CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN NEBRASKA

2026 Regional Assembly — Business Docket

First Christian Church · Hastings, Nebraska · October 9–10, 2026

This Docket constitutes the notice of proposed Bylaw amendments required under Article X of the CCN Bylaws, distributed to delegates and clergy in good standing at least 30 days prior to the Regional Assembly.

I. Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Fifteen amendments are before the Assembly this year. Eleven items make up the Consent Agenda and are voted together in a single motion. Four items — Article V, Article IX, Article X, and Article XI — are considered and voted on individually. Any delegate may request that an item be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate discussion before the vote is called.

A. Consent Agenda — Eleven Items, One Motion

Motion: "To approve the Consent Agenda as presented."

1. Article IV — Naming Convention

Current: Article IV heading is "Regional Church Board of Directors." Used interchangeably with "Regional Church Board" throughout.

Proposed: Add at the opening of Article IV: "The governing board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska is the Regional Church Board of Directors, referred to throughout these Bylaws as the 'Regional Church Board.'" "Regional Church Board" is used consistently throughout; no shorthand.

2. Article IV.B.2 — Delete General Board Seat; Renumber B.3–5

Current: B.2: Regional Church Representative to the General Church Board. B.3: Chairs of the 4 Centers. B.4: 2 At-Large Board Members. B.5: Chair of Each Fellowship Group.

Proposed: B.2 (Regional Church Representative to the General Church Board) is deleted. Remaining seats renumber: B.2 becomes Chairs of the 4 Centers; B.3 becomes At-Large Board Members and Regional Delegate (revised, see Item 3); B.4 becomes Fellowship Group Representatives (revised, see Item 4).

3. Article IV.B.3 (renumbered) — At-Large Members and Regional Delegate

Current: 4. Two At-Large Board Members.

Proposed: 3. Two At-Large Board Members. The Regional Church Board shall designate one of the two At-Large Board Members to also serve as CCN's Regional Delegate to the General Assembly, consistent with the provisions of The Design. This person shall represent CCN at the General Assembly and shall report to the Regional Church Board on General Assembly matters.

4. Article IV.B.4 (renumbered) — Fellowship Group Representatives

Current: 5. Chair of Each Fellowship Group: a. Disciples Women's Ministry b. Disciples Men's Ministry c. Youth and Outdoor Ministry.

Proposed: 4. Fellowship Group Representatives. Each recognized regional fellowship group — currently Disciples Women's Ministry, Disciples Men's Fellowship, and Youth and Outdoor

Ministry — may designate a representative to serve on the Regional Church Board, to be confirmed by the Board. In the absence of an active fellowship group or designated representative, the seat may be left vacant or filled by Board action.

5. Article IV.C.5 (new) — Board Member Leave of Absence
Current: No provision exists.

Proposed: Added after IV.C.4 (Unexpired Terms): A Regional Church Board member who needs to temporarily step back from Board service may request a Leave of Absence, to be approved by the Regional Church Board. During an approved Leave of Absence, the seat is not considered vacant. The Regional Church Board may designate an interim representative from the relevant constituency if needed for quorum or continuity. A Leave of Absence shall not exceed two consecutive years without approval by the Regional Church Board.

6. Article IV.F.4 (new) — Executive Committee as Personnel Committee
Current: F. Executive Committee: 1. Decisions between meetings. 2. Report to Board. 3. Advice and counsel to RM and Board.

Proposed: Added after existing item 3: The Executive Committee shall serve as the Personnel Committee of the Region, with responsibility for personnel policy oversight, compensation review, and employment-related matters as described in the adopted Personnel Policies.

7. Article IV.G (new) — Conflict of Interest
Current: No provision exists.

Proposed: Regional Church Board members and staff shall disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest in any matter before the Regional Church Board. A person with a conflict of interest shall recuse themselves from discussion and voting on that matter. The Secretary shall record all disclosures and recusals in the minutes. The Regional Church Board shall adopt and maintain a Conflict of Interest Policy consistent with nonprofit best practices and applicable law.

8. Article IV.H (new) — Board Member Removal
Current: No provision exists.

Proposed: A Regional Church Board member may be removed for cause by a two-thirds vote of the Regional Church Board after notice and an opportunity to respond. Removal shall be reported to the Regional Assembly at its next gathering.

9. Article VII.A.1 — Personnel Policy Authority
Current: The Regional Church Board, through its Center on the Regional Church, shall maintain clear, concise, and up-to-date Personnel Policies.

Proposed: The Regional Church Board, through its Executive Committee, shall maintain clear, concise, and up-to-date Personnel Policies.

10. Article VII.A.3 — Controlling Document Language
Current: The Personnel Policies will be the primary document for employment, work environment, compensation, all types of leave, and employee concerns and shall be the basis of any discrepancies between the Personnel Policies and one or more of the terms of the Letter of Call/Employment.

Proposed: The Personnel Policies will be the controlling document for employment, work environment, compensation, all types of leave, employee concerns, and shall be the controlling document relative to any discrepancies between the Personnel Policies and one or more of the terms of the Letter of Employment.

11. Article VII.C.1 — "Hire"
Current: The Regional Minister shall employ, supervise, evaluate, and terminate all other staff personnel.

Proposed: The Regional Minister shall hire, supervise, evaluate, and terminate all other staff personnel.

B. Separate Votes

The following four items are considered and voted on individually, in the order presented below.

