

1 BYLAWS

2 CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
3 IN THE NORTHERN LIGHTS REGION
4
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6 ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP
7

8 The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Northern Lights Region (the
9 Region) is the regional expression of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the
10 United States and Canada (the General Church) made up of congregations engaged in
11 ministry together in Alaska, Montana, North Idaho and Washington. The Design of the
12 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) delineates the relationship between
13 congregations, the Region and the General Church.
14

15 Members of congregations recognized in the annual Yearbook of the Christian
16 Church (Disciples of Christ) are also members of the Region.
17

18 ARTICLE II – VALUES AND MISSION
19

We Value...

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

30 **The Two-fold Regional Church Mission:**

31 **1. To gather as a community of communities for the purpose of:**

- 32 • *Creating relationships and sharing gifts between congregations and leaders;*
- 33 • *Worshipping, praying together, and welcoming each other to the Table as Christ*
34 *has welcomed us;*
- 35 • *Becoming an anti-racist, pro-reconciling church;*
- 36 • *Equipping, shaping, and sending leaders, both lay and ordained;*
- 37 • *Creating learning communities where we grow in faith and discipleship, including*
38 *camps, conferences, retreats;*
- 39 • *And making real God’s beloved community through education, witness,*
40 *stewardship, advocacy, and action.*

41 **2. To undergird congregational life within a certain geography by**

- 42 • *Nurturing, credentialing, ordaining, commissioning, and supporting ministers;*

- 43 • *Assisting in Search and Call;*
- 44 • *Providing Healthy Boundary and Anti-Racism Training for Clergy*
- 45 • *Nurturing and Receiving New Churches*
- 46 • *Accompanying stable and declining congregations and aiding those that decide*
- 47 *to close*
- 48 • *Resourcing and supporting vital and transforming congregations seeking to share*
- 49 *God's good news with a fresh voice and a new song*
- 50 • *Providing guidance to congregations and pastors in times of transition and*
- 51 *trouble*
- 52 • *Celebrating congregational milestones and life.*

53

54 ARTICLE III – REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

55

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

61

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

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

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

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

73 Efforts will be made to provide meeting access, including the ability to hear each
74 other and to vote, to those who cannot be physically present at the Assembly.
75 Administrative sessions of the Assembly shall be conducted under rules and procedures
76 adopted by the Board of Directors. A quorum of the Assembly shall be those present
77 and voting.

78

79

80 ARTICLE IV – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

81

82 The Board of Directors will conduct the regular, on-going business of the Region.
83 It is the responsibility of the Board to maintain fiscal oversight of the Region and its
84 various ministries. It shall receive reports from the regional staff, committees,
85 commissions and those engaged in regional ministry projects.

86
87 An important responsibility of the Board is to encourage and evaluate proposals
88 for regional ministry which arise from the various Areas, clusters and congregational
89 ventures around the Region. The Board, while exercising its fiduciary responsibility, will
90 evaluate funding requests for any such new ministries. The Board may establish
91 committees and task forces as necessary to evaluate and provide oversight to the
92 Region's varied ministries. The chairs of such committees and task forces shall be ex
93 officio members, without vote of the Board.

94
95 The Board shall consist of at least 19 members including the officers of the
96 Region, two (2) members from each area, two (2) youth/young adult members and the
97 chairpersons of the standing Commissions and Committees listed Article VII. At least
98 ten (10) members of the Board will be laypersons. The Regional Minister shall be an ex
99 officio member of the Board with voice and vote. Members shall be elected by the
100 Assembly for a two-year term upon nomination by the Nominating Committee.
101 Members may be re-elected for an additional two-year term. Nominations shall reflect
102 our value of diversity within the Region's membership. Between Assembly meetings, a
103 Board member can be removed from the Board upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of
104 the remaining Board members.

105
106 The Board shall meet at least four (4) times a year. Meetings shall be held at a
107 time and place determined by the Moderator and Board members shall receive at least
108 fifteen (15) days' notice of the meetings. Except for the first meeting following election
109 at an Assembly, the meetings may be conducted by conference call or video
110 conference. When necessary, the Region will assist members in attaining the necessary
111 technology to be full participants in meetings. A quorum shall be a simple majority of the
112 membership of the Board.

