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3 BYLAWS
4 WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF THE ILLINOIS CONFERENCE
5 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
6

7 **ARTICLE I – Membership: Authorization and Standing of Churches and Ministers**
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9 A. Standing of Churches

- 10 1. Those churches initially having full standing in this Association are those churches who were
11 designated as members of the Western Association at the 29th Annual Meeting of the Illinois
12 Conference, United Church of Christ on May 30, 1992. Such action was subsequently affirmed at
13 the organizational meeting of the Association, and at meetings of the Association Church and
14 Ministry Committee and the Association organizing Council.
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16 2. Any church which desires standing in the Association and which votes to covenant with the
17 Association to assume and faithfully fulfill the obligation of a church of the Association shall present
18 evidence of such a vote. The Church and Ministry Committee shall examine the request of the
19 church and shall ensure that the statements of faith of the church are in essential agreement with
20 that of the Association. The church shall be received into the Association upon a two-thirds
21 affirmative vote of those present and voting at such Association meetings.
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23 3. A church desiring to terminate its standing in the Association shall present its request to the
24 Association. On recommendation of the Church and Ministry Committee, the Association may
25 terminate the church's standing by a majority vote of those present and voting at a regular or
26 special meeting.
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28 4. The Association may initiate action to terminate the standing of a local church, when that church
29 gives evidence that it is no longer in sympathy with the purposes and program of the United
30 Church of Christ, or when that congregation ceases to continue as a church.
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32 5. When the standing of a local church of the Association is in question, the Association's Church and
33 Ministry Committee shall make inquiry. If the matter cannot be satisfactorily resolved, the
34 Committee, or the church, may submit the concern to the Association Council for discernment.
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36 B. Standing of Individuals

- 37 1. Individuals initially having full standing in the Association are those United Church of Christ
38 ordained, commissioned, and licensed ministers who serve ministries within the geographical area of
39 the Western Association, as defined at the 29th Annual Meeting of the Illinois Conference, United
40 Church of Christ, on May 30, 1992, and who were members in full standing of the Association's
41 predecessor Associations at the time of said meeting. The standing of all such persons was
42 subsequently affirmed at the organizational meetings of the Western Association Church and
43 Ministry Committee and the Western Association Organizing Council.
44
45 2. An ordained minister of the United Church of Christ may hold standing in the Association only when
46 serving ministries within the geographic area of the Association, except in the following instances:
47
48 a. A minister of the United Church of Christ, engaged in a ministry requiring a prolonged absence
49 from the United States, or one that does not permit a fixed residence, may hold standing in the
50 Association, as long as membership is maintained in a local church of the Association.
51
52 b. A minister of the United Church of Christ, who retires from active service may hold standing in
53 the Association without being required to reside within the geographic area of the Association.
54

55 3. An ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, who has full standing in the Association, and
56 who withdraws from active service in the ministry to enter a secular occupation, must apply to the
57 Association for a leave of absence, unless said minister has previously retired from active service in
58 the ministry. Such a leave-of-absence shall be granted for a period of one year. Except in special
59 cases, leave-of-absence status shall not be granted for more than five years in succession. Standing
60 will be dropped if an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ withdraws from active service
61 in the ministry to enter a secular occupation, without retiring or requesting a leave-of absence.
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63 4. "Member in Discernment" Status
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65 A person desiring to prepare for ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministry may be received as a
66 "Member in Discernment" of the Association by action of the Church and Ministry Committee.
67 Request for "Member in Discernment" status shall be made to the Church and Ministry Committee
68 through the local church of which the applicant is a member.
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70 5. Ordained Ministerial Standing

71 a. Ordained ministerial standing may be granted by the Association through ordination,
72 transfer or reinstatement of ordained ministerial standing.
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74 b. Ordination

- 75 1) Application for ordination shall be made to the Church and Ministry Committee
76 through the local church of which the candidate is a member.
- 77 2) Upon the recommendation and request of the Church and Ministry Committee, the
78 Association Council shall issue a call for the Association to meet as an ecclesiastical
79 council at least 30 days before the proposed ordination of the candidate.
- 80 3) A person may be approved as a candidate for ordination upon the recommendation of
81 the Church and Ministry Committee and by a simple majority vote of the voting
82 delegates at an ecclesiastical council.
- 83 4) The Association, in cooperation with the candidate, the candidate's local church and
84 calling body, shall ordain the candidate after the candidate has received a call
85 recognized by the Association.
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87 6. Transfer of Ordained Ministerial Standing

