

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin Constitution

Preamble

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin, a collection of congregations and other institutions, affirm that we are a part of the Universal Church of Jesus Christ. Responding to God's love and call upon our lives, we understand that each age is called to devise the structures most conducive to the discernment and implementation of God's call to mission and ministry in the world today. To live as this embodiment we seek, with God's grace, to nurture fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ as demonstrated in our growing biblical literacy, deepening ability to engage in theological reflection and critique, and committed active lives through which we proclaim the gospel in word and deed as we work for God's justice in all creation. *(To live faithfully, we acknowledge our need to establish and promote a connected community where all are empowered to share their gifts as we seek to find solutions to the problems of injustice and brokenness in ourselves and God's evolving world.)*² In our shared living, we affirm the theological foundation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada and affirm our relationship as a covenantal partner. In response to God's covenant we are committed to engaged lives of vital ministry that goes from our door steps to the end of the earth as we adopt this Constitution.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this manifestation shall be the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin and hereinafter referred to as the Region.

ARTICLE II. CORPORATION

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin is a not-for-profit corporation and may exercise any and every power that a not-for-profit corporation is authorized to exercise according to the laws of the state of Illinois.

ARTICLE III. PURPOSE

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

The purpose of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin shall be as follows:

- A. To creatively extend the ministry of Christ in mission, teaching, witness and service among the people and social structures of the Region by calling congregations to an awareness of their opportunities and responsibilities beyond local concerns.
- B. To establish, receive, nurture, and renew congregations in the Region, providing help, counsel, pastoral care to members, ministers, and congregations in their mutual relationships and in relationship to the total ministry of the whole church.
- C. To offer leadership in matters of mutual concern such as standing, credentialing of ministers, ministerial search and call, ordination, licensing and establishment and dissolution of pastoral relationships and installations of ministers.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

The Region shall be composed of the following members:

1. Congregations within Illinois and Wisconsin recognized by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as determined by listing in the Year Book and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) or by some similar method of recognition of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and
2. Commissioned and ordained ministers with standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who live and/or work in the Region.
3. Institutions and ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) located within Illinois and Wisconsin that are accepted by the Regional Church Council for **voting membership**.

ARTICLE V. REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

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) in Illinois and Wisconsin as we gather for the purpose of worship, spiritual enrichment and inspiration, education and to conduct business of the Region as directed by the Regional Church Council.

ARTICLE VI. REGIONAL CHURCH COUNCIL

- A. The Regional Church Council is established and authorized to manage the business and affairs of the Region on behalf of the Members of the Region in order to carry out the purposes set forth in Article III of this Constitution and to enable the Region to faithfully live out its Vision and Mission. The Regional Church Council shall have all necessary powers to fulfill these responsibilities and the powers as specifically set forth in the Bylaws.

- B. The Regional Church Council shall have the power and authority to establish smaller deliberate bodies responsible to the Regional Church Council.
 - 1. The Regional Church Council shall form an Executive Committee as set forth in the Bylaws of the Region.
 - 2. The Regional Church Council shall have a Committee on Ministry, (a Ministry Leadership Team, (New Church Ministries)¹¹, a Pro-reconciliation/ Anti-Racism Committee, and a Personnel Committee as set forth in the Bylaws of the Region.
 - 3. (The Regional Church Council shall establish other task groups, such as Discernment and Vision, as set forth in the Bylaws of the Region)²⁵
- C. The members of the Regional Church Council shall include:
 - 1. The Officers of the Region as elected by the Members of the Region at the Regional Assembly. The elected officers shall include the Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and Past-Moderator. The Officers shall have the responsibilities as set forth in the Region's Bylaws.
 - 2. The Regional Minister and other (Associate Regional Ministers.)³⁰
 - 3. A representative of the following standing committees of the Region: Committee on Ministry, (New Church/Ministries)³⁵, Personnel Committee, and Pro-reconciliation/ Anti-racism Committee. These representatives shall be selected by the Committee Members of the Committees they represent.
 - 4. Two representatives of the Ministry Leadership Team. These representatives shall be selected by the Members of the Ministry Leadership Team.
 - 5. (Chairpersons of task groups, such as Discernment and Vision, as invited by the Regional Church Council.)³⁹
 - 6. Representatives of institutions and ministries that are Members of the Region and are invited by the Regional Church Council to serve as members of the Regional Church Council.
 - 7. Such members at-large as elected by the Members of the Region at the Regional Assembly. These representatives shall be nominated as set forth in the Region's Bylaws (Article VII, Section B.3).
- D. Meetings and Conduct of Business
 - 1. Meetings of the entire Regional Church Council shall take place at least two (2) times per year. Special meetings of the Regional Church Council may be called pursuant to the Region's Bylaws. Each individual member of the Regional Church Council shall have voting rights, except that all Regional Staff shall be non-voting members of the Regional Church Council.
 - 2. The Executive Committee shall meet at least four (4) times per year between the regularly scheduled meetings of the Regional Church Council and shall have the authority as granted by the Regional Church Council to conduct the business of the Region.

