BYLAWS

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
IN THE NORTHERN LIGHTS REGION

ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Northern Lights Region (the Region) is the regional expression of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada (the General Church) made up of congregations engaged in ministry together in Alaska, Montana, North Idaho and Washington. The Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) delineates the relationship between congregations, the Region and the General Church.

Members of congregations recognized in the annual Yearbook of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are also members of the Region.

ARTICLE II – VALUES AND MISSION

We Value…

- Our identity as Disciples of Christ, including our shared history and traditions.
- A spiritual life that is God-centered, Jesus-led, and Spirit-filled.
- Enthusiasm and commitment to the new thing God is calling us to do and be.
- Diversity and inclusion in recognition of God’s love for and welcome of all people.
- Ministries of justice and compassion, both locally and globally.
- The practice of responsible stewardship of time, talent and treasure.
- The development of strong relationships and connections among individual believers, congregations, denominations and faith communities.
- Sustainability and excellence in our structures and practices.

The Two-fold Regional Church Mission:

1. To gather as a community of communities for the purpose of:
   - Creating relationships and sharing gifts between congregations and leaders;
   - Worshipping, praying together, and welcoming each other to the Table as Christ has welcomed us;
   - Becoming an anti-racist, pro-reconciling church;
   - Equipping, shaping, and sending leaders, both lay and ordained;
   - Creating learning communities where we grow in faith and discipleship, including camps, conferences, retreats;
   - And making real God’s beloved community through education, witness, stewardship, advocacy, and action.

2. To undergird congregational life within a certain geography by
   - Nurturing, credentialing, ordaining, commissioning, and supporting ministers;
• Assisting in Search and Call;

• Providing Healthy Boundary and Anti-Racism Training for Clergy

• Nurturing and Receiving New Churches

• Accompanying stable and declining congregations and aiding those that decide to close

• Resourcing and supporting vital and transforming congregations seeking to share God’s good news with a fresh voice and a new song

• Providing guidance to congregations and pastors in times of transition and trouble

• Celebrating congregational milestones and life.

ARTICLE III – REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Region shall gather in assembly at least once each biennium, normally in even numbered years, at a time and place determined by the Board of Directors. The members of the Region shall receive at least thirty (30) days' notice of the time and place. This gathering will be for the purpose of worship, fellowship, discussion, resource sharing, and the discernment of the ministry of the Region.

The assembly shall also conduct necessary administrative tasks as stated in these bylaws. All members of the Region present at the Assembly may address any issues placed before the Assembly.

Each member congregation shall be entitled to two (2) voting representatives. Each congregation will provide the names of its voting representatives and alternates, if any, certified by the congregation's Moderator or pastor to the Secretary of the Regional Board prior to the beginning of the first business session of the Assembly.

 Ministers with standing in the Region who are listed in the Yearbook of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), or who are eligible for such listing shall be voting representatives.

Members of the Regional Board not otherwise qualified shall be voting representatives.

 Efforts will be made to provide meeting access, including the ability to hear each other and to vote, to those who cannot be physically present at the Assembly.

Administrative sessions of the Assembly shall be conducted under rules and procedures adopted by the Board of Directors. A quorum of the Assembly shall be those present and voting.

ARTICLE IV – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors will conduct the regular, on-going business of the Region. It is the responsibility of the Board to maintain fiscal oversight of the Region and its various ministries. It shall receive reports from the regional staff, committees, commissions and those engaged in regional ministry projects.
An important responsibility of the Board is to encourage and evaluate proposals for regional ministry which arise from the various Areas, clusters and congregational ventures around the Region. The Board, while exercising its fiduciary responsibility, will evaluate funding requests for any such new ministries. The Board may establish committees and task forces as necessary to evaluate and provide oversight to the Region’s varied ministries. The chairs of such committees and task forces shall be ex officio members, without vote of the Board.

The Board shall consist of at least 19 members including the officers of the Region, two (2) members from each area, two (2) youth/young adult members and the chairpersons of the standing Commissions and Committees listed Article VII. At least ten (10) members of the Board will be laypersons. The Regional Minister shall be an ex officio member of the Board with voice and vote. Members shall be elected by the Assembly for a two-year term upon nomination by the Nominating Committee. Members may be re-elected for an additional two-year term. Nominations shall reflect our value of diversity within the Region’s membership. Between Assembly meetings, a Board member can be removed from the Board upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the remaining Board members.