- 88 a. Application for transfer of standing shall be made to the Church and Ministry Committee by the
89 ordained minister and the calling body.
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- 91 b. The standing of a minister of the United Church of Christ may be transferred into the
92 Association by action of the Church and Ministry Committee and affirmed by the Association
93 Council.
- 94 c. The Association, in cooperation with the ordained minister, local church and calling body, shall
95 install or recognize the ordained minister as deemed appropriate
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97 7. Reinstatement of Ordained Ministerial Standing

- 98 a. Requests for reinstatement of ordained ministerial standing shall be made to the Church and
99 Ministry Committee by the ordained minister and the local church of which the ordained
100 minister is a member.
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- 102 b. The standing of an ordained minister may be reinstated upon the recommendation of the
103 Church and Ministry Committee and by a simple majority vote of those present and voting at an
104 ecclesiastical council.
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- 106 c. The Association, in cooperation with the ordained minister, local church and calling body, shall
107 install or recognize the ordained minister as deemed appropriate.
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110 8. Privilege of Call

- 111 a. An ordained minister of another denomination who desires to enter the ordained ministry of the
112 United Church of Christ may make application for privilege of call to the Church and Ministry
113 Committee.
114
115 b. If the applicant is found to be qualified, privilege of call is granted upon the recommendation of
116 the Church and Ministry Committee and by a simple majority vote of those present and voting
117 at an ecclesiastical council.
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119 c. Privilege of call shall be granted for a period of one year and may be renewed annually by the
120 Church and Ministry Committee.
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123 9. Commissioned Minister

- 124 a. A person who desires to be authorized as a commissioned minister shall make application to the
125 Church and Ministry Committee through the local church of which the applicant is a member.
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127 b. The applicant may be authorized as a commissioned minister upon the recommendation of the
128 Church and Ministry Committee and by a simple majority vote of those present and voting at an
129 ecclesiastical council.
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131 c. The Association, in cooperation with the applicant and the applicant's local church, shall
132 recognize the commissioned minister as deemed appropriate.
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135 10. Licensed Minister

- 136 a. A person who desires to be authorized as a licensed minister shall make application to the
137 Church and Ministry Committee through the local church of which the applicant is a member.
138
139 b. The applicant may be authorized as a licensed minister by action of the Church and Ministry
140 Committee upon the receipt of a call to a local congregation of the Association.
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142 c. The licensed minister's standing shall be granted for a period of one year and may be renewed
143 annually by the Church and Ministry Committee.
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145 d. The Association, in cooperation with the applicant and local church, shall recognize the licensed
146 minister as deemed appropriate.
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149 11. Ministerial Discipline

- 150 a. Questions related to ministerial discipline, reinstatement and absenteeism are to be dealt with
151 by the Church and Ministry Committee as guided by the Committee's most current policies and
152 procedures in this area. Such policies and procedures should be taken into consideration
153 through the provisions outlined in the **Manual on Ministry**, and should reflect current legal
154 and ecclesiastical insights regarding this subject.
155
156 b. Ministerial standing shall be reviewed periodically according to the most up-to-date UCC Bylaws
157 and the **Manual on Ministry**.
158
159 c. If the minister, who is being disciplined, reviewed, or reinstated, disagrees with the decision
160 made by the Church and Ministry Committee, he/she may request that the Association Council
161 decide the matter. Such an appeal may only consider the process and procedure used by the
162 Church and Ministry Committee as it deliberated its final decision. Such a request must be

163 made, in writing, within 30 days after the Church and Ministry Committee's decision. Upon
164 receipt of the minister's request, the Association Council shall designate a time to gather and
165 solely hear and decide the matter. The Association Council shall gather no later than 60 days
166 after receiving the minister's request. The decision of the Association Council shall be
167 considered final and not subject to further appeal.
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170 12. Termination of Standing

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172 An ordained, commissioned or licensed minister's standing shall be terminated by the Association at
173 the minister's own written request. Such standing may also be terminated by the Association upon
174 decision of the Church and Ministry Committee in the following instances:
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- 176 a. After the minister has relocated outside the geographical area for three or more years without
177 giving good reason for continuing good standing, or requesting transfer to another Association.
- 178 b. As the result of disciplinary action.
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181 13. Standing in Question