ARTICLE VII. STAFF

- 1. The Regional Minister and President shall exercise pastoral care and

nurture of the congregations and ministers of the Region and provide primary administrative oversight within the Region.

2. Associate Regional Minister(s) who shall share in the spiritual and administrative care of the Region may be called.
3. Other individuals may be contracted or hired to carry out the work of the Region.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be altered, amended or repealed and a new Constitution 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 Constitution. The Constitution will be reviewed every five years.

ARTICLE IX. EFFECTIVE DATE

This constitution becomes effective (upon adoption of the Regional Assembly.)⁴⁴

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin Bylaws

Bylaws of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin, hereinafter referred to as the Region (or CCIW).

ARTICLE I. PRINCIPLES OF OPERATION

A. Inclusive Representation

In the election of its officers, and in the appointment of members to the Regional Church Council, and its committees, the calling of Regional Staff, and in filling other elected and appointed positions, the Region shall choose candidates with appropriate expertise and willingness to serve, and shall consider representation of the various constituencies of the Region, including racial groups, (LGBTQ +)⁴⁸, age groups, males and females, clergy and non-clergy, and geographic area.

B. Open Meetings

All meetings of the Regional Assembly and Regional Church Council, including all committees thereof, shall be open (without full vote) to any member of the Region, excepted as noted in these Bylaws.

C. Limited Terms

All persons serving on the Regional Church Council and its committees serve two (2) year terms, except in the Moderator and Moderator-Elect sequence. A member of the Regional Church Council and Committees of the Region may not serve more than three (3) consecutive terms. After a two (2) year sabbatical from the Regional Church Council, a person will be eligible to serve as a member of the Regional Church Council.

ARTICLE II. REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

A. Participation

All members of the congregations, institutions and ministries that are Members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois/Wisconsin shall be encouraged to participate in the Regional Assembly.

B. Voting Members

All clergy in good standing and five (5) delegates from each participating congregation, (institutions and ministries)⁵² shall be eligible to vote on business items of the Regional Assembly.

C. The Regional Assembly shall:

- 1.** Elect the Officers of the Region, and members-at-large for the Regional Church Council. ⁵⁵
- 2.** Call the Regional Minister and President upon the recommendation of the

Regional Church Council.

D. Notification

1. Biennial meeting time of the Regional Assembly will be announced at the preceding Regional Assembly.
2. A special Regional Assembly may be called by the Regional Church Council and notification shall be given to each congregation by mail, email, or other electronic transmission and placing the notification on the Region's website at least thirty-five (35) days before the date of the meeting.

E. Quorum

1. A Quorum shall exist (when 35 of the Region's congregations, institutions and ministries)⁶³ are present at the Assembly.
2. A vote will carry with a simple majority of those present and voting unless otherwise stated in the Constitution and Bylaws.

F. Business Items

1. Business items shall be determined by the Regional Church Council.
2. Items for business may be submitted to the Office of Regional Minister and President for consideration by the Regional Church Council at least ninety (90) days in advance of the Regional Assembly.
3. Items of business which require discussion and/or action of the Assembly shall be circulated to the congregations by email, mail, or other electronic transmissions and placement on the Region's website, at least thirty-five (35) days before the date of the meeting.
4. Any item of business may be considered an emergency if its content is of such nature that it could not have been regularly filed ninety (90) days prior to the Regional Assembly. Such items of business may be filed when submitted by ten (10) or more voting delegates from not less than five (5) member congregations to the Moderator- Elect of the Region who, with the advice and consent of the Officers of the Region, shall make appropriate recommendations to the Regional Assembly as to their disposition.