113
114 Any action which could be taken at a meeting of the Board may be taken without
115 a meeting if a written consent setting forth the action taken is signed by all Board
116 members entitled to vote. The written consent may be signed in two or more
117 counterparts, each which shall be deemed an original and all of which, when taken
118 together, shall constitute the same document, and shall be treated as minutes of a
119 meeting.

120
121 The first meeting of the Board following its election by the Assembly shall be an
122 in-person gathering at a time and place determined by the Moderator, and Board
123 members shall receive at least fifteen (15) days' notice of the meetings. This meeting
124 shall provide for the organization of the Board, the setting of biennial priorities as
125 reflected by the Assembly, and team building for the Board's membership. The Region
126 shall provide for the expenses of members to attend the first meeting of the Board.

127
128 ARTICLE V – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

129

130 The Executive Committee shall be made up of the officers of the Region, two (2)
131 members selected from the membership of the Board, and the Regional Minister.

132

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

141

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

144

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

148

149 ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

150

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

154

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

156

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

158

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

162

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

166

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

169

170

171 ARTICLE VII – STANDING COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

172

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

180 A. Finance Committee

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

185

186 B. Personnel Committee

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

191

192 C. Nominating Committee

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

201

202 D. Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Committee

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

210

211 E. Commission on Ministry

212 The Commission on Ministry creates and maintains the processes for the
213 ordination, commissioning and standing of clergy in the Region. The

214 commission works within the Policies of the Order of Ministry of the
215 Northern Lights Region and the Policies of the Order of Ministry of the
216 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

217
218 The commission shall be responsible for the care of candidates preparing
219 for ministry, the examination and approval of candidates prior to ordination
220 or commissioning, shall establish requirements for ministerial standing,
221 and maintain the list of clergy with standing in the Region.

222
223 The commission shall consist of ten (10) members: two members, one
224 clergy and one lay, from each Area plus two members, one clergy and one
225 lay, at large. The members will be named by the Nominating Committee
226 and confirmed by the Regional Assembly. Membership shall strive to
227 include equal numbers of women and men and reflect our value of
228 diversity within the Region's membership. The chairperson will be one
229 identified from within the commission membership by the Nominating
230 Committee and confirmed by the Regional Assembly. The members shall
231 serve a term of six (6) years. The initial terms shall be staggered to
232 assure no more than three (3) terms expire at each Assembly.

233

234 ARTICLE VIII – AREAS

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

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

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

244 Columbia – congregations in Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia,
245 Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Lincoln, Okanagan, Pend Oreille,
246 Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman and Yakima counties in Washington, and
247 Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Clearwater, Kootenai, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce and
248 Shoshone counties in Idaho

249 Big Sky – congregations in Montana

250

251 ARTICLE IX – REGIONAL MINISTER—PRESIDENT

252

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

260

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

268

269 ARTICLE X – ASSETS

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

276

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

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

285

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

288

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

- 291 A. All liabilities and obligations of the Region shall be paid, satisfied and
292 discharged.
- 293 B. Any assets held by the Region, upon condition requiring their return, transfer
294 or conveyance which condition occurs by reason of dissolution or liquidation,

- 295 shall be returned, transferred or conveyed in accordance with such
296 requirements.
- 297 C. Any assets remaining shall be transferred or conveyed to the Christian
298 Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada headquartered
299 in Indianapolis, Indiana, or its successor(s) or successor addresses.
- 300 D. Should the above-named denominational body be dissolved, any assets
301 remaining shall be transferred or conveyed to one or more domestic or
302 foreign churches, societies or organizations engaged in activities substantially
303 similar to those of the Northern Lights Region, pursuant to such plan as may
304 be adopted by the Board of Directors.
305

306 All assets must be allocated exclusively to charitable, scientific or educational
307 organizations then exempt from tax under Internal Revenue Code Section
308 501(c)(3) or any successor section thereto.

309

310 ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

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

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318 The foregoing Bylaws were adopted by the Board of Directors on February 9,
319 2020

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Jennifer Prekeges, Secretary

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