

Proposed Amendments to CMA Constitution and Bylaws for Action in May 2018

Introduction: The Constitution and Bylaws of the Chicago Metropolitan Association were amended at the May 6, 2017, meeting of the CMA. The most significant change was to the officers of the Association. Prior to the changes the officers were Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Immediate Past Moderator, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Secretary and Treasurer are elected to two-year terms on alternating years. This was not affected by the changes. Under the “old” bylaws, a yearly election was held for a Moderator-Elect who served a one-year term, then assumed the Moderator position for a one-year term, then continued to serve on the CMA Council for an additional year as the Immediate Past Moderator (all this assumed that nothing occurred to necessitate the person step down from the position, such as illness or a change in church location outside the CMA). This required a three-year leadership commitment for candidates agreeing to serve as Moderator-Elect.

Under the bylaws approved last May, the Moderator-Elect office was changed to Vice-Moderator, with a two-year term. The Moderator term was also expanded to two-years and the position of Immediate Past Moderator as an office on the Council was eliminated. At the end of the Vice-Moderator’s two-year term, the person in that position can run for Moderator. It is generally expected that the Vice-Moderator would run for the Moderator position, and if elected would have the benefit of experience of having served the two previous years as Vice-Moderator. The move from Vice-Moderator to Moderator would no longer be automatic, as it was from Moderator-Elect to Moderator under the “old” bylaws. If the Vice-Moderator becomes the Moderator and completes both terms, she or he is making a four-year leadership commitment under the new bylaws.

The need for making additional constitution and bylaws changes this year is due primarily to the fact that the article designating the officers of the CMA in the constitution was NOT amended last year to reflect the changes made to the bylaws. This was an oversight and apologies are asked from the Association members. However, since the constitution takes precedence over the bylaws, we need to now amend the constitution to be in line with the intentions of the Association made with the bylaws changes last year. In addition to the changes affecting the CMA officers, in reading the published copy of the May 2017 changes, several typographical errors and other clerical issues that needed to be cleaned up were discovered.

A subcommittee of the CMA Council was assembled to review the CMA Constitution and Bylaws and to suggest changes to the full Council for discussion, and if approved, to forward these to the CMA churches for consideration at this year’s May meeting. The subcommittee consisted of David Stewart, Lori Taylor, Jason Coulter, and Bill McCarthy. As required under the changes made last May, the proposed changes were submitted to the Association Council within 60 days before the spring meeting. Changes were discussed at the January and March meetings of the Association Council and were approved on March 19, 2018 for submission to the Local Churches for review. The changes will be brought up for ratification at the Spring Meeting of the CMA on May 5, 2018.

A copy of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Chicago Metropolitan Association with proposed amendments was sent out with the call to the Spring Meeting. This document was sent out to accompany the proposed amended Constitution and Bylaws and describes the changes with accompanying explanations for the changes. The proposed amended wording is in BLACK. The current wording (that is proposed to be amended) is in RED.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION:

Note: There are no proposed changes on pages not included in the list below, other than minor typographical changes for misspelling and for spaces between words and sections, which are not specifically noted.

Page 1: The draft status and date of CMA Council approval of amendments/changes to the Constitution and Bylaws is noted. This statement will be removed from the final document if the Constitution and Bylaws, as amended, is accepted by the Association. Also, if the changes are approved, the date of the approval of the revised document will be change in the final copy as appropriate. Throughout the proposed revision to the Constitution and Bylaws, wherever “By-laws,” “By-Laws,” or “BY-LAWS” occurs, the spelling has been changed to “Bylaws” or “BYLAWS” for consistency and to agree with the spelling used in *Robert’s Rules of Order*.

Pages 3-7: Page numbers in the Table of Contents have been changed where appropriate.

Page 6: “E. IMMEDIATE PAST MODERATOR” is removed, as the position was eliminated. “F. SECRETARY” becomes “E. SECRETARY” and “G. TREASURER” becomes “F. TREASURE” to account for the removal.

Page 7: “D. CHURCH AND MINISTRY, MINISTRY TEAM” is changed to “D. CHRUCH AND MINISTRY TEAM,” and throughout the Constitution and Bylaws, wherever “Church and Ministry, Ministry Team” appears it is changed to “Church and Ministry Team.”

