CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN
NEBRASKA

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I
THE OFFICE AND PLACE OF BUSINESS

A. The principal office and place of business of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska shall be in Lincoln, Nebraska.

B. The principal office and place of business can be changed upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska, hereinafter referred to as the Board and approval by the Regional Assembly.

ARTICLE II
BIENNIAL REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

A. The Biennial Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska, hereinafter referred to as the Regional Assembly, shall be held at a time and place recommended by the Board and approved at the Regional Assembly. Congregations desiring to host the Regional Assembly shall extend invitations via the Regional Office not later than 90 days prior to the preceding Regional Assembly.

B. At its first meeting following the Regional Assembly, the Board, in consultation with the Leader Identification/Nomination Committee, shall appoint members of the Regional Assembly Planning Commission. This Commission shall be responsible for all plans, programs, and details of arrangements for the next Regional Assembly, including the appointment of appropriate task groups. The Regional Assembly Planning Commission shall consist of: the chairperson, the host pastor, the immediate past chairperson, and four members-at-large.

C. Representative Assembly

1. Each congregation may select three (3) voting representatives. Congregations of more than one hundred (100) members may select one (1) additional voting representative for each additional one hundred (100) members or major portion thereof. The number of voting representatives shall be based upon the participating membership reported in the most recent Year Book and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Each congregation, through its official board, shall submit the complete list of voting representatives and alternates to the Credentials Committee of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska with their Regional Assembly registration fee, three (3) months prior to the Regional Assembly.

2. Other Voting Representatives
   a. All ordained ministers of the region with standing
   b. All commissioned ministers of the region with standing
   c. All members of the Regional Board
d. All members of the Board of Nebraska Christian Church and Cotner College Foundation, Inc.

3. No representative shall be entitled to more than one vote or to represent more than one member organization and must be personally present to vote.

4. The Credentials Committee of three (3) members shall be recommended by the Leader Identification/Nomination Committee and approved by the Board. This committee shall receive and record the names of the voting representatives and alternates and certify them to the Regional Assembly. In questions of standing, for ordained and commissioned ministers, the Credentials Committee shall consult the official Directory of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska that has been certified by the Pastoral Leadership Commission.

5. Each congregation is encouraged to register and have in attendance as many persons other than voting representatives as may be possible. All members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are urged to attend the Regional Assembly.

6. All persons who register for the Regional Assembly shall have all the privileges of the Regional Assembly except that voting privileges shall be limited to official voting representatives as described above.

7. The Resolutions Committee shall be composed of five (5) members recommended by the Leader Identification/Nomination Committee and approved by the Board. The Vice Moderator shall serve as Chairperson.

   a. All proposed resolutions presented to the Committee on Resolutions must come:

      (1) By written resolution from the Official Board of a congregation listed in the most recent Year Book and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), duly signed by the Chairperson of the Board of said congregation,

      or

      (2) By written proposal with signatures of twenty-five (25) people who have membership in a minimum of five (5) different congregations cooperating in the Regional Assembly, or

      (3) By written resolution from any recognized board, committee, commission, or task group recognized as having an official relationship with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska.

      (4) All resolutions must be signed manually.

b. This Committee may on its own initiative, prepare and submit such resolutions as it deems proper or necessary for the fulfillment of business before the Regional Assembly.

c. Proposals of new business of any emergency nature may be considered by the Committee on Resolutions at least twelve (12) hours before the last business session of the Regional Assembly is scheduled to begin. The Moderator and the Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee shall rule whether the proposal for recommendation is of an emergency nature.

d. Following the final date for receiving resolutions (90 days prior to the beginning of the Regional Assembly), the Committee shall meet to receive and study all resolutions, and

   (1) Recommend approval by the Regional Assembly, or

   (2) Recommend disapproval by the Regional Assembly, or
(3) Revise resolution in keeping with the original intent and make recommendation to the Regional Assembly, or
(4) Recommend to the Regional Assembly that the resolution be referred to the Board for study and action.

e. The Regional Assembly shall:
(1) Approve said resolution, or
(2) Disapprove said resolution, or
(3) Recommit said resolution to Resolutions Committee for revision, and resubmission, or
(4) Refer said resolution to the Board.

