

**CONSTITUTION OF THE ILLINOIS
CONFERENCE
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



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PREAMBLE

1. WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ, formed June 25, 1957, by the union of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the General Council of the Congregational and Christian Churches of the United States in order to express more fully the oneness in Christ of the churches composing it, to make more effective their common witness in Him, and to serve His Kingdom in the world, has adopted a Constitution on July 4, 1961; and
2. WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole head, Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Savior; acknowledges as kindred in Christ all who share in this confession; looks to the Word of God in the Scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world; claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers; affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God; in accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians, recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion; and
3. WHEREAS, the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ has been formed by a consolidation of the Congregational and Christian Conference of Illinois and the North Illinois Synod, Evangelical and Reformed Church; and
4. WHEREAS, the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ, by said consolidation, unites the Congregational and Christian Conference of Illinois and the North Illinois Synod, Evangelical and Reformed Church to conduct all their work and to have all their powers, duties, and obligations;
5. NOW, THEREFORE, the following provisions are adopted as the Constitution of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Article I - Name

The name of this Conference shall be the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Article II - Purpose

The purpose of this Conference shall be:

1. To be a Conference of the United Church of Christ composed of each of the local churches which is now a part of the Congregational and Christian Conference of Illinois, or of the North Illinois Synod, Evangelical and Reformed Church, and all ministers who compose such Conference and Synod and of all local churches and ministers who are hereafter received and granted standing by any Association of the United Church of Christ within the boundaries of this Conference;
2. To continue in this corporate form without break the ecclesiastical and legal identity of the Congregational and Christian Conference of Illinois, and the North Illinois Synod, Evangelical and Reformed Church, to conduct their work and to have all their powers, duties, and obligations;
3. To do each and every thing which a Conference of the United Church of Christ may do in the spirit of Christianity to extend the Gospel, to promote education, and to encourage Christian charity.
4. To promote the life and strength and coordinate the work of the churches and Associations within its boundaries.
5. To foster and fulfill within its sphere the life of the United Church of Christ of which it is a part, including responsibility for stewardship education and for interpreting and promoting the mission of the United Church of Christ as expressed in its instrumentalities and the Conference.
6. To develop a program to meet the needs of the churches and the denomination and to fulfill its mission responsibility in Illinois, and
7. To maintain relations with other ecumenical and interfaith bodies within its boundaries.

Article III - Powers

The Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ shall have the following powers:

1. To acquire by purchase, gift, devise, bequest or otherwise and to own, hold, invest, reinvest or dispose of property both real and personal for such religious, educational, philanthropic and other related work as the Conference may undertake; to purchase, own, receive, hold, manage, care for and transfer, rent, lease or mortgage or otherwise encumber, sell, assign, transfer and convey such property for the general purposes of the Conference; to receive and hold in trust both real and personal property for the churches, boards, institutions and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ or those which are affiliated with the United Church of Christ and to invest or reinvest the same; and to

1 make any contracts for promoting the objects and purposes of the Conference which are
2 not inconsistent with the laws of the State of Illinois.

3
4 2. In general, to exercise any and every power as enumerated under the General Not
5 For Profit Corporation Act of the State of Illinois, and as the same may be amended;

6
7 3. To exercise the functions of an Association when such functions are delegated to
8 it by an Association; or where no such Association exists;

9
10 4. To determine such program staff as it will need; and

11
12 5. To determine Association standing.
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14

15 **Article IV - Affiliation**

16
17 This Conference shall have that relationship to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ
18 as is described in those portions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ
19 2013 edition, and which relates to Associations and Conferences of the United Church of Christ.
20 (Paragraphs 37 53 inclusive and paragraphs 160-180 inclusive.)
21

22 **Article V - Membership**

23
24 1. The membership of the Conference shall consist of all local churches and
25 ministers received into and granted standing by any Association of the United Church of
26 Christ within the boundaries of the Conference.
27

28 2. The governance of the Illinois Conference shall reside in its voting members and
29 may be exercised directly at any annual or other duly called assembly of the Illinois
30 Conference or through and by the Conference Council elected by the Illinois Conference
31 as stated herein or in the Bylaws.
32

33 **Article VI - Meetings**

34
35 1. The Conference shall hold an annual meeting at a time and place to be determined
36 by the Conference Council.
37

38 2. Special meetings may be held as necessary in accordance with the provisions of
39 the Bylaws.
40

41 3. One hundred delegates who are members of in a majority of the Associations
42 shall constitute a quorum.
43

44 4. The voting membership of the Conference shall consist of all ordained, commissioned
45 and licensed ministers holding standing or recognition in its Associations and of one lay
46 delegate from each local church chosen in such manner as the local church may decide. A
47 church of 800 or more members shall have one additional delegate. Members of the
48 Conference Council shall be voting members of the Conference.