Article V — Regional Church Structure: Centers

Separate Vote

Current
The 2022 charter language, including a prior mission statement, Design paraphrase, and detailed task lists and Chair job descriptions for each of the four Centers.

Proposed
Replaces the current mission statement with the mission the Regional Church Board adopted in January 2025 — "to Build Community, Celebrate Diversity, Foster Collaboration, Inspire Creativity, and Worship Joyfully as Nebraska Disciples" — updates Design alignment language, and rewrites all four Center descriptions with a Purpose statement and named Areas of Ministry.

The Center on Church Leadership is renamed the Center on Clergy. Center membership is reduced from five–seven to three–five members. Operational detail moves into a Board-reviewed Center Charter document, to be reviewed at the first Board meeting of each biennium.

Center on Church Development — Purpose: To equip local churches as vital congregations, to support congregational leadership and ministry, and to identify and nurture emerging churches in Nebraska. Areas of Ministry: Congregational Vitality and Support; Worship and Ministry Resourcing; Congregational Leadership Development; New Church Ministry; Congregational Future Planning.

Center on Clergy (proposed rename of Center on Church Leadership, pending this vote) — Purpose: To fulfill the Region's responsibilities for the Order of Ministry by nurturing, credentialing, and supporting clergy serving in or discerning a call to ministry in Nebraska. Areas of Ministry: Ministerial Standing and Credentialing; Commissioning and Ordination; Persons Under Care; Continuing Education and Clergy Development.

Center on Church in Mission — Purpose: To connect the people of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska to Christ's call to serve the world — in our communities, across the nation, and around the globe. Areas of Ministry: Community Service and Disaster Response; Refugee Resettlement; Reconciliation and Anti-Racism; General Church and Global Partnerships; Mission Learning and Formation.

Center on the Regional Church — Purpose: To create and support the administrative and governance framework that enables the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska and its Centers to fulfill their shared mission. Areas of Ministry: Budget Development and Financial Oversight; Regional Stewardship; Leadership Nomination and Development; Assembly Planning; Bylaws and Governance Review; Regional Fellowship Ministries.

Why
This is the most substantial amendment in the package by volume, though much of the change is moving operational detail out of the bylaws and into a Board-reviewed Charter.

Article IX — Rules of Order: Consensus Impasse Resolution

Separate Vote

Current
If the Moderator determines there is no consensus on a motion, the Moderator reopens conversation to explore alternative approaches. No further mechanism is provided.

Proposed
Retains all current consensus language and adds: If the Moderator determines that consensus cannot be reached after discussion, the Moderator may call for a formal vote. A motion shall pass upon approval by two-thirds of delegates present and voting. The Moderator retains discretion to table a motion for further discernment between sessions.

Why
This does not replace or diminish CCN's consensus model — it gives an option for the rare occasion when consensus genuinely cannot be reached.

Article X — Amendment of Bylaws: Technical vs. Substantive Distinction

Separate Vote

Current
Amendments to the Bylaws approved by the Regional Church Board between Regional Assemblies immediately take effect. At its next Regional Assembly, these amendments are reviewed and either approved by two-thirds majority or rejected.

Proposed
Amendments of a technical or housekeeping nature — including corrections of typographical errors, updating of references, and conforming changes required by denominational action — may be approved by the Regional Church Board between Regional Assemblies and shall take immediate effect, subject to ratification at the next Regional Assembly. Substantive amendments to the Bylaws shall be brought to the Regional Assembly with at least 30 days' notice and shall require approval by a two-thirds majority of delegates present and voting. The existing final sentence is retained: "Notice of Bylaw amendments shall be distributed to the delegates at least 30 days prior to the Regional Assembly."

Why
This protects the Assembly's authority over significant governance decisions, now that the structure has matured, while still letting the Board handle routine cleanup between Assemblies.

Article XI (New) — Merger or Consolidation

Separate Vote

Current
No provision exists. The Articles of Incorporation address what happens to CCN's assets if the Region dissolves, but nothing addresses merger or consolidation with another regional church.

Proposed

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska may merge or consolidate with one or more regional churches only through the following process: (1) Authorization to Explore — the Regional Church Board may enter into formal merger or consolidation discussions only upon prior authorization by a two-thirds vote of the Regional Assembly, which shall be informed of the nature and purpose of the proposed discussions before voting. (2) Approval of Agreement — any proposed merger or consolidation agreement, once negotiated, shall be presented in full to the Regional Assembly with advance notice and shall require approval by a two-thirds majority of delegates present and voting. This process shall be consistent with the provisions of The Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and applicable Nebraska law.

Why
This is not a response to any current or anticipated merger discussion — it closes a governance gap and keeps the Assembly in authority at both stages.

II. Nominations — 2027–2028 Term

The following slate is presented for election:

Moderator Darin Corder
Vice Moderator D'Arcy Blosser
Secretary Gayle Gengenbach
Treasurer Gary Thompson
Center on Church Leadership (Clergy) Tim Adams
Center on Regional Church Shelby Moock
Center on Church Development Abby Conley
Center on Church in Mission Tom Mason
Member at Large Kara Hillhouse
Member at Large Daniel Zapata

III. Resolution on Time and Place

Bennet Community Church, Bennet, Nebraska — October 2028.

IV. Settled Regional Minister

The Regional Church Board recommends that the Regional Assembly call the Rev. Robin Blakemore as Regional Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska.