 A. PURPOSE

- 147
148 1. The Regional Board is established and authorized to manage the business and
149 affairs of the Region on behalf of the Members of the Region in order to carry out
150 the purposes set forth in these By Laws and to enable the Region to faithfully live
151 out its purpose. The Regional Board shall have all necessary powers to fulfill
152 these responsibilities and the powers as specifically set forth in the Rules of
153 Procedure. Membership of the Regional Board and standing commissions,
154 committees, ministries, and cabinets should, as much as possible, reflect the
155 diversity of the Greater Kansas City metropolitan area in accordance with
156 guidelines offered in the Rules of Procedure.
157 2. The Regional Board shall have the power and authority to establish smaller
158 deliberative bodies responsible to the Regional Board.
159 3. The Regional Board shall designate the officers elected by the Assembly as the
160 Executive Committee as set forth in the Rules of Procedure of the Region.
161 4. The Regional Board shall establish standing committees, commissions,
162 ministries, and cabinets as set forth in the Rules of Procedure of the Region.
163

164 B. COMPOSITION

165
166 The members of the Regional Board shall include:

- 167
168 1. The Officers of the Region as elected by the voting Members of the Region at the
169 Regional Assembly. The elected officers shall include the Moderator, Moderator-
170 Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and include the Immediate Past-Moderator. The
171 Officers shall have the responsibilities as set forth in the Region’s Rules of
172 Procedure.
173 2. The Regional Minister and Associate Regional Ministers are ex-officio members
174 without vote.
175 3. A representative of each standing committee of the Region. These
176 representatives shall be selected by the Committee Members of the Committees
177 they represent.
178 4. A member of the Tall Oaks Board of Directors.
179 5. Representatives of institutions and ministries that are Members of the Region
180 and are invited by the Regional Board to serve as members of the Regional
181 Board including, but not limited to, one each of the following constituency groups
182 organized in the Region.
183 a. Regional LGBTQ+ Alliance

- 184 b. MOKAN Fellowship of the National Convocation
- 185 c. Kansas City Convencion of the Obra Hispana Nacional
- 186 d. National Association of Pacific Asian Disciples (NAPAD)
- 187 e. Regional Youth Cabinet
- 188 f. Disciples Woman's Ministry
- 189 6 . Members at-large as elected by the Members of the Region at the Regional
- 190 Assembly. These representatives shall be nominated as set forth in the Region's
- 191 Rules of Procedure.

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193 **C. MEETINGS and CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**

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- 195 1. A. Meetings of the entire Regional Board shall take place at least four (4) times
- 196 per year. Special meetings of the Regional Board may be called pursuant to the
- 197 Region's Rules of Procedure.
- 198 2. The Executive Committee shall meet at least monthly between the regularly
- 199 scheduled meetings of the Regional Board and shall have the authority as
- 200 granted by the Regional Board to conduct the business of the Region.
- 201

202 **ARTICLE VII. STAFF**

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204 The Board is empowered to employ pastoral and support staff as deemed appropriate.

205 The Regional Minister and President shall be the chief of staff, reporting to the board.

206
207 A. The Regional Minister and President shall:

- 208 1. exercise pastoral care and nurture of the congregations and ministers of the
- 209 Region.
- 210 2. provide administrative direction within the Region as provided in the Rules of
- 211 Procedure.
- 212 3. fulfill responsibilities assigned to that position through the relationships and
- 213 documents enumerated in the Preamble of these Bylaws.
- 214

215 B. Associate Regional Minister(s) shall:

- 216 1. share in the spiritual and administrative care of the Region and may be called as
- 217 needed.
- 218 2. Their qualifications, titles, and duties shall be defined in the Rules of Procedure.
- 219

220 C. Other individuals may be contracted or hired to carry out the work of the Region.

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222 **ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS**

223
224 The By Laws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new By Laws may be adopted

225 by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting Members present at any regular, or any

226 special Regional Assembly, provided that at least thirty-five (35) days written notice is

227 given to the Members of the Region. The notice must include the substance of the

228 intended alteration, amendment or repeal, and/or the terms of the proposed new By

229 Laws. The By Laws will be reviewed every five (5) years.

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ARTICLE IX. EFFECTIVE DATE

These By Laws become effective upon adoption of the Regional Assembly at _____(location) on _____(date).

Signatures and date signed:

_____Moderator

_____Corporate Secretary

_____Regional Minister and President