1
2 5. At any meeting of the Conference a majority vote of those present and voting
3 shall be necessary for the transaction of any business except as otherwise provided in the
4 Bylaws or Robert's Rules of Order Revised.

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7 **Article VII - Headquarters**

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9 The location of the headquarters for the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ shall
10 be determined by the Conference.

11
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13 **Article VIII - Association**

14
15 1. The Conference authorizes the establishment of Associations within its
16 boundaries at or about the time this Constitution is adopted.

17
18 2. Possible changes in Association boundaries shall be by negotiation between the
19 Associations effected in consultation with the churches involved and approved by action
20 of the Conference.

21
22
23 **Article IX - Local Churches**

24
25 The basic unit of the Association, the Conference, and the United Church of Christ is the local
26 church. The local church, through its membership in the Association, the Conference and the
27 United Church of Christ, has a God-given responsibility for the mission of the whole Church
28 even as the Church has a God-given responsibility for the well being of its local churches.

29
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31 **Article X - Officers**

32
33 1. The officers of this Conference shall be a Conference Minister, President,
34 Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers as the Conference may from
35 time to time determine. Upon the assumption of office, the Conference Minister shall be
36 or become a member of a church which has standing in an Association of the Illinois
37 Conference. Each other officer shall be a member of a local church which has standing in
38 an Association of the Illinois Conference.

39
40 2. The responsibilities and duties of the officers of this Conference and the manner
41 of their election shall be set forth in the Bylaws.

42
43 3. The Conference Minister shall be elected by the Illinois Conference at the annual meeting
44 or at a special meeting properly called for the purpose. The Conference Council shall
45 appoint a committee to secure a candidate for this office, which shall submit one name to
46 the Conference for consideration. The voting members of the Conference shall vote by
47 ballot for or against his/her election and the terms of his/her call as shall have been
48 suggested by the Conference Council. An affirmative vote of 75% of those voting shall

1 be required to extend a call. This call shall be for a four-year term, after which he/she
2 shall be eligible for a renewal of call. In the event of a vacancy in the office of
3 Conference Minister, the Conference Council shall designate a person to discharge the
4 duties of that office until a new Conference Minister shall have been elected and
5 qualified. A motion for dismissal of the Conference Minister may be presented at a
6 regular or special meeting of the Conference providing notice of such a motion has been
7 sent in writing to each church by the Secretary. A simple majority is required to act on a
8 motion for dismissal. The Conference Minister shall give or receive 90 days notice in the
9 event of a resignation or dismissal from that office.

10 11 12 **Article XI - Conference Council**

13
14 1. The affairs of the Conference shall be conducted when the Illinois Conference is
15 not in session by the Conference Council. They shall have such powers and duties as are
16 customary to a Board of Directors under the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of
17 the State of Illinois and as provided herein and in the Bylaws.

18
19 2. The Conference Council shall be constituted as follows:

20
21 a. Four voting members from the Chicago Metropolitan Association, two
22 voting members each from the Western, Eastern, Fox Valley and Prairie
23 Associations, the officers of Conference, who shall also be the officers of the
24 Conference Council, five Association Moderators or their representatives, and the
25 Conference Minister. Other staff as defined by the Conference Council shall be
26 members without vote.

27
28 b. Two voting youth members from the Chicago Metropolitan Association
29 and one voting member each from the Western, Eastern, Fox Valley and Prairie
30 Associations (persons at least 14 years of age, but not older than 22) and elected
31 by the Associations.

32
33 c. The Chairperson of each of the Standing Committees serves on the
34 Conference Council of the Illinois Conference as a full voting member.