182 If there is a question concerning whether or not, any ordained, commissioned or licensed minister
183 or person as "Member in Discernment" has standing in the Association, the Church and Ministry
184 Committee shall make inquiry. If the matter cannot be satisfactorily resolved, either the Committee
185 or the person in question, shall next submit their concern to the Association Council for final action.
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189 C. Ecclesiastical Councils

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191 1. When a person, who is a "Member in Discernment" for ordained or commissioned ministry, a
192 candidate for privilege of call or reinstatement of ordained ministerial standing, has completed all
193 requirements for authorization, or when such person is expected to complete said requirements in the
194 very near future, such candidate shall be examined by the Church and Ministry Committee of the
195 Association as to their readiness to enter the ministry of the United Church of Christ.
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- 197 2. The Church and Ministry Committee shall vote upon an appropriate recommendation to make to
198 the Ecclesiastical Council. This recommendation shall be shared with the candidate prior to the calling
199 of an Ecclesiastical Council. The Church & Ministry Committee shall request the Association Council call
200 an Ecclesiastical Council based upon their recommendation.
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- 202 3. An Ecclesiastical Council is an official meeting of the Association for the purpose of authorizing a
203 ministry and acting on questions of discipline.
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- 205 4. An Ecclesiastical Council shall be held at a place and time which is most suitable for the
206 candidate as determined by the Church and Ministry Committee and approved by the Association
207 Council or its executive Committee. The official written "call" (or invitation) for the ecclesiastical
208 Council and a copy of the candidate's written statement on ministry presented to the Church and
209 Ministry Committee shall be mailed to all of the churches and members of this Association no less than
210 30 days prior to the Ecclesiastical Council.
211
- 212 5. Representatives from a minimum of eight congregations of this Association shall constitute a
213 quorum for an Ecclesiastical Council. Each authorized minister of the Association and voting
214 delegate(s) from each church must sign in as eligible voters prior to the start of the Ecclesiastical
215 Council. The candidate, the congregation in which he/she holds membership, the Mission Cluster of

216 which that congregation is a member and the Church and Ministry Committee, share an equal
217 responsibility for insuring that a quorum is present.

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219 6. All persons present at an Ecclesiastical Council may examine the candidate, provided that they
220 are members of a congregation of the Association. Voting shall be according to the procedures
221 described in the Constitution, Article VII E.

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223 7. The Moderator of the Association, or his/her designee, shall be the presiding officer at the
224 Ecclesiastical Council.

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226 8. The Ecclesiastical Council shall be called to order by the presiding officer, and an appropriate
227 prayer shall be offered. The purpose of an Ecclesiastical Council shall be explained to all those who are
228 present. The candidate shall be briefly introduced, and then the Church and Ministry Committee shall
229 present its recommendation regarding the candidate's readiness to enter the ordained or commissioned
230 ministry of the United Church of Christ. The candidate shall then be invited to present brief comments
231 regarding his/her faith journey, call to ministry, theology, understanding of ministry and/or other
232 appropriate subjects. The floor will then be open to questions from eligible persons present. At the
233 conclusion of the questioning, the candidate shall be dismissed. There shall be an opportunity for
234 those present to discuss the candidate's readiness to enter the ministry. A motion shall then be made
235 concerning whether or not the Ecclesiastical Council approves of the candidate being authorized for
236 ministry. A vote shall be taken regarding the motion. A simple majority of the votes cast is necessary
237 for the passage of the motion. The candidate shall be invited back into the room and he/she shall be
238 informed of the decision of the Ecclesiastical Council. The meeting shall conclude with an appropriate
239 prayer.

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241 9. The decision of the Ecclesiastical Council shall be similar to one of the following four options:

- 242
243 a. The candidate is approved for ordination, commissioning, privilege of call or reinstatement of
244 ordained ministerial standing (or approved for ordination pending receiving a call to an
245 authorized position within the United Church of Christ).
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247 b. The Candidate is approved for ordination, commissioning, privilege of call or reinstatement of
248 ordained ministerial standing, but first the candidate must meet certain requirements or
249 stipulations. (If the candidate meets the requirements or stipulations as judged by the Church
250 and Ministry Committee, the candidate shall be considered ready for authorization without
251 further vote of the Ecclesiastical Council.)
- 252
253 c. The candidate is not approved for ordination, commissioning, privilege of call or reinstatement
254 of ordained ministerial standing but the Ecclesiastical Council feels that the candidate may be
255 ready at a later date if certain requirements or stipulations are met. However, the candidate's
256 readiness would again have to be determined at a later date by the Church and Ministry
257 Committee and an Ecclesiastical Council.
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259 d. The candidate is not approved for ordination, commissioning, privilege of call or reinstatement
260 of ordained ministerial standing.