Explanation:

When the Constitution and Bylaws were amended in 2017, the Association Standing Ministries, which had previously been referred to “Committees,” were renamed to recognize that they are, in fact, ministries. The Church and Ministry Committee was renamed the “Church and Ministry, Ministry Team,” or the “Church and Ministry Team” in different places. This change is for consistency and to recognize that in living into the 2017 changes, “Church and Ministry Team” is the name that is most often being used.

Page 8: Remove the phrase “(no change in this section)” from the paragraph beginning with, “As an association of the United Church of Christ . . .”

Page 12:

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

A. General

The Officers of this Association shall be Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Moderator and Vice-Moderator will be elected every two (2) years by Association members at their Annual Spring Meeting. The Treasurer shall be elected in even numbered years, and the

Secretary will be elected in odd numbered years, each for a term of two (2) years by Association members at their Annual Spring Meeting. Newly elected Officers shall take office immediately following the Annual Spring Meeting of the Illinois Conference.

REPLACES:

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

A. General

The Officers of this Association shall be Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Immediate-Past Moderator, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Vice-Moderator will be elected every year by Association members at their Annual Spring Meeting. The Treasurer shall be elected in even numbered years, and the Secretary will be elected in odd numbered years, each for a term of two (2) years by Association members at their Annual Spring Meeting. Newly elected Officers shall take office immediately following the Annual Spring Meeting of the Illinois Conference

Explanation:

This is the main change to the Constitution that is needed to make it consistent with the Bylaws. It removes the position of Immediate-Past Moderator and corrects that election procedure for the Moderator and Vice-Moderator to reflect the Bylaws change made last year.

Page 13:

C. Composition

Membership in the Council shall consist of the following 26 voting members and the Associate Conference Minister(s) assigned to the CMA.

1. Officers: Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary, and Treasurer
2. Ten at-large Representatives, at least two of which shall be a Youth Representative (at least age 14 and not older than age 22 at date of election), elected for two (2) year terms with a two (2) term limit, with five (5) members elected each year
3. One Representative from each of the Six Clusters
4. Chair of the Congregational Life Ministry Team

5. Chair of the Church and Ministry Team
6. Chair of the Justice and Witness Ministry Team
7. Chair of the Nominating Ministry Team
8. Chair of the Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team
9. One Chicago Metropolitan Association member of the Illinois Conference Personnel Committee, as determined by that group
10. (1) to (2) Associate Conference Minister(s) assigned to the CMA, with voice but not vote.

REPLACES:

C. Composition

Membership in the Council shall consist of the following 29 voting members:

11. Officers: Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Immediate Past-Moderator, Secretary and Treasurer
12. Ten at-large Representatives, at least two of which shall be a Youth Representative (at least age 14 and not older than age 22 at date of election), elected for two (2) year terms with a two (2) term limit, with five (5) members elected each year
13. One Representative from each of the Six Clusters
14. Chair of the Congregational Life Ministry Team
15. Chair of the Church and Ministry, Ministry Team
16. Chair of the Justice and Witness Ministry Team
17. Chair of the Nominating Ministry Team

18. Chair of the Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team

19. One Chicago Metropolitan Association member of the Illinois Conference Personnel Committee, as determined by that group

20. Associate Conference Minister(s)

Explanation:

The change from 29 to 26 Association Council members with vote accounts for the elimination of the office of Immediate Past Moderator and that as staff members, the Associate Conference Minister(s) serving the CMA properly should have voice but not vote.

Page 13 (continued): “D.” has been added before “Other Council Participants” for consistency.

Page 14:

Correction of punctuation in item #3 (semi-colons for commas).

Page 14 (continued):

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

A. Requirements

Amendments to this Revised Constitution may be proposed by the Association Council or by at least twenty-five (25) Local Churches holding standing in the Association. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Association Council at least sixty (60) days prior to the Association Annual Spring Meeting at which they will be considered. All proposed amendments to this Revised Constitution to be considered for adoption by this Association shall be transmitted to the Local Church no later than thirty (30) days prior to the Association Annual Spring Meeting.