35
36 d. The Conference Council shall be empowered to grant voice and vote to
37 representatives of other church bodies.

38
39 3. The Bylaws shall provide for a method of election, meetings, and the
40 responsibilities and duties of the Conference Council, its Executive Committee, and other
41 committees appointed by it.

42 43 44 **Article XII - Corporate Seal**

45
46 The Conference shall have a corporate seal which shall be designed and adopted by the
47 Conference Council.

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Article XIII - Dissolution or Liquidation of Corporation

Upon dissolution or final liquidation of the corporation, the assets of the corporation remaining after payment of its obligations shall have been made or provided for, and which shall not be held upon condition requiring return, transfer or conveyance, which condition occurs by reason of such dissolution or final liquidation, shall be transferred to such religious organization in Illinois, having purposes substantially similar to those for which this corporation is organized, as the Conference Council of the corporation may by majority vote designate.

Article XIV - Amendments

1. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by:
 - a. The Conference in its annual meeting; or
 - b. Any of the Associations of the Conference; or
 - c. The Conference Council.
2. Amendments proposed by the Conference in its annual meeting shall be voted upon at the next Conference meeting after due notice. All other amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Conference at least 90 days prior to the meeting in which action upon them is to be taken.
3. At least 60 days prior to such meeting, the Secretary shall transmit such proposed amendments to the Associations, the local churches, and ministers for their consideration.
4. Adoption of an amendment to this Constitution shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of those present and voting.

CONFERENCE BYLAWS

Article I - Associations

Effective with the close of business of the 1992 Annual Meeting of the Conference, the Conference recognizes the following Associations:

1. The Eastern Association, which is composed of local churches situated in the East Central section of the state, and those ministers who have standing therein.
2. The Fox Valley Association, which is composed of local churches situated in the Fox River Valley section of the state, and those ministers who have standing therein.
3. The Western Association, which is composed of local churches situated in the West Central section of the state, and those ministers who have standing therein.
4. The Prairie Association, which is composed of local churches situated in the Northwestern and North Central section of the state, and those ministers who have standing therein.
5. The Chicago Metropolitan Association, which is composed of local churches situated in the Northeastern section of the state in and surrounding the City of Chicago, and those ministers who have standing therein.

Article II - Voting Membership

1. Every local church which has standing in an Association of the Conference shall be entitled to representation in the Conference by one voting lay delegate, and in addition thereto, each such church shall be entitled to representation by one voting youth delegate (a person at least 14 years of age, but not older than 22). A church of 800 or more members shall have one additional delegate and one additional youth delegate. Delegates shall be chosen by each church, and unless otherwise ordered by the church shall serve for a term of two years or until their successors are elected, except that a delegate's term of office shall terminate upon removal from membership in his/her local church. Each church may appoint or elect one or more alternate delegates, one of whom shall be designated by the church as its voting delegate in the event the regular delegate cannot be in attendance at the annual or special meetings of the Conference.
2. All ordained, commissioned and licensed ministers who have standing or recognition in an Association of the Conference shall be voting members at the annual meeting or special meetings of the Conference.
3. The members of the Conference Council shall be members of the Conference during their term of office.

Article III - Meetings

1. **The annual meeting, also referred to as The Annual Celebration, of the Illinois Conference shall be held in May or June at a time and place to be determined by the Annual Celebration Planning Committee and approved by the Conference Council.**

1
2 2. Special meetings may be called by the Conference Council. The Conference
3 Council shall call a special meeting on request of two Associations or by petition of
4 one-third of the churches of the Conference. Only such business as is directly related to
5 the purpose of the meeting as stated in the call may be transacted in a special meeting.
6

7 3. Written notice of any meeting of the Conference shall be transmitted to the
8 Associations, local churches, and ministers by the Secretary of the Conference at least 30
9 days in advance of the date of meeting, except as provided in Article XIV, Section 3, of
10 the Constitution of this Conference.
11

12 **Article IV - Officers and Staff**

13

14 1. The Conference Minister, under the Conference Council, shall be responsible for
15 the general supervision of the life of the entire Conference. The Associate Conference
16 Ministers working with their assigned Association Council/s shall be responsible for the
17 general supervision of the life of the Association, with the Conference Minister finally
18 accountable for the exercise of their responsibilities.
19

20 a. As an officer of the Conference, the Conference Minister shall be a
21 member of the Conference Council and its Executive Committee; and an
22 ex-officio member without vote of all Association Councils.

