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

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

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

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

ARTICLE I.
NAME and INCORPORATION

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

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

C. PREDECESSOR ORGANIZATIONS
The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City became a Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on January 1, 1988, after thirteen (13) years of being known as an “Area” which related to the two Regions known as the Christian
Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mid-America and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kansas.

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

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

ARTICLE II. CORPORATION

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

ARTICLE III. PURPOSE

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

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

A. To creatively extend the ministry of Christ in mission, teaching, witness, and service among the people and social structures of the Region by calling congregations to an awareness of their opportunities and responsibilities beyond local concerns.

B. To establish, receive, nurture, and renew congregations in the Region, providing help, counsel, and pastoral care to members, ministers, and congregations in their mutual relationships and in relationship to the total ministry of the whole church.

C. To offer leadership in matters of mutual concern such as standing, credentialing of ministers, ministerial search and call, ordination, licensing and establishment and dissolution of pastoral relationships, and installations of ministers.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

A. IDENTIFICATION AND QUALIFICATION
Members of the region shall include the following categories and qualifications:

1. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS
   As a member of the Body of Christ, every member of a recognized congregation may be a member of the Regional Church.

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

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

4. VOTING MEMBERS
   a. Each congregation may designate two (2) lay members and one (1) Minister to be their voting members of the Regional Assembly.
   b. Ministers with standing who reside within the geographical boundaries of the region.

B. AFFILIATION OR WITHDRAWAL

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

C. GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES

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

ARTICLE V. REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

A. DESCRIPTION

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

B. QUORUM

A quorum shall be used to determine legitimacy of votes.
1. A Quorum shall exist when at least one delegate from thirty-three (33) percent of the Region’s congregations are present at the Assembly either in person or in contact through an electronic media authorized by the Regional Board.

2. A vote will carry with a simple majority of those present and voting unless otherwise provided for in these Bylaws or the Rules of Procedure.

ARTICLE VI. REGIONAL BOARD

A. PURPOSE

1. The Regional Board is established and authorized to manage the business and affairs of the Region on behalf of the Members of the Region in order to carry out the purposes set forth in these By Laws and to enable the Region to faithfully live out its purpose. The Regional Board shall have all necessary powers to fulfill these responsibilities and the powers as specifically set forth in the Rules of Procedure. Membership of the Regional Board and standing commissions, committees, ministries, and cabinets should, as much as possible, reflect the diversity of the Greater Kansas City metropolitan area in accordance with guidelines offered in the Rules of Procedure.

2. The Regional Board shall have the power and authority to establish smaller deliberative bodies responsible to the Regional Board.

3. The Regional Board shall designate the officers elected by the Assembly as the Executive Committee as set forth in the Rules of Procedure of the Region.

4. The Regional Board shall establish standing committees, commissions, ministries, and cabinets as set forth in the Rules of Procedure of the Region.

B. COMPOSITION

The members of the Regional Board shall include:

1. The Officers of the Region as elected by the voting Members of the Region at the Regional Assembly. The elected officers shall include the Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and include the Immediate Past-Moderator. The Officers shall have the responsibilities as set forth in the Region’s Rules of Procedure.

2. The Regional Minister and Associate Regional Ministers are ex-officio members without vote.

3. A representative of each standing committee of the Region. These representatives shall be selected by the Committee Members of the Committees they represent.

4. A member of the Tall Oaks Board of Directors.

5. Representatives of institutions and ministries that are Members of the Region and are invited by the Regional Board to serve as members of the Regional Board including, but not limited to, one each of the following constituency groups organized in the Region.
   a. Regional LGBTQ+ Alliance
6. Members at-large as elected by the Members of the Region at the Regional Assembly. These representatives shall be nominated as set forth in the Region’s Rules of Procedure.

C. MEETINGS and CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

1. A. Meetings of the entire Regional Board shall take place at least four (4) times per year. Special meetings of the Regional Board may be called pursuant to the Region’s Rules of Procedure.

2. The Executive Committee shall meet at least monthly between the regularly scheduled meetings of the Regional Board and shall have the authority as granted by the Regional Board to conduct the business of the Region.

ARTICLE VII. STAFF

The Board is empowered to employ pastoral and support staff as deemed appropriate. The Regional Minister and President shall be the chief of staff, reporting to the board.

A. The Regional Minister and President shall:

1. exercise pastoral care and nurture of the congregations and ministers of the Region.

2. provide administrative direction within the Region as provided in the Rules of Procedure.

3. fulfill responsibilities assigned to that position through the relationships and documents enumerated in the Preamble of these Bylaws.

B. Associate Regional Minister(s) shall:

1. share in the spiritual and administrative care of the Region and may be called as needed.

2. Their qualifications, titles, and duties shall be defined in the Rules of Procedure.

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

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

The By Laws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new By Laws may be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting Members present at any regular, or any special Regional Assembly, provided that at least thirty-five (35) days written notice is given to the Members of the Region. The notice must include the substance of the intended alteration, amendment or repeal, and/or the terms of the proposed new By Laws. The By Laws will be reviewed every five (5) years.
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