REPLACES:

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

A. Requirements

Amendments to this Revised Constitution may be proposed by the Association Council or by at least twenty-five (25) Local Churches holding standing in the Association. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Association Council at least forty

five sixty (60) (45) days prior to the Association Annual Spring Meeting at which they will be considered. All proposed amendments to this Revised Constitution to be considered for adoption by this Association shall be transmitted to the Local Church no later than thirty (30) days prior to the Association Annual Spring Meeting.

Explanation:

The constitution was amended to require proposed new amendments be submitted to the Association Council no less than sixty (60) days prior to the next Spring Meeting of the Association. This correction reflects that change and removes the old reference to forty-five (45) days what was retained in error.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS:

As with proposed constitutional changes, there are no proposed changes on pages not included in the list below, other than minor typographical changes for misspellings and for spaces between words and sections, which are not specifically noted.

Page 18:

B. Determination of Standing of Ministers

The Association's Church and Ministry Team shall determine the standing of ministers of the Association consistent with the provisions of Article X (D) of the Bylaws to this Revised Constitution.

REPLACES:

B. Determination of Standing of Ministers

The Association's Church and Ministry, Ministry Team shall determine the standing of ministers of the Association consistent with the provisions of Article X (D) of this Revised Constitution.

Explanation:

Article X (D) is in the Bylaws, not the Constitution.

Page 20: "BYLAWS" is added in front of "ARTICLE VI" for consistency with the other Bylaws Articles.

Page 21: Remove the phrase "(no change)" from the paragraph beginning with, "The

Association Council is responsible for . . .” under “E. Implementation.”

Page 21 (continued):

BYLAWS ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

A. Terms

The election of the Moderator and the Vice-Moderator shall occur every two (2) years. The person elected Moderator shall serve one (1) full term of two (2) years, with a one (1) term limit. The person elected Vice-Moderator shall serve one (1) full term of two (2) years, with a one (1) term limit. The Secretary and Treasurer are each eligible for no more than two (2) consecutive full terms of two (2) years each. Serving a partial term shall not be considered a full term for purposes of these term limits. The positions of Moderator and Vice-Moderator shall alternate in successive terms between a clergy person and a layperson. One term a clergy person will be elected as Moderator, and the following term, a layperson will be elected. When a clergy person is elected as the Moderator, a layperson will be elected as the Vice-Moderator. The next term, a clergy person will be elected as the Vice-Moderator.

REPLACES:

BYLAWS ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

A. Terms

The person elected Moderator shall serve one (1) full term of two (2) years, 1 term limit. The person elected Vice-Moderator shall serve one (1) full term of two (2) years, 1 term limit. The Secretary and Treasurer are each eligible for no more than two (2) consecutive full terms of two years each. Serving a partial term shall not be considered a full term for purposes of these term limits. The positions of Vice-Moderator and Moderator shall alternate in successive years between clergy and a layperson. One year clergy will be elected as Vice-Moderator, and the following year, a layperson will be elected.

Explanation:

Where appropriate, changes from “year” or “years” to “term” or “terms,” are made and “clergy” is changed to “a clergy person.” Also, under the old Bylaws, the Moderator was not directly elected and the Moderator-Elect automatically became the subsequent Moderator. Under our new rules, since the Vice-Moderator and Moderate are elected separately, the

sentences pertaining to the lay or clergy status of each of the candidates were added.

Page 22: Remove “E. Immediate Past Moderator,” since the office has been eliminated. Sections “F. Secretary” and “G. Treasurer” then become sections “E. Secretary” and “F. Treasurer,” respectively.

Page 22 (continued) and page 23:

BYLAWS ARTICLE VIII – STAFF OF THE ASSOCIATION

A. General

From Time to time, the Chicago Metropolitan Association may be served by two or more Associate Conference Ministers. In such event, the language in this Article VIII shall be construed in the plural. The Illinois Conference and the Chicago Metropolitan Association shall call an Associate Conference Minister who is an ordained minister with standing in the United Church of Christ in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Illinois Conference and the Revised Constitution of the Chicago Metropolitan Association. The Associate Conference Minister shall be accountable to the Conference Council and Personnel Committee of the Illinois Conference and to the Chicago Metropolitan Association, through the Illinois Conference Minister.