ARTICLE III. REGIONAL CHURCH COUNCIL

A. The membership of the Regional Church Council shall be as set forth in the Constitution. Members of the Regional Church Council shall serve two (2) year terms. No member of the Regional Church Council shall serve more than three (3) consecutive terms. The officers of the Region as elected by the Regional Assembly, namely, Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and Past Moderator shall serve as the officers of the Regional Church Council.

B. The Regional Church Council shall conduct business and provide management and oversight on behalf of the Region, and shall have all necessary powers to do on behalf of the Region everything which not for profit corporations can do under the laws of the State of Illinois. The Regional Church Council may establish committees, commissions and task forces to carry out the ministries and the business of the Region and may dissolve such committees, commissions and task forces when assigned tasks have been completed. These committees, commissions and task forces shall be responsible to and work under the direction of the Regional Church Council and shall report to the Regional Church Council as directed.

C. In carrying out its duties and responsibilities under the Constitution and these Bylaws, the Regional Church Council shall on behalf of the Region:

1. establish policies and programs for the Region and shall give direction and authorization to the Executive Committee and to the Ministry Leadership Team to implement such policies and programs;
2. adopt, amend and repeal Bylaws consistent with the Region's Constitution; amend or restate the Articles of Incorporation;
3. adopt and implement a biennial budget for the Region based on the recommendation of the Executive Committee(;) ⁶⁷
4. recommend the calling of the Regional Minister and President to the Regional Assembly;
5. call Associate Regional Ministers after recommendation from the Executive Committee;
6. call an Interim Regional Minister;
7. dismiss the Regional Minister and President, Interim Regional Minister and Associate Regional Minister(s) requiring a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote to pass;
8. authorize signing or co-signing as of any mortgages or notes requiring a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote to pass;
9. call special meetings of the Regional Assembly;
10. fill vacancies for the remainder of the unexpired terms which arise because of the ineligibility or incapacity of any Officer of the Region; appoint or remove any member of the Executive Committee or any Officer of the Region;
11. have the authority to take the actions reserved for the Regional Church Council and not to be exercised by the Executive Committee as set forth in Article VI A.
12. adopt a plan of merger or adopt a plan of consolidation with another corporation or other entity requiring a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote to pass;
13. authorize the sale, lease, exchange or mortgage or all or substantially all of the property and assets of the Region requiring a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote to pass;

14. authorize the voluntary dissolution of the corporation or revoking proceedings therefore; adopt a plan for the distribution of all assets of the Region that shall be carried out by the Regional Church Council requiring a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote to pass ;
15. amend, alter or repeal any resolution of the Regional Church Council which by its terms provides that it shall not be amended, altered or repealed by the Executive Committee.

D. Meetings and Notification

1. The Regional Church Council shall meet no less than two (2) times per calendar year. The place, day and hour of regularly scheduled meetings of the Regional Church Council shall be determined and announced no less than one (1) year in advance. Special meetings of the Regional Church Council may be called upon written notice to all members of the Regional Church Council sent no less than fifteen (15) days before the meeting.
2. Special meetings of the Regional Church Council may be held upon the call of the Moderator of the Regional or upon written request of ten (10) members of the Regional Church Council.
3. All meetings of the Regional Church Council are open except when addressing confidential issues. The agenda of the Regional Church Council will indicate when meeting or portions of meetings are closed due to the confidential nature of issues being discussed. The content of confidential meetings will not be disclosed in the minutes and/or reports of such meetings but decisions that are forthcoming from such discussions will be disclosed to the necessary individuals or groups of the Region.

Meetings that are not open shall include the following:

- a) Meetings to consider information regarding the recommendation of a minister, granting or removal of ministerial standing in the Region;
- b) Meetings to discuss pending, probable or imminent legal action against or on behalf of the Region;
- c) Meetings to consider information regarding appointment, employment, reprimand or dismissal of an employee;
- d) Meeting to consider information regarding the purchase or sale of property of the Region; provided that any vote on these matters shall be taken at a meeting, or portion of a meeting, open to any member of the Region.

