

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

**Adopted February 25, 2019**

**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

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.

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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).

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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.

## 62 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.

## 68 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.

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

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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.

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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.

## 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.

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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146 **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 LGBTQ+ 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:

_____	Moderator	Date _____
_____	Board Secretary	Date _____
_____	Regional Minister and President	- Date _____

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