REPLACES:

A. General

The Illinois Conference and the Chicago Metropolitan Association shall call an Associate Conference Minister who is an ordained minister with standing in the United Church of Christ in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Illinois Conference and the Revised Constitution of the Chicago Metropolitan Association. The Associate Conference Minister shall be accountable to the Conference Council and Personnel Committee of the Illinois Conference and to the Chicago Metropolitan Association, through the Illinois Conference Minister.

Explanation:

Bylaws Article VIII consistently references the Associate Conference Minister in singular terminology even though we are currently being served by two Associate Conference Ministers. The subcommittee

believed adding the wording above was clearer and simpler than changing the wording to “Associate Conference Ministers(s)” and making the related grammatical changes throughout Article VIII.

Page 23 (continued): “8. Serve an interpreter . . .” changed to “8. Serve as interpreter . . .”

Page 25:

BYLAWS ARTICLE IX – ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

A. Quorum

Except as otherwise provided, a quorum at meetings of the Association Council shall consist of one-third of the voting members [9 voting members]. For matters involving appeals of the termination of standing for ministry, a quorum of the Association Council shall consist of one-half of the voting members [13 voting members].

For purposes of Quorum and for Voting, if an Association Council member is serving in two or more positions that qualify for Association Council membership, then that person shall only exercise one vote and be considered as one (1) person for the counting of Quorum.

REPLACES:

BY-LAWS ARTICLE IX – ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

A. Quorum

Except as otherwise provided, a quorum at meetings of the Association Council shall consist of one-third of the voting members. [9 voting members] For matters involving appeals of the termination of standing for ministry, a quorum of the Association Council shall consist of one-half of the voting members [14 voting members].

Explanation:

It is unclear in the current Constitution and Bylaws whether an Association Council member who is filling two or more positions that qualify for membership on the Council, for example a Cluster Dean who is also the chairperson of one of the Ministry Teams, has multiple votes. This new paragraph is

intended to specify that persons having multiple responsibilities have only one vote per person. In the case of a Cluster Dean who holds an addition Council position, Bylaws Article I, Section C (5), allows for a person other than a Cluster Dean to represent the Cluster on the Association Council. Also, the number of voting members required for a quorum in appeals of termination of ministerial standing is changed to 13 from 14 voting members to reflect the change in the Association Council membership detailed in Constitution Article VII, C. (on page 13 of the Constitution and Bylaws).

Page 25: “**ASSN. STANDING MINISTRY TEAMS**” is changed to “ASSOCIATION STANDING MINISTRY TEAMS” for consistency.

Page 26: In Section B (2), “Composition,” “**Immediate Past Moderator**” has been removed from the list of Executive Ministry Team members.

Page 28: In Section D (1) [f], “. . . **In-Care status,**” is changed to “. . . Member in Discernment status.”

Page 29: In the last sentence of the paragraph at the top of the page beginning “The Church and Ministry Team shall be responsible for . . .” the word “be” is added to correct the wording to read: “The Association Council will consider these recommendations and recommend an action to be taken by the Association at a duly called meeting.”

Page 29 (continued):

3. Composition

The Church and Ministry Team shall be composed of twenty-seven (27) members and the Associate Conference Minister(s). Members shall serve three-year terms, with one third of the members elected each year. Members shall be eligible for a second three-year term.

REPLACES:

3. Composition

This Ministry Team shall be composed of twenty-seven (27) members and the two Association Co-Ministers. Members shall serve three-year terms, with one third of the members elected each year. Members shall be eligible for a second three-year term.

Explanation:

This change allows for whether the CMA is being served by one or two Associate Conference Ministers. The overall number of members remains 27 since on the Church and Ministry Team, Association

Conference Ministers are in addition to the 27 elected members.

Page 29 (continued): Under Section E (2), “Composition,” “. . . and, as elected by the Cluster, one representative from each Cluster,” is changed to: “. . . plus one (1) member as elected by each CMA Cluster,” to improve grammar and clarity.

Page 31: Under Section H (2), “Composition,” “Co-Association Ministers,” is changed to: “Associate Conference Minister(s) serving the CMA,” to use our current terminology.

Page 33: Under Section 3, the date of last year’s amendments, May 6, 2017, was added to the earlier amendment dates. If the proposed amended Constitution and Bylaw are approved, “May 5, 2018” will be added to the final document.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Dr. David Stewart, on behalf of the CMA Council