23 b. The Conference Minister shall serve as head of all staff. S/he shall be
24 responsible for the regular evaluation of all staff according to guidelines set by the
25 Conference Personnel Committee. S/he shall consult with the Association
26 Councils in the evaluation of the Associate Conference Ministers serving those
27 associations.
28

29 2. The President, *and* Vice-President **shall be elected for a term of two years** in a
30 rotation: First by the Association to which the officer belongs, in the order of Fox Valley,
31 Prairie, Eastern, Western and Chicago Metropolitan; Second by alternating clergy and lay
32 members; Finally, whenever possible, by alternating male and female. **The Secretary
33 and Treasurer of the corporation shall be elected for a term of two years, on
34 alternating years.**
35

36 3. The President shall serve as chairperson of the Conference Council and perform
37 the functions of a president of a corporation. In the event of vacancy during the term of
38 office, succession to the office of President shall be through the offices of Vice-President.
39 Election to the office of President shall, under normal circumstances, occur after a person
40 has served in the offices Vice-President.
41

42 4. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in cases of the
43 President's absence, or by request of the President or until their successors shall have
44 been elected. In the event that the office of President or Vice-President should become
45 vacant with more than 6 months of the term remaining, the Illinois Conference
46 Nominating Committee will be tasked with bringing forth a candidate from the
47 association from which the person who vacated the office was elected for appointment by
48 the Conference Council to fulfill the term. Should the office of President be vacated with

1 less than 6 months remaining in the term, the Vice-President will perform the duties of
2 the President for the remainder of the term and then succeed into her/his full term of
3 President. Should the office of Vice-President be vacated with less than 6 months of the
4 term remaining, the Nominating Committee will be tasked with finding a candidate from
5 the next association in line as listed in No. 2 of this article for appointment to the position
6 for the remainder of the term, as well as for nomination for election to a full term at the
7 next Annual Celebration.

8
9 5. The Vice-President shall be an ex-officio member of the Personnel Committee.

10
11 6. The Secretary shall have such duties as are customary for a secretary of a
12 corporation and shall include keeping an accurate and permanent record of the minutes of
13 this Conference. S/he shall also have such other duties as may be assigned by the
14 Conference Council.

15
16 7. The duties of the Treasurer shall be:

17
18 a. To perform the functions of a treasurer of a corporation, and to assure the
19 integrity of the normal financial functions of the conference.
20
21
22

23 **Article V - Conference Council**

24
25 1. Members of the Conference Council, other than the officers, shall be elected by the
26 Associations they represent for a term of two years, so that approximately one-half of the
27 terms will expire each year. At least one-half (½) of the elected members of the
28 Conference Council shall be laity, and at least forty (40) percent shall be female.

29
30 a. A member of the Conference Council who has served two full terms shall
31 not be eligible for re-election until one year has elapsed after the expiration of
32 his/her term.
33

34 2. The Conference Council, when in session, shall focus primarily on policy making.
35 Programmatic areas shall be developed and implemented by standing committees special
36 committees, commissions, sub committees, and/or task forces appointed by the Council
37 as needed. Chairpersons of these groups shall report to the Conference Council at least
38 annually, with a written report to the Annual Meeting.

39
40 a. Members from the Illinois Conference serving on National UCC Boards
41 and Agencies shall be invited to attend and report to the Conference Council
42 annually.
43

44 3. The Conference Council shall hold at least three meetings during each year.
45 Special meetings may be called by the President, or Vice-President acting on *the*
46 *President's*) behalf, or upon petition of one-third of the members of the Council. One
47 more than half of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.
48