E. Quorum

1. A quorum for the Regional Church Council will be three-fifths (3/5) of current elected and appointed members.
2. A vote will carry with a simple majority of those present and voting unless otherwise stated in the Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV. MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM

- A. The Regional Church Council shall have a Ministry Leadership Team comprised of the Chairpersons of all standing and ad hoc committees and task groups of the Region or at least one of the Co-Chairs)⁷⁶
- B. The Ministry Leadership Team will be chaired by the Moderator-Elect. Members of the Ministry Leadership Team shall serve two (2) year terms. No member of the Ministry Leadership Team shall serve more than three (3) consecutive terms.
- C. In carrying out its duties and responsibilities under the Constitution and these Bylaws, the Ministry Leadership Team shall:
 - 1. Plan, implement and evaluate the ministries of the Region that allow and support individuals and groups to live out the mission, vision, and values of the region.
 - 2. Communicate the plans and seek feedback from individuals and groups of the Region that facilitate evaluation and planning.
 - 3. Encourage covenantal living that recognizes the interconnectedness and interdependence of the ministries of individuals and groups of the Region.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS OF THE REGION

- A. The Moderator
 - 1. shall preside over all business sessions of the Regional Assembly, the Regional Church Council, and the Executive Committee of the Regional Church Council;
 - 2. shall appoint committee chairs and committees as outlined in these Bylaws in consultation with the Regional Minister and President;
 - 3. may be authorized by the Regional Church Council or the Executive Committee to be legal representative and/ or signatory as outlined in Article VIII of these Bylaws;
 - 4. shall confer regularly with the Regional Minister and President;
 - 5. shall serve as ex-officio member, without vote, of all committees operating within the Regional Church Council;
 - 6. shall call meetings of the Regional Church Council, and send notice to the members of the Regional Church Council, inclusive of a prepared preliminary agenda, for such meetings;
 - 7. shall help to prepare the Moderator-Elect to assume the Moderator's position;

8. shall represent the Region at sessions of the Regional Ministers and Moderators of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) or its successor groups; and
9. shall appoint a Regional Minister Search Committee in consultation with the General Minister and President and Office of Search and Call of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

B. The Moderator-Elect

1. shall chair the Ministry Leadership Team;
2. shall, in the absence of the Moderator, preside over all business sessions of the Regional Assembly;
3. shall, in the absence of the Moderator, or the request of the Moderator, preside over business session of the Regional Church Council, or the Executive Committee;
4. shall, under normal circumstances become the next Moderator;
5. shall assist the Moderator in conducting the business session of the Regional Assembly, the Regional Church Council, and the Executive Committee of the Regional Church Council;
6. shall receive and implement the handling of emergency resolutions, as defined in Article II.E. 4 of these Bylaws, during the sessions of the Regional Assembly (.)

C. Treasurer

1. shall work closely with the Regional Minister and President on reporting the financial status of the Region;
2. (shall lead the Executive Committee in the preparation of budget.)⁹⁴
3. shall oversee the preparation and distribution of a financial statement for the Regional Assembly when it is in regular session, and if requested by the Moderator, a report shall be prepared for any special or called meeting of the Regional Assembly;
4. shall engage the Region in thoughtful consideration of the implications of the decisions made regarding the use of available resources, leading the Region in its ongoing stewardship reflections; and
5. shall perform all other functions of the office as may be required by the law.

D. Secretary

1. shall have the authority to certify the Bylaws, resolutions of the members and Regional Church Council and committees thereof and other documents of the corporation as true and correct copies thereof;
2. shall be one of the authorized signatories for legal documents to be executed on behalf of the Region;
3. shall serve as a member of at least one standing committee or other committee as determined by the Regional Church Council and;
4. shall perform all other functions of the office as may be required by law.

E. Past Moderator

The Past Moderator shall function as historian and consultant for the current officers as well as a member of the Regional Church Council and Executive Committee.

