

1 **The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City**
2 **By Laws**

3
4 **Adopted February 25, 2019**

5
6 **PREAMBLE**

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

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

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

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24 **ARTICLE I.**
25 **NAME and INCORPORATION**

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27 **A. NAME**

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

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35 **B. INCORPORATION**

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

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43 **C. PREDECESSOR ORGANIZATIONS**

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45 The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City became a Region of
46 the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on January 1, 1988, after thirteen (13) years of

47 being known as an "Area" which related to the two Regions known as the Christian
48 Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mid-America and the Christian Church (Disciples of
49 Christ) in Kansas.

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

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

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63 **ARTICLE II. CORPORATION**

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

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69 **ARTICLE III. PURPOSE**

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

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

78
79 A. To creatively extend the ministry of Christ in mission, teaching, witness, and service
80 among the people and social structures of the Region by calling congregations to an
81 awareness of their opportunities and responsibilities beyond local concerns.

82
83 B. To establish, receive, nurture, and renew congregations in the Region, providing
84 help, counsel, and pastoral care to members, ministers, and congregations in their
85 mutual relationships and in relationship to the total ministry of the whole church.

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

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91 **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP**

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93 **A. IDENTIFICATION AND QUALIFICATION**

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

96 1. **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

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

99 2. **MINISTERS**

100 Ministers recognized by this region and who are in compliance with the
101 provisions of the General Commission on Ministries of the DOC (hereafter known
102 as "with Standing") who reside within the geographical boundaries of the region.

103 3. **MEMBER CONGREGATIONS**

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

106 4. **VOTING MEMBERS**

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

109 b. Ministers with standing who reside within the geographical boundaries of the
110 region.

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112 **B. AFFILIATION OR WITHDRAWAL**

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

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119 **C. GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES**

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

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127 **ARTICLE V. REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

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129 **A. DESCRIPTION**

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

137 B. QUORUM

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139 A quorum shall be used to determine legitimacy of votes.

- 140 1. A Quorum shall exist when at least one delegate from twenty five (25) percent of
141 the Region's congregations are present at the Assembly either in person or in
142 contact through an electronic media authorized by the Regional Board.
143 2. A vote will carry with a simple majority of those present and voting unless
144 otherwise provided for in these Bylaws or the Rules of Procedure.

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ARTICLE VI. REGIONAL BOARD

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148 A. PURPOSE

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

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167 B. COMPOSITION

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169 The members of the Regional Board shall include:

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- 171 1. The Officers of the Region as elected by the voting Members of the Region at the
172 Regional Assembly. The elected officers shall include the Moderator, Moderator-
173 Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and include the Immediate Past-Moderator. The
174 Officers shall have the responsibilities as set forth in the Region's Rules of
175 Procedure.
176 2. The Regional Minister and Associate Regional Ministers are ex-officio members
177 without vote.
178 3. A representative of each standing committee of the Region. These
179 representatives shall be selected by the Committee Members of the Committees
180 they represent.
181 4. A member of the Tall Oaks Board of Directors.

- 182 5. Representatives of institutions and ministries that are Members of the Region
183 and are invited by the Regional Board to serve as members of the Regional
184 Board including, but not limited to, one each of the following constituency groups
185 organized in the Region.
186 a. Regional LBGTQ+ Alliance
187 b. MOKAN Fellowship of the National Convocation
188 c. Kansas City Convencion of the Obra Hispana Nacional
189 d. National Association of Pacific Asian Disciples (NAPAD)
190 e. Regional Youth Cabinet
191 f. Disciples Woman's Ministry
192 6. The Regional representative to the General Board.
193 7. Members at-large as elected by the Members of the Region at the Regional
194 Assembly. These representatives shall be nominated as set forth in the Region's
195 Rules of Procedure.

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

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

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206 **ARTICLE VII. STAFF**

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

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211 **A. The Regional Minister and President shall:**

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

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219 **B. Associate Regional Minister(s) shall:**

- 220 1. share in the spiritual and administrative care of the Region and may be called as
221 needed.
222 2. Their qualifications, titles, and duties shall be defined in the Rules of Procedure.

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

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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 became effective upon adoption by unanimous vote of the Regional Board at Merriam, Kansas on February 25, 2019 in accordance with the By Laws Revised on April 28, 2017.

Signatures and date signed:

Sharon Lou Parker Moderator Date 2/27/19
Mark Willis Board Secretary Date 2-27-19
William B. Rose-Ham Regional Minister and President - Date 2/27/19

Approved Document includes line numbers 1-249, referred to as B:1-249