8. The Regional Assembly shall ordinarily meet in alternate years from the General Assembly.

ARTICLE III
ELECTIONS

A. The Leader Identification/Nomination Committee shall consist of the chairperson and persons appointed by the Executive Committee of the Regional Board. These appointed persons shall be from each geographic area of the state that is represented or has been represented by the Cluster guidelines. Should the Cluster structure come back, then the appointment of committee members will revert to Cluster responsibility. 2010-Resolution 1002 (voted on in 2010; reported in minutes 2012)

B. Thirty days prior to each Regional Assembly the Leader Identification/Nomination Committee shall submit to congregations, to registered voting representatives, and to alternates a slate of nominees to fill the offices set forth below in paragraph E. of this section.

C. The Leader Identification/Nomination Committee will nominate persons who actively support the Regional and General Program of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and are active members of their home congregations.

D. The Regional Minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska shall be consultative to the Leader Identification/Nomination Committee.

E. Nominations for the following offices shall be presented to each Regional Assembly for its action.

1. Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Vice Moderator, Secretary, Chair - Budget & Finance Committee, Chair - Leader Identification/Nomination Committee, Chair - New Congregation Establishment Commission, Chair - Outreach, Vision and Witness Commission, Chair - Pastoral Leadership Commission, Chair - Personnel Committee, Two Board Members-at-Large. (See Article IV B. for Board.)

2. Chair - Regional Assembly Planning Commission, Chair - Property Committee.

F. Nominations to fulfill our commitment to denominational, ecumenical and other agency obligations shall be presented to the Regional Assembly prior to the time necessary to maintain the continuity of such relationships.

1. Three members for the Cotner College Commission on Continuing Education for four (4) year terms.

2. Two Directors for the Nebraska Christian Church and Cotner College Foundation, Inc., for four (4) year terms.
The Regional Representative to the General Board, elected every four (4) years for a four (4) year term.

The voting representatives and alternates to the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The number will be determined by the rules of the General Assembly.

Others as determined by the board such as:
  a. Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska
  b. Child Saving Institute
  c. United Ministries in Higher Education
  d. Nebraska Conference of the United Church of Christ

G. These persons shall take office following the Regional Assembly in which they are elected.

H. Whenever vacancies shall occur between Regional Assemblies, the Board in consultation with the Leader Identification/Nomination Committee shall be empowered to fill such vacancies. The persons filling the vacancies shall then be eligible for election to the term or terms of that particular office.

ARTICLE IV
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A. Responsibilities of the Board
   Policy
   a. Receive proposed policy from other regional entities
   b. Propose policy
   c. Prepare policy recommendations for action by Regional Assembly
   d. Establish policy as required between Regional Assemblies
   e. Implement policy
   f. Interpret existing policy
   g. Review and evaluate policy

Ratification of Executive Committee action
Regional priorities
Budget
Personnel
Leader development
Continuing review
Call regional ministerial staff
Program oversight

B. Membership
1. Moderator
2. Moderator-Elect
3. Vice Moderator
4. Secretary
5. Chair or Designated Representative1 – Budget and Finance Committee
6. Chair or Designated Representative – Cotner College Commission on Continuing Education

1 Note: “Designated Representative” is someone appointed for the biennium by the Commission or Committee as the voting member of that Commission or Committee in place of the elected Chair. Such appointment shall be done at the first meeting of the Commission or Committee and the CCN Regional Office shall be notified in writing of this designation.
C. Quorum
1. A quorum shall be fifty percent (50%) of voting members

D. Specific Responsibilities of Board Members and Committees reporting to the Board.
1. Moderator: To serve as Moderator of the Regional Assembly, the Board, and the Executive Committee. Shall be an ex-officio member without vote on all other committees, commissions, and task groups.

