

REGARDING THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS & AMENDMENTS

The Conference Council is pleased to present to you the final version of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws for the Illinois Conference.

The Illinois Conference Annual Celebration will be held November 1-2, 2024 in Western Springs, IL. The delegates at that annual meeting will be asked to vote “Yes” or “No” on the following motion:

The Conference Council moves that the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ adopt the proposed revised Constitution and Bylaws in their entirety. The revised Constitution and Bylaws will become effective at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Illinois Conference.

PLEASE NOTE: This is the FINAL version of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws. **Additional changes to these proposed Constitution and Bylaws cannot be made and adopted at the 2024 annual meeting.** The proposed Constitution and Bylaws must either be adopted or rejected in their entirety (as presented) at the 2024 Annual Celebration. HOWEVER, if adopted at the 2024 Annual Meeting, the revised Constitution and Bylaws can be amended at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Illinois Conference by following the procedures for making such amendments.

The Conference Council is also asking the delegates to vote upon one additional amendment to the CURRENT Illinois Conference Bylaws at the 2024 Annual Meeting. (This one amendment comes solely from the Conference Council and not the Governance Task Force). If this motion passes at the 2024 annual meeting, this one amendment would go into effect immediately. This amendment would also no longer apply after November 2025 (IF the new Constitution and Bylaws are adopted at the 2024 Annual Meeting):

The Conference Council moves that the current Bylaws of the Illinois Conference (UCC) be amended as follows: The final sentence of Article V. #3 be removed and replaced with the following sentence: **“A quorum for the Conference Council shall be at least 35% of the voting members of the Conference Council who are in office at the time of the meeting.”**

The reason for this one amendment is that the CURRENT quorum of the Conference Council is “one more than half of the voting members”. In recent years, it has been very difficult to achieve this quorum – because the Conference Council is very large (roughly 40 members) and many Council positions are filled by persons who do not attend the Council meetings. There is no mechanism to remove them or replace them. Therefore, a 35% quorum makes more sense given the current realities. Without a quorum, the Conference Council cannot conduct business—and the Council really needs to be able to conduct business in this important year of many transitions. Hence, the proposed amendment.

The Conference Council invites you to VOTE “YES” on the above two motions.