The Board shall meet at least four (4) times a year. Meetings shall be held at a time and place determined by the Moderator and Board members shall receive at least fifteen (15) days’ notice of the meetings. Except for the first meeting following election at an Assembly, the meetings may be conducted by conference call or video conference. When necessary, the Region will assist members in attaining the necessary technology to be full participants in meetings. A quorum shall be a simple majority of the membership of the Board.

Any action which could be taken at a meeting of the Board may be taken without a meeting if a written consent setting forth the action taken is signed by all Board members entitled to vote. The written consent may be signed in two or more counterparts, each shall be deemed an original and all of which, when taken together, shall constitute the same document, and shall be treated as minutes of a meeting.

The first meeting of the Board following its election by the Assembly shall be an in-person gathering at a time and place determined by the Moderator, and Board members shall receive at least fifteen (15) days’ notice of the meetings. This meeting shall provide for the organization of the Board, the setting of biennial priorities as reflected by the Assembly, and team building for the Board’s membership. The Region shall provide for the expenses of members to attend the first meeting of the Board.

ARTICLE V – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
The Executive Committee shall be made up of the officers of the Region, two (2) members selected from the membership of the Board, and the Regional Minister.

Between meetings of the Board, the Executive Committee shall have the authority to act within policies established by the Board to take interim actions on behalf of the Board. All actions taken by the Executive Committee shall be affirmed by the Board at its next meeting following the action. Any vacancies occurring among the officers or members of the Board shall be filled by the Executive Committee with confirmation of the Board. Any officer can be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board. A quorum of the Executive committee shall be a simple majority of the members.

The Executive Committee shall perform an annual review of the Regional Minister. The results of the review will be reported to the Board.

The Region’s representatives to the General Board and to the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) shall be elected by the Executive Committee and affirmed by the Board.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

In addition to the Regional Minister-President (See Article IX), the Region shall have four (4) executive officers to be elected by the Assembly in even numbered years for two (2) year terms: Moderator; Moderator-elect; Secretary; and Treasurer.

The Secretary and Treasurer can be re-elected for a second two (2) year term.

The Moderator shall chair meetings of the Board of Directors and the Assembly.

The Moderator-elect shall perform the functions of the Moderator in the Moderator’s absence and will be expected to become the Moderator for the following biennium, following an affirmative election by the Assembly.

The Secretary shall maintain a record of the meetings of the Board of Directors and Assembly and perform any other tasks which may be required by law. The Secretary shall also serve as the Secretary of the Corporation.

The Treasurer shall chair the Finance Committee and maintain oversight of the Region’s financial affairs.

ARTICLE VII – STANDING COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS
Standing Committee and Commission chairs will be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Assembly. The chairs of committees and commissions are members, with vote, of the Board of Directors and shall make regular reports to the Board. Between Assemblies, vacancies of the chairs of committees and commissions will be filled upon nomination by the Moderator and affirmation by a simple majority of the Executive Committee. Any chair of a committee or commission can be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors.

A. Finance Committee
The Finance Committee shall regularly review financial reports provided by Treasury Services; guide the Board of Directors in maintaining financial stability and transparency. The Finance Committee shall be chaired by the Treasurer.

B. Personnel Committee
The Personnel Committee shall advise the Regional Minister in the hiring of staff for the Region. The Committee shall assist the Regional Minister in the regular review of the performance of all Regional employees except the Regional Minister.

C. Nominating Committee
The Nominating Committee shall present to the Assembly a list with at least one nominee for each elected office. The committee members will include, the committee chairperson (elected by Regional Assembly), the Regional Minister ex-officio with voice and vote. Additional members shall be comprised of one person from each area, appointed by the moderator, confirmed by the Executive Committee, and affirmed by Regional Board. The committee shall be appointed at least six (6) months prior to the Assembly.

D. Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Committee
As part of our commitment to becoming a pro-reconciling/anti-racist church, the PRAR Committee shall be a standing committee of the region. Its focus will be to lift up the values of diversity, inclusion, and anti-racism including organizing and/or providing education and training for laity and clergy, overseeing the application process for Reconciliation Grants, and promoting the work of Reconciliation Ministries through the Reconciliation Offering and other avenues.