2. Moderator-Elect: To serve one term in preparation for Moderator of the Region:
   a. Chair of Continuing Review Committee
   b. Serve as a non-voting representative on the United Church of Christ Board of Directors
   c. Participate, as an observer, in all administrative functions of the Moderator.

3. Vice Moderator: Serve as Moderator when the Moderator is not available and chair the Resolutions Committee. Will have responsibilities for or assign responsibilities for working with standing committees and commissions not represented on the Board. Will arrange for leadership of these groups to meet with the Board as needed.

4. Secretary: Perform the duties of secretary for the Regional Assembly and, the Board.

5. Budget & Finance Committee:
   a. Develop budget in accordance with regional policies, priorities and submit to the Board for action.
   b. Submit financial reports to the Board.
   c. The Board shall select a member of the Regional Staff who shall act as collecting agent for gifts, contracts, correspondence and other documents. All expenditures with the exception of petty cash shall be by check signed by persons authorized by the Board.

   All gifts, assets, and bequests over $500 donated to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska, unless otherwise specified by the donor, shall be transferred to the Nebraska Christian Church and Cotner College.
Foundation, Inc. to become a part of the permanent CCN endowment fund thereof and shall not be subject to encroachment for payment of expenses or otherwise. It shall be presumed that any undesignated gift of $500 or less was made for the CCN operating budget.

d. Insure that an independent audit of regional accounts is done on an annual basis.

6. **Cotner College Commission on Continuing Education:**
   a. The Commission will have a position on the Board for the purpose of ministry and program coordination, and will be guided by the Cotner College Bylaws.

7. **Leader Identification/Nomination Committee**
   a. Recruit and orient leadership within Region.
   b. Nominate members of the Board and the Committee/Commission Chairpersons and others as needed. (See Article III Elections)
   c. Identify potential leadership within the Region and maintain a skills and interest bank.

8. **New Congregation Establishment Commission**
   a. Promote establishment of new congregations.

9. **Youth and Outdoor Ministry Committee:**
   a. The committee shall be responsible for all programs, oversight of all matters concerning outdoor ministry activities including Kamp Kaleo and all staffing (paid and volunteer) of the Youth and Outdoor Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska in coordination with the Nebraska Conference of the United Church of Christ.
   b. The Youth and Outdoor Ministry Committee will be guided by the Working Document developed jointly with the Nebraska Conference of the United Church of Christ.
   c. The Youth and Outdoor Ministry Committee will serve as the Christian Church in Nebraska’s liaison to Kaleo On The River.

10. **Outreach, Vision and Witness Commission**
    a. The commission shall be charged with the responsibility of keeping before the region opportunities for a prophetic ministry, involvement in outreach concerns, and a vision and witness of new and creative ministries.
    b. Be responsible to special Reconciliation appeals. Shall use the funds received through Reconciliation giving for its program allocations. Allocations shall be made such as grants, seed money, sustaining support and emergency funding which meets the guidelines of the Reconciliation Program.
    c. Maintain special covenants and relationships with:
        (1) Interchurch Ministries (IMN) of Nebraska
        (2) Child Saving Institute (CSI)

11. **Pastoral Leadership Commission**
    a. Responsible for the commissioning, ordination, standing, nurture and care of ministers in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska (see The Design, Article VI, paragraph 95).
    b. Shall relate to ministers and congregations in areas of pastoral concern and clergy life.
    c. Shall be responsible for recruitment and the nurture and care of students preparing for ministry.
    d. Maintain special covenantal relationship with Phillips Theological Seminary.
12. Personnel Committee:
   a. Review and recommend revision of personnel policy.