- 1 4. The Conference Council shall report annually to the Conference.
2
3 5. The Conference Council shall have an Executive Committee as follows:
4
5 a. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Conference Minister; the
6 President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Conference, the Chair
7 of the Personnel Committee, the Chair of the Outdoor Ministry Committee, the
8 Chair of the Annual Celebration Committee, the Chair of the Finance and
9 Business Committee (FAB) and the Moderator or designated representative from
10 each Association.
11 b. The Executive Committee shall meet between meetings of the Conference
12 Council.
13 c. The Executive Committee may function on behalf of the Conference
14 Council but is specifically charged to function as the budget and finance
15 committee of the Conference Council. FAB will provide information required to
16 make financial decisions.
17 d. The Executive Committee serves as a final grievance committee for all
18 staff.
19 e. The Executive Committee may appoint special committees, sub-
20 committees, and/or task forces as needed to carry out its work.
21 f. Minutes of all Executive Committee meetings shall be reviewed by the
22 Conference Council.
23
24 6. The Conference Council acts on the recommendations of its Personnel Committee
25 with respect to personnel policies of the Conference, salary grids, job descriptions, annual
26 salary adjustments, and the employment or dismissal of professional staff.
27
28 7. The Conference Council shall have oversight for the development and
29 implementation of procedures for the regular evaluation of the Conference Minister by
30 the Personnel Committee.
31

32 *****Council Officers and Committee Chairpersons are elected and installed at the Annual**
33 **Meeting of the Conference. Committee members are elected at their Association Spring**
34 **Meetings and installed at *the Annual Celebration of the Conference. Terms begin/end at the***
35 ***close of Annual Celebration.******
36
37

38 **Article VI - Standing Committees essential to the function of Constitution:** 39

- 40 1. **Personnel Committee:**
41 a. A Personnel Committee shall be established by the Conference Council as
42 one of its standing committees.
43
44 b. The Personnel Committee shall be composed as follows:
45 1. Four (4) members shall be elected by Chicago Metropolitan
46 Association, two (2) each by Prairie, Fox Valley, Eastern and
47 Western Associations, and the Outdoor Ministry Committee. These
48 persons would serve two (2) year terms to be staggered and with

- 1 each member permitted to serve a maximum of two (2)
- 2 consecutive terms.
- 3 2. The Vice President will be an ex-officio member of the Illinois
- 4 Conference Personnel Committee.
- 5 3. The Conference shall elect the chairperson of the Committee for a
- 6 two (2) year term. A chair who has served two (2) full consecutive
- 7 terms shall not be eligible for re-election until one (1) year has
- 8 elapsed after the expiration of his/her term. The chairperson of the
- 9 Personnel committee is a full member of the Conference Council
- 10 and its Executive Committee.
- 11 4. The Conference Minister shall be a member of the Committee
- 12 ex-officio without vote.
- 13 5. The Personnel Committee may, from time to time, co-opt other
- 14 persons, who may have previous experience in personnel matters,
- 15 as members without vote.
- 16
- 17 c. The Personnel Committee shall report to the Conference Council.
- 18
- 19 d. The Personnel Committee shall:
- 20 1. Administer the process of calling and the dismissal of executive
- 21 staff and presentation of the recommendation to call or dismiss to
- 22 the Conference Council.
- 23 2. Consult with the appropriate Association Council in calling
- 24 Conference executive staff deployed in the Association.
- 25 3. Recommend personnel policies, job descriptions, evaluation
- 26 guidelines, and salary grids.
- 27 4. Receive and act upon performance evaluations of staff from the
- 28 Conference Minister.
- 29 5. Evaluate performance of the Conference Minister.
- 30
- 31 e. The Personnel Committee shall adopt the following procedures:
- 32 1. When an Associate Conference Minister who will serve one or
- 33 more Associations is to be called, the Personnel Committee shall
- 34 form a sub-committee, which shall consist of those Personnel
- 35 Committee members from the Association/s to be served, plus one
- 36 member appointed by the Association Council/s. The Chairperson
- 37 of this sub-committee will be designated by the Chairperson of the
- 38 Personnel Committee. The sub-committee shall, together with the
- 39 Conference Minister, formulate the recommendation to the
- 40 Personnel Committee to call. The candidate will be introduced at a
- 41 meeting open to the entire Conference prior to presentation for
- 42 adoption by the Conference Council. A called Associate
- 43 Conference Minister must be approved by at least a 2/3 vote of
- 44 those present at the Conference Council meeting.
- 45 2. When calling an Interim to fill an Associate Conference Minister
- 46 vacancy, a committee chaired by the Conference Minister and
- 47 including the Chairperson of Personnel and the present and past
- 48 Moderator/s and/or Chairperson/s from the Association/s served