F. Terms of Office

The officers will serve two (2) year terms from Regional Assembly in which they were elected through the next Regional Assembly. Officers may be elected to no more than two (2) consecutive terms of office

ARTICLE VI. REGIONAL STAFF

A. The Regional Minister and President

- a. shall be elected by a two-third (2/3) majority of Members present and voting at a Regional Assembly;
- b. shall provide primary administrative oversight, pastoral care, and spirit nurture in Region;
- c. shall direct coordination and implementation of the Region's programs;
- d. shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member, of the Regional Council, the Executive Committee of the Board and all committees of the Board;
- e. shall be authorized to sign legal documents on behalf of the Region;
- f. shall be the primary interpreter of the ministries of the total church (all manifestations) for the Region and its congregations;
- g. shall be the chief ecumenical representative of the Region;
- h. shall, in consultation with the Personnel Committee, direct and supervise the work of the staff; and
- i. shall be compensated according to the procedures set forth in the personnel policy.

B. Associate Regional Minister(s)

- a. shall perform their assignments described by the Regional Church Council, and shall work under the supervision of the Regional Minister; and
- b. shall be compensated according to procedures set forth in the personnel policy.

C. Interim Regional Minister and President

- a. An interim Regional Minister and President will be employed by the Regional Church Council. For this purpose the Executive Committee is not authorized to act for the Regional Church Council.
- b. The Interim Regional Minister and President shall perform duties of the Regional Minister and President.

D. Staff

- a. The Regional Minister and President may hire for specific time periods and

for specific areas of work (such as interims or special projects) such persons as he/she, upon approval of the Region's Personnel Committee, deems necessary.

- b. The Regional Minister and President will transmit to the Regional Church Council a copy of any hiring terms or contracts for staff.
- c. Staff shall be supervised by the Regional Minister and President.

E. Dismissal of Staff

Dismissal of any staff will be according to procedures set forth in the Region's Personnel Policy.

ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Committee of the Region shall consist of the individuals serving in the following positions:
 - a. Regional Minister and President as ex-officio, non-voting member
 - b. Moderator
 - c. Moderator-Elect
 - d. Secretary
 - e. Treasurer
 - f. Past Moderator
 - f. A Representative of Ministry Leadership Team
2. No member of the Executive Committee shall serve more than three (3) consecutive terms.
3. The Executive Committee shall:
 - a. exercise the authority granted to it by the Regional Church Council in relation to the management and operation of the affairs of the Region between meetings of the Regional Church Council;
 - b. report to the Regional Church Council;
 - c. recommend a biennial budget to the Regional Church Council;
 - d. be responsible for oversight of the day-to-day operations of the Region;
 - e. have authority to authorize financial transactions pertaining to investments, designated funds, and operating funds based within the confines of the approved budget (and)⁹⁸
 - f. recommend to the Regional Church Council the calling of or dismissal of Associate Regional Minister(s)
4. The Executive Committee shall not exercise the powers reserved to the Regional Church Council in Article VI. Section C of these Bylaws.
5. The delegation of authority to the Executive Committee shall not operate to relieve the Regional Church Council, or any individual officer or member of the Regional Church Council, of any responsibility imposed upon it or him/her under the law.
6. All meetings of the Executive Committee are open except when addressing confidential issues. The agenda of the Executive Committee will indicate

when meeting or portions of meetings are closed due to the confidential nature of issues being discussed. The content of confidential meetings will not be disclosed in the minutes and/or reports of such meetings but decisions that are forthcoming from such discussions will be disclosed to the necessary individuals or groups of the Region.

B. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

1. A Nominating Committee of seven (7) members will be appointed by the Regional Moderator in consultation with the Regional Minister and President and approved by the Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee shall be representative of the Region as a whole.
2. The Nominating Committee will recruit and nominate a slate of the following officers of the Region: Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and a Past Moderator of the Region. ¹⁰⁴
3. The Nominating Committee will recruit and nominate (six (6) laypersons)¹⁰⁸ and two (2) clergy as members-at-large on the Regional Church Council. The individuals recruited shall be representative of the Region as a whole with respect to gender, age, race/ethnicity, and geographic areas of the Region. These individuals will serve two (2) year terms and may serve no more than three (3) consecutive terms.¹¹⁴

C. REGIONAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE

The Regional Church Council shall have a Regional Assembly Committee that shall function according to its charter.