13. General Board Representative
   a. Attend General Board meetings
   b. Reports to the Regional Assembly

14. Members-at-Large
   a. There shall be two Members-at-Large.
   b. Attend all Board meetings.

15. Nebraska Christian Church and Cotner College Foundation, Inc.
   a. Any amendments or changes to the Foundation’s Articles of Incorporation or
      Bylaws shall be subject to approval by the Regional Board of the Christian
      Church in Nebraska and Cotner College Board of Directors.

16. United Church of Christ Representative
   a. Appointed by the United Church of Christ
   b. Attend all Board meetings

301 E. Specific Responsibilities of Other Committees, Commissions, Fellowships and Task Groups.
1. Continuing Review Committee:
   a. Moderator-Elect shall serve as Chairperson and the two (2) immediate past
      Moderators and two (2) others to be nominated by the Leader Identification/
      Nomination Committee and elected by the Board.
   b. This committee shall review the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The
      purpose of this review shall be:
      (1) To examine the Bylaws and determine how they may facilitate the effective
          and efficient business and program of the Region.
      (2) To examine, evaluate, and determine if the business of the Region is being
          conducted in accordance with the Bylaws.
      (3) To make recommendations to the Board and Regional Assembly.
   c. The Committee shall meet at least 120 days prior to the Regional Assembly to
      review the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.
   d. Proposed amendments shall be presented to the congregations for their study
      and to the Regional Assembly for its consideration and action.

2. Regional Assembly Planning Commission:
   a. See Article II B for the responsibilities for this commission.

3. Resolutions Committee
   a. See Article II, C.7. for the responsibilities of this Committee.

4. Property Committee:
   a. Provide for the care, insurance, maintenance and upkeep of all property
      owned and leased by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska.

5. Fellowships:
   a. Youth Fellowship (joint ministry with United Church of Christ)
   b. Nebraska Disciples Women shall appoint a representative to be recognized as a voting member
      on the Christian church in Nebraska Board.
   c. Disciples Men

6. Task Groups:
a. Shall be appointed by and responsible to the Board. The length of the term shall be determined at the time of the appointment. Continuation/dissolution shall occur based on evaluation at the end of the term.

F. Appointments:
1. Unless specifically stated by these Bylaws, all members of the Committees, Commissions, Fellowships and Task Groups of the Board shall be appointed by the Board in consultation with the respective committee chairperson and the Leader Identification/Nomination Committee.
2. The chair of the committee task groups shall be appointed by the respective committee chairperson in consultation with the Leader Identification/Nomination Committee.
3. The members of task groups shall be appointed by the respective committee chairperson and task group chairperson in consultation with the Leader Identification/Nomination Committee.

G. Meetings:
1. The Board shall meet at least quarterly. Members may participate in meetings telephonically or other audio video conferencing equipment by which all participants are able to hear the business as conducted.
2. All other entities shall meet as needed.

H. Terms of Office:
1. Moderator and Moderator-Elect: a single two (2) year term.
2. Members-at-large: a single two (2) year term.
3. Other members: eligible to serve two (2) consecutive two (2) year terms.
4. Unexpired terms will be filled through action of the Board.
5. Chair of Cotner College Commission on Continuing Education: while holding that Commission office.
6. President, Nebraska Christian Church and Cotner College Foundation, Inc: while holding that office.

I. Executive Committee:
1. Responsibilities
   a. To provide advice and counsel to the Regional Minister and Moderator.
   b. If immediate action is required, the Executive Committee will act on behalf of the Board within existing policy.
   c. A report of action taken will be submitted to the Board.
2. Membership
   a. Moderator
   b. Moderator-Elect
   c. Vice-Moderator
   d. Secretary
   e. Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee
   f. Regional Minister (ex-officio without vote)

ARTICLE V
CONGREGATIONAL CLUSTER GUIDELINES
A. Cluster organizations may be formed to:
1. Provide opportunities for sharing, communicating mutual experiences, activity and interest.
2. Provide opportunities for learning and study.
3. Provide a network of support, strength and encouragement for ministers, laity and congregations.