1 and/or Committees/duties included but not limited to will interview
2 and make recommendations to the Association Council and
3 Conference Council for their concurrence. When a vacancy
4 involves an Executive Staff (with the exception of the Conference
5 Minister) deployed throughout the Conference, the interim search
6 committee will be composed of the Chairperson of the Personnel
7 Committee, President, Vice President(s), the Immediate Past
8 President of the Conference, and shall be chaired by the
9 Conference Minister. The Conference President will chair the
10 interim search committee when filling a Conference Minister
11 vacancy.

12 3. In the case of a recommendation for employment of Conference
13 executive staff assigned to the whole Conference, a sub-committee
14 of the Personnel Committee shall be formed of five (5) members of
15 the Committee, which shall, together with the Conference
16 Minister, develop the recommendation to the Personnel Committee
17 to call. The candidate will be introduced at a meeting open to the
18 entire Conference, prior to presentation to the Conference Council
19 for adoption. The Chairperson of this sub-committee will be
20 designated by the Chairperson of the Personnel Committee. A
21 called Associate Conference Minister must be approved by at least
22 a 2/3 vote of those present at the Conference Council meeting.

23
24 4. When a Conference executive staff person deployed in an
25 Association is to be dismissed, the recommendation is to be made
26 by the Conference Minister and the Personnel Committee, in
27 consultation with the Association Council/s and Conference-wide
28 Ministry served, and presented to the Conference Council for
29 action.

30 5. When a Conference executive staff person deployed in the whole
31 Conference is to be dismissed, the recommendation is to be made
32 by the Conference Minister and the Personnel Committee, and
33 presented to the Conference Council for action.

34 6. In the case of the dismissal of the Conference Minister, the
35 Personnel Committee shall make a recommendation to the
36 Conference Council, which, in turn, shall make a recommendation
37 to a special, or regularly called, meeting of the Illinois Conference.

38 39 **2. Nominating Committee:**

- 40
41 a. There shall be a Nominating Committee composed of two members from each
42 Association, one to be elected by the association each year for a term of two (2)
43 years, with the exception of four (4) from Chicago Metropolitan Association, two
44 (2) elected each year) without privilege of re-election for at least one (1) year, and
45 two (2) members appointed from the membership of the Conference Council. The
46 Nominating Committee shall nominate persons to be considered for election by
47 the Conference at its annual meeting except for those whose nominations are
48 provided otherwise. A person who has served two (2) consecutive terms in any

1 conference position shall not be nominated for any office until one (1) year has
2 elapsed.

- 3
4 b. The Conference shall elect the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee for a
5 two (2) year term, without privilege of re-election for at least one (1) year.
6

7 3. Annual Celebration Planning Committee
8

- 9 a. An Annual Celebration Planning Committee shall be established by the
10 Conference Council as one of its standing committees. The Annual Celebration
11 Planning Committee shall have the responsibility of planning the annual meeting
12 of the Illinois Conference, as well as any special meetings of the Conference.
13

- 14 b. The Annual Celebration Planning Committee shall be composed as follows:

15 1. Four (4) members shall be elected by Chicago Metropolitan
16 Association, two (2) each by Prairie, Fox Valley, Eastern and Western
17 Associations, and the Outdoor Ministry Committee. These persons would
18 serve two (2) year terms to be staggered and with each member permitted
19 to serve a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms.

20 2. The President and Vice President will be an ex-officio member of
21 the Illinois Conference Annual Celebration Planning Committee.

22 3. The Conference shall elect the chairperson of the Committee for a
23 two (2) year term. A chair who has served two (2) full consecutive terms
24 shall not be eligible for re-election until one (1) year has elapsed after the
25 expiration of the second term. The chairperson of the Annual Celebration
26 Planning Committee is a full member of the Conference Council and its
27 Executive Committee.

28 4. The Conference Minister shall be a member of the Committee
29 ex-officio without vote.