D. STANDING COMMITTEES

1. PRO-RECONCILIATION/ ANTI-RACISM COMMITTEE - The Regional Church Council shall have a Pro-Reconciliation/ Anti-Racism Committee comprised of eight (8) members including two (2) racially diverse co-chairs. The membership of the Pro-reconciliation/ Anti-racism Committee will be comprised of no less than fifty percent (50%) persons of color. The Pro-reconciliation/ Anti-Racism Committee shall function according to its charter. ¹²¹
2. COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY -The Regional Church Council shall have a Committee of Ministry comprised of eleven (11) members including a chair. The Committee on Ministry shall function according to its charter. The Committee on Ministry shall form a sub-committee, the Committee on Ministerial Ethics, that shall function according its charter. ¹²⁸
3. (New Church/Ministries)¹³⁹ - The Regional Church Council shall have a New Church/Ministries team comprised of eleven (11) members including a chair. The New Church/Ministries team shall function according to its charter.
4. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - The Regional Church Council shall have a Personnel Committee comprised of six (6) members including a chair. The

Personnel Committee shall function according to its charter.

E. AD HOC COMMITTEES

The Region shall have the right to establish committees and task forces necessary for the planning and implementation of the ministries of the Region. Chairs of these committees shall serve as members of the Ministry Leadership Team for the duration of the committee.

ARTICLE VIII. CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS, FUNDS AND GIFTS

- A. **Contracts.** The Regional Church Council may itself approve, or may authorize the Executive Committee to approve, the execution and delivery of any contract by the Region. Any authority granted to the Executive Committee regarding contract approval and execution may be general or confined to specific instances. Once the execution of a contract by the Region has been approved by the Regional Church Council, or by the Executive Committee upon authorization having been given to the Executive Committee by the Regional Church Council, the Regional Minister and President or any officer or officers of the Region shall execute and deliver such contracts in the name of and on behalf of the Region. Contracts executed by officers of the Region must have two authorizing signatures.
- B. **Checks, Drafts, Etc.** All checks, drafts or orders for the payment of money shall be signed by such officer or officers of the Region, and in such manner, as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Regional Church Council. Any signing or co-signing of any note, mortgage or similar evidences of indebtedness by the Region must be specifically authorized by the Regional Church Council which shall then designate the specific officer or officers or agents to sign such documents on behalf of the Region.
- C. **Deposits.** All funds of the Region shall be deposited in a timely manner to the credit of the Region in such banks, trust companies, or financial services companies or other depositories as the Regional Church Council may select from time to time.
- D. **Gifts.** The Regional Church Council may accept or reject on behalf of the Region any contribution, gift, bequest or devise for the general purposes, or for any designated specific purpose, of the Region.

ARTICLE IX. BOOKS AND RECORDS

The Region shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall also keep minutes of proceedings of the Regional Assembly, Regional Church Council, Executive Committee, Ministry Leadership Team, standing committees and other committees authorized from time to time by the Regional Church Council. Such books, records and minutes shall be kept at the registered office of the Region. The Region shall also keep at the registered office of the Region a record of the

names and addresses of all members of the Region entitled to vote. The books and records of the Region may be inspected by any member of the Region entitled to vote for any proper purpose at any reasonable time.

ARTICLE X. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Region shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December in each year.

ARTICLE XI. CORPORATION ADDRESS

The registered office and the place of business of the Region shall be located at (401 W. Jefferson, Bloomington, Illinois 61701)¹⁴², or at such other place as may be hereafter designated by the Regional Church Council. Upon a change of registered office, notice shall be filed with the Secretary of State of Illinois.

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed or new bylaws may be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members of the Regional Church Council present at any regular meeting or specially called meeting, provided that at least thirty-five (35) days written notice has been given to the voting members of the proposed alteration, amendment, or repeal of these Bylaws or the proposed new bylaws. These Bylaws shall be reviewed every five (5) years.

Adopted by the Regional Assembly on October 13, 2012. Bylaw changes revised by Regional Church Council March 15, 2018, upon approval of Constitution at Regional Assembly, Oct. 20, 2018.