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263 D. Except where modified, or further defined by the Association's Constitution or Bylaws, the United
264 Church of Christ **Manual on Ministry** (most recent edition) shall serve as the Association's guidelines
265 for its actions in all issues pertaining to:

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267 1. Ordination, commissioning, and/or licensing of ministers.
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269 2. Granting standing to churches and ministers within the Association.

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3. Termination or transfer of standing for churches and ministers. This shall include leaves of absence and/or retirement.
 4. Granting continuation or termination of "Member in Discernment" status.
 5. "Dual Standing" and/or privilege of call for ministers of other denominations who are employed, or seek employment within the United Church of Christ.
 6. Review and discipline of persons authorized for ministry.
 7. Ecclesiastical endorsement and approval of persons seeking certification for professional organization, United States government chaplaincies, and other chaplaincy programs.

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ARTICLE II – Elections

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- A. The election of officers and committees shall be held at the Annual Meeting of the Association except as otherwise provided. Candidates for elected offices and committees shall be selected by the Nominating Committee, unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws.
 - B. Nominees for election by the Illinois Conference for delegates and alternatives to General Synod shall be selected by ballot at the Annual Meeting in even numbered years.
 - C. Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the Association with prior consent of the nominee.

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ARTICLE III – Officers and Administration

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- A. The positions of Moderator and Vice Moderator shall alternate in successive years between a lay person and an authorized minister. If the Moderator is an authorized minister, the Vice Moderator shall be a lay person. If the Moderator is a lay person, the Vice Moderator shall be an authorized minister.
 - B. The Moderator, Vice Moderator, and Secretary shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for terms of one year. Only the Secretary shall be eligible for election to two successive terms.
 - C. All vacancies in elected offices shall be filled by the Association Council until the next Annual Meeting of the Association.
 - D. The Associate Conference Minister (s) and all professional staff shall be ordained ministers of the United Church of Christ.
 1. All professional staff will be elected in keeping with the provisions of the Constitutions and Bylaws of the Illinois Conference, United Church of Christ.
 2. In the event of a vacancy, the Association Council, in consultation with the Conference Minister, shall designate a person to discharge the duties of that office until a new Associate Conference Minister (s) shall take office.
 3. In considering election or dismissal of professional staff, the recommendation of the Association Council shall be forwarded by the Moderator to the Personnel Committee of the Conference. Such

323 recommendation may be based upon a recommendation of this Association's representatives to the
324 Conference Personnel Committee.
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326 E. The elected representatives of the Association to the Conference Personnel Committee shall constitute
327 a Staff Relations Committee which shall:

- 328 1. Be organized with the senior member as presiding member.
- 329 2. Meet quarterly with professional staff and support staff to review job performance, discuss and
330 seek solutions for the concerns of the professional and support staff and committee.
- 331 3. Provide, in consultation with the Conference Personnel Committee, for an annual review of the
332 performance of professional and support staff and provide an appropriate report of such review to
333 the Association Council and Personnel Committee.
- 334 4. Be the point of first contact of professional and support staff in matters of working conditions and
335 grievances. The Committee shall seek resolution to such issues and, as needed, bring them to the
336 Association Council for advice and to the Conference Personnel Committee for action.

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342 F. DUTIES OF STAFF, OFFICERS AND ASSOCIATION COUNCIL
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- 344 1. The Associate Conference Minister(s) serving the Western Association shall be an ordained minister
345 of the United Church of Christ, who has been elected to the position of Associate Conference
346 Minister by a simple majority of the delegates present and voting, at an annual or special meeting
347 of the Association. The Associate Conference Minister(s) shall:
 - 348 a. Be a pastor to pastors, a counselor to churches, a leader and interpreter of contemporary
349 theological thought and social concerns, and be skilled in church programming and human
350 relations tools and techniques.
 - 351 b. Be accountable to the Minister of the Illinois Conference for the execution of Conference policy
352 and program.
 - 353 c. Be responsible to the Association and the Association Council and report to the Annual Meeting
354 of the Association.
 - 355 d. Be responsible for the official correspondence, and serve as Registrar (s) of the Association.
 - 356 e. Issue, with the approval of the Church and Ministry Committee, a Certificate of Transfer to any
357 minister leaving the Association.
 - 358 f. Keep a complete record of the ministers of the Association, their ordination, reception, transfer,
359 and other related items, and shall submit such information to the Minister of the Illinois
360 Conference and to the Secretary of the United Church of Christ.
 - 361 g. Sign all Certificates of Ordination, Installation, Privilege of Call, Commissioned Minister, Licensed
362 Minister and all other certificates as provided for in this Constitution and Bylaws, and forward
363 records of these to proper individuals and agencies of the United Church of Christ.
 - 364 h. Keep a complete record of the local churches of the Association, showing the names and
365 addresses of the ministers and officers of the local churches and shall upon request submit such
366 information to the proper individuals and agencies of the United Church of Christ.

