

1 BYLAWS

2
3 CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
4 IN THE NORTHERN LIGHTS REGION
5

6 ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP
7

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

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

17 ARTICLE II – VALUES AND MISSION

18 ***We Value...***

- 19
- 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 people.
 - 24 • *Ministries of justice and compassion*, both locally and globally.
 - 25 • *The practice of responsible stewardship* of time, talent, and treasure.
 - 26 • *The development of strong relationships and connections* among individual believers,
27 congregations, denominations, and faith communities.
 - 28 • *Sustainability and excellence* in our structures and practices.

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

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

- 31
- 32 • *Creating relationships and sharing gifts between congregations and leaders;*
 - 33 • *Worshipping, praying together, and welcoming each other to the Table as Christ has welcomed us;*
 - 34 • *Becoming an anti-racist, pro-reconciling church;*
 - 35 • *Equipping, shaping, and sending leaders, both lay and ordained;*
 - 36 • *Creating learning communities where we grow in faith and discipleship, including camps,*
37 *conferences, retreats;*
 - 38 • *And making real God’s beloved community through education, witness, stewardship, advocacy,*
39 *and action.*

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

- 41 • *Nurturing, credentialing, ordaining, commissioning, and supporting ministers;*
- 42 • *Assisting in Search and Call;*
- 43 • *Providing Healthy Boundary and Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Training for Clergy;*
- 44 • *Nurturing and receiving new churches;*
- 45 • *Accompanying stable and declining congregations and aiding those that decide to close;*
- 46 • *Resourcing and supporting vital and transforming congregations seeking to share God’s good*
- 47 *news with a fresh voice and a new song;*
- 48 • *Providing guidance to congregations and pastors in times of transition and trouble;*
- 49 • *Celebrating congregational milestones and life.*

50
51 **ARTICLE III – REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

52
53 The Region shall gather in assembly at least once each triennium at a time and place determined by
54 the Regional Board. The members of the Region shall receive at least thirty (30) days’ notice of the
55 time and place. This gathering will be for the purpose of worship, fellowship, discussion, resource
56 sharing, and the discernment of the ministry of the Region.

57
58 The assembly shall also conduct necessary administrative tasks as stated in these bylaws. All members
59 of the Region present at the Assembly may address any issues placed before the Assembly.

60
61 Each member congregation shall be entitled to two (2) voting representatives. Each congregation will
62 provide the names of its voting representatives and alternates, if any, certified by the congregation’s
63 moderator or pastor to the Regional Administrator prior to the beginning of the first business session
64 of the Assembly.

65
66 Ministers with standing in the Region who are listed in the Yearbook of the Christian Church (Disciples
67 of Christ) (ALEX), or who are eligible for such listing shall be voting representatives.

68
69 Members of the Regional Board not otherwise qualified shall be voting representatives.

70
71 Efforts will be made to provide meeting access, including the ability to hear each other and to vote, to
72 those who cannot be physically present at the Assembly. Administrative sessions of the Assembly shall
73 be conducted under rules and procedures adopted by the Regional Board. A quorum of the Assembly
74 shall be those present and voting.

80 ARTICLE IV – REGIONAL BOARD

81

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

85

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

92

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

101

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

108

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

114

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

120 ARTICLE V – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

121

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

124

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

132

133 The Executive Committee shall perform an annual review of the Regional Minister. The results of the
134 review will be reported to the Board and filed in the Regional Office.

135

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

138

139 ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

140

141 In addition to the Regional Minister-President (See Article IX), the Region shall have four (4) executive
142 officers elected by the Assembly at its triennial meeting for three (3) year terms: Moderator;
143 Moderator-elect; Secretary; and Treasurer.

144

145 The Secretary and Treasurer can be reelected for a second three (3) year term.

146

147 The Moderator shall chair meetings of the Regional Board and the Assembly.

148

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

151

152 The Secretary shall maintain a record of the meetings of the Regional Board and Assembly, to be held
153 in the Regional Office, and perform any other tasks which may be required by law. The Secretary shall
154 also serve as the Secretary of the Corporation.

155

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

157

158

159

160 ARTICLE VII – STANDING COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

161

162 Standing Committee and Commission chairs will be nominated by the Nominating Committee and
163 elected by the Assembly. The chairs of committees and commissions are members, with vote, of the
164 Regional Board and shall make regular reports to the Board. Between Assemblies, vacancies of the
165 chairs of committees and commissions will be filled upon nomination by the Moderator and
166 affirmation by a simple majority of the Executive Committee. Any chair of a committee or commission
167 can be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Regional Board.

168

169 A. Finance Committee

170 The Finance Committee shall regularly review financial reports provided by Treasury Services;
171 guide the Regional Board in maintaining financial stability and transparency; and manage
172 special regional offering focuses. The Finance Committee shall be chaired by the Treasurer.

173

174 B. Personnel Committee

175 The Personnel Committee shall advise the Regional Minister in the hiring of staff for the Region.
176 The Committee shall assist the Regional Minister in the regular review of the performance of all
177 Regional employees except the Regional Minister. The Personnel Committee will support the
178 Regional Minister and Regional Board in any updates, research, and creation of employee
179 policies, as well as employee dismissals.