30 5. The Annual Celebration Planning Committee may co-opt other
31 persons as members without vote.
32

33 4. Finance and Business Committee

34 Executive Committee the second Article VII - Other Committees for implementing the ministry
35 of the Conference:
36

37 1. Mission Support Committee:
38

- 39 a. A Mission Support Committee has been appointed which coordinates the
40 conference-wide support of mission projects and recommends budget allocations
41 to the Conference Council.
42

- 43 b. The Mission Support Committee shall be composed of: Two (2) members from
44 each association, one (1) to be nominated and elected by the association each year
45 for a term of two (2) years with the exception of four (4) from Chicago
46 Metropolitan Association, two (2) elected each year), with each member
47 permitted to serve a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms; plus the chairperson
48 and the Conference Minister or designated staff.

1
2 c. The Conference shall elect the chairperson of the committee for a two (2) year
3 term. A chair who has served two (2) full terms shall not be eligible for re-
4 election until one (1) year has elapsed after the expiration of his/her term. The
5 chairperson of the Mission Support Committee is a full member of the Conference
6 Council.

7
8 2. Outdoor Ministry Committee:
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10 a. The Outdoor Ministry Committee is appointed to oversee the Outdoor Ministry
11 programs, facilities, and personnel in conjunction with the Conference Minister.
12

13 b. The Outdoor Ministry Committee is made up of twenty-one (21) members elected
14 for a three (3) year term, seven (7) elected each year with one (1) nominated and
15 elected by each association, with the exception of two (2) from Chicago
16 Metropolitan Association) and one (1) at-large member nominated and elected by
17 the conference. Elected members may serve two (2) consecutive terms.
18

19 c. The Conference Minister shall assign a member of the Conference staff to serve
20 as an ex-officio member of the Outdoor Ministry Committee and all its sub-
21 committees and task forces.
22

23 d. The Outdoor Ministry Committee, in conjunction with the Conference Minister,
24 develops an annual budget and recommends it to the Conference Council for
25 approval.
26

27 e. The Conference shall elect the chairperson of the committee for a two (2) year
28 term. A chair who has served two (2) full terms shall not be eligible for re-
29 election until one (1) year has elapsed after the expiration of *(the second)* term.
30 The chairperson of the Outdoor Ministry Committee is a full member of the
31 Conference Council and the Executive Committee.
32

33 3. Justice and Witness Committee:
34

35 a. (A) Justice and Witness Committee is appointed which advocates and coordinates
36 the Conference-wide issues and concerns of justice and peace. Its purpose is to
37 help the Conference witness in action and other forms of communication to the
38 Christian mandate to promote peace and justice in our homes, state, nation, and
39 world. As witnesses to God's Resurrection power, the Committee shall endeavor
40 to inspire all to act in a spirit of love which takes away the justification for
41 physical/verbal abuse, violence, and war.

42 b. The Justice and Witness Committee shall be composed of: four (4) from Chicago
43 Metropolitan Association, two (2) elected each year, and two (2) members from
44 each of the other associations, one (1) to be nominated and elected by the
45 association each year for a term of two (2) years Two (2) members from each
46 Association, one (1) to be nominated and elected by the Association each year for
47 a term of two (2) years, with the exception of four (4) from Chicago Metropolitan
48 Association, two (2) elected each year, with each member permitted to serve a