- 376 i. Receive the records of ministers transferred from other associations and shall report them as
377 authorized by decision of the Church and Ministry Committee
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379 j. Serve as ex-officio member, without vote, of the Church and Ministry Committee, the Association
380 Council and all other Association committees.
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382 k. Aid the Association in the ordination of all properly approved candidates for ordination,
383 commissioned ministry and licensed ministry and, together with representatives of local churches
384 shall provide suitable services of recognition.
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386 l. Upon the request of the local church and with the approval of the Church and Ministry
387 Committee arrange for the Installation or Recognition of pastors called by the church.
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389 m. Aid in the establishment and functioning of Mission Clusters.
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392 2. Additional staff members may be employed according to the development and needs of the
393 Association program, when authorized by the Illinois Conference.
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395 3. The Moderator and Vice Moderator
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397 a. The Moderator shall preside at all meetings of the Association and Association Council, and shall
398 be a member of the Association Council and Ex-officio member of all committees.
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400 b. The Moderator shall be a member ex-officio of the Conference Council and Conference
401 executive Committee.
402
403 c. The Vice Moderator shall perform the duties of the Moderator in cases of the Moderator's
404 absence or by request of the Moderator. The Vice Moderator shall serve with the Planning
405 Committee on Association Meetings as its Chair.
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407 4. The Secretary shall keep accurate and permanent minutes of the meetings of the Association and
408 of the Association Council.
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410 5. The Association Council shall:
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412 a. Administer the affairs of the Association between meetings of the Association and shall be the
413 trustee of all Association assets.
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415 b. Concern itself with implementing the Mission Statement of the Association in cooperation with
416 the Mission Clusters, committees, task forces, networks and other program units.
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418 c. Bring a report of its activities to the Annual Meeting of the Association.
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421 **ARTICLE IV – Mission Clusters**

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- 423 A. A Mission Cluster is composed of a group of local churches and church-related institutions from a
424 specific geographical area, called together and recognized by the Association. All churches and
425 ministers within the Association have a right to participation in a mission cluster.
426
427 B. The status and authority of the Mission Clusters are derived from the Association.
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431 C. Function
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433 The function of the Mission Cluster shall be:

- 434 1. To engage in research, planning, and implementation of mission in its community or area. Such
435 efforts may be ecumenical.
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- 437 2. To develop support structures for clergy and laity.
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- 439 3. To promote fellowship among churches.
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- 441 4. To be a vehicle of communication between the local church and the larger Church so that
442 congregations may be more effective both in their local and wider witness.
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- 444 5. To organize itself for its work and report to its local churches.
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- 446 6. To elect representatives to the Association Council.
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- 448 7. To propose nominees for Association, Conference and national UCC positions.
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450 **ARTICLE V – Standing Committees, Task Forces, Networks and other Program Units**
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452 A. Standing Committees
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454 The Association shall provide for the standing Committees for Nominating, Church and Ministry,
455 Planning Committee, and the Leonhart Committee as mandated in the Constitution. The composition
456 of these committees shall take into consideration representation of all Mission Clusters, authorized
457 ministers and laity, men and women. The Committees shall elect their own officers each year and
458 name one of their members (usually the chairperson) to represent them on the Association Council.
459 They shall submit reports to the Annual Meeting of the Association.
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461 1. Standing Committee for Nominations
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- 463 a. This committee shall be composed of one lay person or one authorized minister from each
464 Mission Cluster. Members of this committee shall serve one term of two years. In addition to
465 one person from each Mission Cluster, an additional member will be elected as an At Large
466 member. They shall be elected to this position by the Association in staggered terms so that
467 three members are elected in each year.
- 468
- 469 b. This Committee shall present at the Annual Meeting a slate of nominees for Moderator, Vice
470 Moderator, Secretary, members of the Church and Ministry Committee and Nominating
471 Committee, members-at-large of the Association Council, representatives from the Association
472 to the Illinois Conference Council, to the Personnel Committee, to General Synod, and other
473 Conference committees as requested by the Illinois Conference.
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475 2. Standing Committee for Church and Ministry
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- 477 a. This committee shall be composed of one lay person and one authorized minister from each
478 Mission Cluster plus two at-large representatives. Members shall be elected by the Association
479 for a term of three years and may be re-elected for one additional term. Terms of the
480 committee shall be staggered so that one third of the committee will be elected each year.
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- 482 b. This committee's function shall be:
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1. To monitor the standing of ministers and churches.
 2. To promote good relationships and mutual support among churches, ministers, and the Association as they work in covenant with each other.
 3. To provide care, examination and certification for persons preparing for ordained, commissioned and licensed ministry.
 4. To provide care and support for local churches.
 5. To work with staff in the areas of placement, ecclesiastical councils, installations, ordinations, and services of recognition.
 6. To evaluate and recommend persons seeking Privilege of Call in the United Church of Christ.
 7. To review and certify persons seeking standing in specialized ministries such as military, industrial and institutional chaplaincies.
 8. To offer training for licensed and commissioned ministry and leadership education for ministers and laity.