180

181 C. Nominating Committee

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

188

189 D. Anti-racism/Pro-reconciliation Committee

190 As part of our commitment to becoming an anti-racist/pro-reconciling church, the AR/PR
191 Committee shall be a standing committee of the region. Its focus will be to lift up the values of
192 diversity, inclusion, and anti-racism, including organizing and/or providing education and
193 training for laity and clergy, overseeing the application process for Reconciliation Grants, and
194 promoting the work of Reconciliation Ministries through the Reconciliation Offering and other
195 avenues.

196

197 E. Commission on Ministry

198 The Commission on Ministry creates and maintains the processes for the ordination,
199 commissioning, and standing of clergy in the Region. The commission operates in accordance

200 with the Policies of the Order of Ministry of the Northern Lights Region and the Theological
201 Foundations and Policies and Criteria for the Ordering of Ministry of the Christian Church
202 (Disciples of Christ) (TFPCOM).

203
204 The commission shall be responsible for the care of candidates preparing for ministry, the
205 examination and approval of candidates prior to ordination or commissioning, shall establish
206 requirements for ministerial standing, and maintain the list of clergy with standing in the Region.

207
208 The commission shall consist of ten (10) members: two members, one clergy and one lay, from
209 each Area, plus two members, one clergy and one lay, at large. The members will be named by
210 the Nominating Committee and confirmed by the Regional Assembly. Membership shall strive
211 to include equal numbers of women and men and reflect the Region's value of diversity within
212 its membership. The chairperson will be one identified from within the commission
213 membership by the Nominating Committee and confirmed by the Regional Assembly. The
214 members shall serve a term of six (6) years. One half of the membership shall be elected at
215 each triennial Assembly.

216
217 ARTICLE VIII – AREAS
218

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

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

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

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

231 Big Sky – congregations in Montana

232
233 ARTICLE IX – REGIONAL MINISTER-PRESIDENT
234

235 The Region shall call a Regional Minister-President to serve as a spiritual leader-theologian and the
236 chief executive officer of the Region. The personal qualifications and responsibilities of the Regional
237 Minister-President shall be developed by the Regional Board and outlined in a job description
238 approved by the Regional Board. The Regional Minister-President shall serve a term of six (6) years

239 which may be renewed after review and discernment by the Regional Minister and Regional Board.
240 When an additional term is recommended, the Regional Board shall refer the recommendation of an
241 additional term to a Regional Assembly for affirmation by a 2/3 vote.

242
243 Upon a vacancy in the office of Regional Minister-President, the Regional Board will develop a process
244 for the search and call of a new person to fill the position. The process will follow the Executive Search
245 Model recommended by the General Church. A Search Committee will be appointed by the Regional
246 Board to conduct the search and to recommend a candidate to the Regional Board. The Regional Board
247 shall recommend the candidate to the Regional Assembly for affirmation by a 2/3 vote.

248
249 ARTICLE X – ASSETS

250
251 No part of the assets of the Northern Lights Region shall inure to the benefit of any director, officer,
252 employee of the Region, or any private individual, except that reasonable compensation may be paid
253 for services rendered to or for the Region. No director, officer, private individual, or for-profit
254 organization shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets on dissolution
255 of the Region.

256
257 Notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws, no director, officer, employee, or representative
258 of this Corporation shall take any action or carry on any activity, by or on behalf of the Corporation, not
259 permitted to be taken or carried on without penalty, by an organization exempt from taxation, or by an
260 organization whose contributions are deductible under federal income tax laws as they now exist, or as
261 they should hereafter be amended.

262
263 Dissolution of the Northern Lights Region shall require a two-thirds vote of the Regional Board and
264 shall be affirmed by a two-thirds vote of the Regional Assembly.

265
266 The authority for the purchase or sale of real property shall be vested in the Regional Board.

267
268 In the event of dissolution of the Region, its assets shall be applied and distributed as follows:

- 269 A. All liabilities and obligations of the Region shall be paid, satisfied, and discharged.
270
271 B. Any assets held by the Region, upon condition requiring their return, transfer or conveyance
272 which condition occurs by reason of dissolution or liquidation, shall be returned, transferred,
273 or conveyed in accordance with such requirements.
274
275 C. Any assets remaining shall be transferred or conveyed to the Christian Church (Disciples of
276 Christ) in the United States and Canada headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana or its
277 successor(s) or successor addresses.
278

279 D. Should the above-named denominational body be dissolved, any assets remaining shall be
280 transferred or conveyed to one or more domestic or foreign churches, societies, or
281 organizations engaged in activities substantially similar to those of the Northern Lights Region,
282 pursuant to such plan as may be adopted by the Regional Board.
283

284 All assets must be allocated exclusively to charitable, scientific, or educational organizations then
285 exempt from tax under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) or any successor section thereto.
286

287 ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS 288

289 These Bylaws may be amended by the Regional Board at any regularly called meeting of the Board.
290 Proposed amendments must be provided to the members of the Regional Board at least thirty (30)
291 days prior to any action upon them being taken. The Moderator shall appoint a Bylaws Review
292 Committee every two (2) years. The current Bylaws shall be provided in the materials available to
293 participants in the Assembly along with an explanation of any changes made since the last Assembly.
294

295

296 The foregoing Bylaws were adopted by the Regional Board on February 9, 2020.

297

The foregoing Bylaws were adopted by the Regional Board on April 8, 2026.