- 1 maximum of two (2) consecutive terms; plus the chairperson and the Conference
2 Minister or designated staff.
- 3 c. The Conference shall elect the chairperson of the committee for a two (2) year
4 term. A chair who has served two (2) full terms shall not be eligible for reelection
5 until one (1) year has elapsed after the expiration of *(the second)* term. The
6 chairperson of the Justice and Witness Committee is a full member of the
7 Conference Council.
8
- 9 d. The Justice and Witness Committee, in conjunction with the Conference Minister,
10 recommends budget allocations to the Conference Council for approval.
11
- 12 4. Local Evangelism, Envisioning and Planting Committee (LEEAP):
13
- 14 a. A Local Evangelism, Envisioning and Planting Committee (LEEAP) is appointed
15 to help administer and steward the Church Extension Funds and other church
16 development and renewal funds as designated by the Conference Council. The
17 LEEAP committee coordinates and provides resources for the development of
18 new churches and the renewal of existing congregations. It oversees programs for
19 the training and mentoring of new church start pastors and lay leaders. The
20 LEEAP Committee may partner with the United Church of Christ national office
21 of Local Church Ministries (or its successor) to assist with its work.
22
- 23 b. The Local Evangelism, Envisioning and Planting Committee shall be composed
24 of: four (4) from Chicago Metropolitan Association, two (2) elected each year;
25 two (2) members from each of the other associations, one (1) to be elected by the
26 association each year for a term of two (2) years; Two (2) members from each
27 Association, one (1) to be nominated and elected by the Association each year for
28 a term of two (2) years, with the exception of four (4) from Chicago Metropolitan
29 Association, (two (2) elected each year), with each member permitted to serve a
30 maximum of two (2) consecutive terms; and four (4) at-large members, two (2)
31 elected each year by the conference, with each member permitted to serve a
32 maximum of two (2) consecutive terms; plus the chairperson and the Conference
33 Minister or designated staff.
34
- 35 c. The Conference shall elect the chairperson of the committee for a two (2) year
36 term. A chair who has served two (2) full terms shall not be eligible for reelection
37 until one (1) year has elapsed after the expiration of *the second* term. The
38 chairperson of the LEEAP Committee is a full member of the Conference
39 Council.
40
- 41 d. The Local Evangelism, Envisioning and Planting Committee, in conjunction with
42 the Conference Minister, recommends budget allocations to the Conference
43 Council for approval.
44
45
- 46 5. Tuthill Commission
- 47 a. The Tuthill Commission recommends the distribution of funds from the Tuthill
48 Trust, which are to be "devoted to foreign missionary purposes under the

1 provisions of the by-laws of the Illinois Conference," to the Conference Council.
2 (Quote from bequest description of Tuthill Trust)

3
4 *****Committee Chairs are elected and installed at the Conference Annual Meeting.**
5 **Committee members are elected at their Association's Spring Meetings and installed at the**
6 **Conference Annual Meeting. Terms begin/end at the Close of Annual Meeting.*****

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8
9 6. Other Appointed Committees:

- 10
11 a. Other committees may be appointed as needed to carry out the mission and
12 program of the Illinois Conference. At the time of the adoption of these current
13 by-laws, some of these appointed committees include:

14
15 Angola Mission and Partnership
16 Disaster Relief
17 Illinois Maya Ministry
18 La Academia/The Academy
19 Ottawa Table (Joint Church and Ministry)
20 Special Assistance Committee
21 Stewardship Committee
22

23
24 *****All Committees shall have a Vice-Chair to be selected by members of the Committee.**
25 **All Committees shall be authorized to recruit additional non-voting persons to**
26 **help with the Committee's work***.**

27
28
29 **Article VIII - Delegates and Alternates to General Synod**

- 30
31 1. Election of General Synod delegates and alternates shall follow the United Church of
32 Christ Constitution and Bylaws regarding age, gender, racial, and ethnic diversity,
33 ordination, and length of term. Attention shall be given to equal representation from
34 Eastern, Fox Valley, Prairie, and Western Associations, with one -third from Chicago
35 Metropolitan Association. Alternates from each association must be elected to fill
36 specific vacancies.
37
38 2. In the event that elected delegates and alternates who meet specific General Synod
39 guidelines are unable to attend General Synod meeting, the Conference Minister is
40 authorized to secure members of the conference who will achieve that balance as
41 delegates, in order to assure seating of the conference delegation.
42

43
44 **Article IX - Rules of Order**

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46 Unless otherwise provided for, all proceedings of the Illinois Conference and of its Conference
47 Council shall be governed by the most current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Revised*.

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Article X- Amendments

1. Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by any Association of the Illinois Conference or by the Conference Council, or may be proposed upon the floor at any annual meeting of the Conference by a written petition signed by at least 50 voting members of the Conference.
2. Adoption of an amendment to these Bylaws shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of those present and voting in the Conference meeting.

Approved: February, 1964

Amended: December 1970

Amended: June 1973

Amended: June 1974

Amended: June 1983

Amended: May 1986

Amended: May 1987

Amended: June 1987

Amended: May 1989

Amended: July 1992

Amended: June 1994

Amended: June 1997

Amended: June 1999

Amended: June 2002

Amended: June 2013

Amended: June 2015

nke: 2015