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3. Standing Committee for Association Meetings

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- a. The Association shall elect at the Annual Spring Association Meeting, a Planning Committee of one person from each Mission Cluster to serve with the Vice Moderator of the Association (for a term of two years). The terms of the committee members shall be staggered so that one half of the committee will be elected each year.
 - b. This committee's functions shall be:
 1. To plan the Annual (Spring) and Fall Association Meetings for two years in advance, if possible.
 2. To coordinate the Fall and Spring Association Meetings for the following year during their term of office.
 3. To invite persons from the meetings' host sites and any other persons whose assistance they desire to work with the committee.
 4. To plan for any special meetings assigned to them by the Association Council.

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4. Standing Committee for the Leonhart Endowment

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- a. The Association Council shall appoint four persons plus the Moderator to serve as the Committee to evaluate and recommend funding of grant projects for Association churches who make application by the March 1 deadline each year. The terms of the committee members shall be for two years, with a potential of a second term. Terms of committee members will be staggered. Appointed members of the committee will be announced at the Spring Annual meeting of the Association.
 - b. The Committee will distribute, through the Association office, the application for grants to all Association churches each January in order to receive grant requests by the March 1st deadline. After receipt of grant requests, the committee shall review, evaluate and recommend to the Association Council such grants that meet the criteria for funding. Grant

awards will be announced at the Spring Annual Association meeting each year, using the interest income of the Leonhart Trust which is available each year.

B. Task Forces

A Task Force is any group or committee formed and/or authorized by the Association to facilitate and monitor the implementation of General Synod priorities, to implement Conference and/or Association programs or to accept other short-term assignments. A Task Force shall cease to exist when the Association Council determines the task is complete. A Task Force shall be given one representative with voice, but without vote, on the Association Council. Task Forces shall report directly to the Association Council.

C. Networks

A Network is any group, duly recognized by the Association, brought together around a common interest, concern, or ministry. A duly recognized Network shall have one representative with voice, but without vote, on the Association Council. Networks shall report regularly to the Association Council. Networks may include, but shall not be limited to ministries in Christian Education, Church in Society, Evangelism, Spiritual Growth, Stewardship and Mission, Women's Ministries, Men's Ministries, Youth Ministries, Peace and Hunger.

D. Other Program Units

Any program unit or mission within the Association which is not accountable through a standing committee, task force or network may petition the Association for recognition and representation with voice, but without vote, on the Association Council.

ARTICLE VI – Rules of Order

Unless otherwise provided for, all proceedings of the Association shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, most recent revision.

ARTICLE VII – Amendments

- A. Amendments to these ByLaws may be proposed by any church of the Association or the Association Council. Notice of such amendments shall be transmitted, in writing, to the churches and ministers of the Association at least thirty (30) days prior to the regular or special meeting of the Association at which they are to be considered.
- B. Adoption of Amendments to these ByLaws shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of those present and voting.

Both Constitution and Bylaws approved April 1994

Changes to Article VI E of the Constitution and Article III, Section F 3 and Article V 3

Approved on April 26, 1997

Changes to Article I Section 11 and 13 in the Bylaws on April 25, 2009

Revision of Constitution and By-laws, Approved by the Association Action, April 23, 2016