E. Commission on Ministry
The Commission on Ministry creates and maintains the processes for the ordination, commissioning and standing of clergy in the Region. The
commission works within the Policies of the Order of Ministry of the Northern Lights Region and the Policies of the Order of Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

The commission shall be responsible for the care of candidates preparing for ministry, the examination and approval of candidates prior to ordination or commissioning, shall establish requirements for ministerial standing, and maintain the list of clergy with standing in the Region.

The commission shall consist of ten (10) members: two members, one clergy and one lay, from each Area plus two members, one clergy and one lay, at large. The members will be named by the Nominating Committee and confirmed by the Regional Assembly. Membership shall strive to include equal numbers of women and men and reflect our value of diversity within the Region’s membership. The chairperson will be one identified from within the commission membership by the Nominating Committee and confirmed by the Regional Assembly. The members shall serve a term of six (6) years. The initial terms shall be staggered to assure no more than three (3) terms expire at each Assembly.

ARTICLE VIII – AREAS

For the purpose of geographic representation, fellowship and mission the Region is divided into four (4) geographic areas. Congregations and pastors are encouraged to find ways in which to support and encourage one another in each area, as well as come together for ministry appropriate to their area.

Salish Sea – congregations in Alaska, Island, King (except Kent), San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom counties in Washington.

Tahoma – congregations in Kent; and in Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Klickitat, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston and Wahkiakum counties in Washington.


Big Sky – congregations in Montana

ARTICLE IX – REGIONAL MINISTER—PRESIDENT
The Region shall call a Regional Minister—President to serve as a spiritual leader-theologian and the chief executive officer of the Region. The personal qualifications and responsibilities of the Regional Minister-President shall be developed by the Board of Directors and outlined in a job description approved by the Board of Directors. The Regional Minister-President shall serve a term of six (6) years which may be renewed after review and discernment by the Regional Minister and Regional Board. Additional terms would require re-affirmation by the Regional Assembly.

Upon a vacancy in the office of Regional Minister-President, the Board of Directors will develop a process for the search and call of a new person to fill the position. The process will follow the Executive Search Model recommended by the General Church. A Search Committee will be appointed by the Board of Directors to conduct the search and to recommend a candidate to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall recommend the candidate to the Assembly for its affirmation. Affirmation by the Assembly shall be by at least a 2/3 majority vote.

ARTICLE X – ASSETS

No part of the assets of the Northern Lights Region shall inure to the benefit of any director, officer, employee of the Region or any private individual, except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the Region. No director, officer or private individual or for-profit organization shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets on dissolution of the Region.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws, no director, officer, employee, or representative of this Corporation shall take any action or carry on any activity, by or on behalf of the Corporation, not permitted to be taken or carried on without penalty, by an organization exempt from taxation, or by an organization whose contributions are deductible under federal income tax laws as they now exist, or as they should hereafter be amended.

Dissolution of the Northern Lights Region shall require a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors and shall be affirmed by a two-thirds vote of the Regional Assembly.

The authority for the purchase or sale of real property shall be vested in the Board of Directors.

In the event of dissolution of the Region, its assets shall be applied and distributed as follows:

A. All liabilities and obligations of the Region shall be paid, satisfied and discharged.

B. Any assets held by the Region, upon condition requiring their return, transfer or conveyance which condition occurs by reason of dissolution or liquidation,
shall be returned, transferred or conveyed in accordance with such requirements.

C. Any assets remaining shall be transferred or conveyed to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana, or its successor(s) or successor addresses.

D. Should the above-named denominational body be dissolved, any assets remaining shall be transferred or conveyed to one or more domestic or foreign churches, societies or organizations engaged in activities substantially similar to those of the Northern Lights Region, pursuant to such plan as may be adopted by the Board of Directors.

All assets must be allocated exclusively to charitable, scientific or educational organizations then exempt from tax under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) or any successor section thereto.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by the Board of Directors at any regularly called meeting of the Board. Proposed amendments must be provided to the members of the Board at least thirty (30) days prior to any action upon them being taken. The Moderator shall appoint a Bylaws Review Committee every two (2) years. The current Bylaws shall be provided in the materials available to participants in the Assembly along with an explanation of any changes made since the last Assembly.

The foregoing Bylaws were adopted by the Board of Directors on February 9, 2020

Jennifer Prekeges, Secretary