4. Provide opportunities for cluster leader development.

B. Each cluster cabinet is composed of the pastor and one lay representative of each congregation of the cluster. Officers elected by the cluster may include the moderator, vice-moderator, secretary, and treasurer.

C. Clusters are developed for the specific purpose of inter-congregational fellowship and programming. The designated boundaries shall be determined by the specific congregations joining together for a specific purpose. Clusters will be under the guidance and counsel of the Board.

ARTICLE VI
COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIPS

A. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska shall be directly related to and cooperate with the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and its administrative units, commissions and committees, and any other cooperating organization reporting to the General Assembly.

B. Mutual agreement regarding staff and promotional procedures may be entered into between the Board and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and its administrative units.

C. Requirements for covenantal relationships with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska shall be established by the Board. The relationship will be affirmed when the covenanting group:

1. Concurs with the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska.

2. Submits Agency Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and/or Bylaws and Financial Statement to the Board for consideration.

3. Agrees to submit upon request a written report of its Program and Finances to the Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska.

4. Agrees that this membership may be terminated by either the Agency or the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska at the expiration of one year after written notice of a desire to end the relationship that has been given.

5. Approval of the Board and the Regional Assembly upon completion of 1, 2, 3, and 4.

ARTICLE VII
REGIONAL MINISTER AND OTHER EMPLOYEES

A. The Board shall employ such staff as may be necessary to administer and promote the program of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and accomplish purposes for which it was organized.

B. The Regional Minister

1. The Regional Minister shall be the pastor to pastors and congregations. The Regional Minister shall have the authority and responsibility for directing the work of all staff personnel. The Personnel Committee and the Regional Minister shall determine other duties and submit them to the Board for approval.

2. The Regional Minister shall be an ex-officio member (without vote) of all boards, committees, commissions, and task groups of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska and Cotner College Commission on Continuing Education.

C. Other Field Staff and Employees
1. Associate Regional Minister(s) shall be called by the Board. The call may be full or part time as determined by the Board.

2. Responsibilities shall be determined and written by the Personnel Committee in consultation with the Regional Minister and approved by the Board.

3. All ministerial staff should be skilled in pastoral relations and be able to serve as pastor to pastors.

4. As needed, other professional technical and custodial staff assignments may be added by the Regional Minister, with the approval of the Personnel Committee, the Budget and Finance Committee and the Regional Board.

5. The Board is empowered to enter into specific contracts with individuals or groups who have expertise to perform certain tasks or jobs.

D. Ministerial staff members may terminate their employment relationship with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska with sixty (60) days' notice. Their employment relationship may be terminated by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska with notice of sixty (60) days. Other professional, clerical, technical and custodial staff may terminate their employment after at least two (2) weeks' notice by either party.

E. All provisions of this article are to be made a part of the Personnel Policy Guidelines as approved by the Board and the Regional Assembly.

ARTICLE VIII
ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

A. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska shall at all times endeavor to cooperate with other Communions (e.g. comity agreement discussions, those requests for judicatory executives to meet and respond to human needs). It shall be represented by the Regional Minister or his or her representative.

B. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska shall actively seek ways to cooperate with the Nebraska Conference of the United Church of Christ in all areas of ministry, fellowship and worship life of the church. A representative of the United Church of Christ may be invited to any decision making or planning body to facilitate our common ministry. In addition, a Partnership Task Group may be formed to serve in an advisory capacity on any matter where collaboration is desirable.

C. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska shall be a member of the Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska, or its successor. It shall participate in cooperative activities, join in statement of principle and coordinate its program to the extent determined by the Board.

1. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska shall be represented on the Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska Board of Directors by one representative. This representative will be nominated by the Leader Identification/Nomination Committee and elected by the Regional Assembly for a two (2) year term and cannot succeed him/herself more than once.

D. Participation in other organizations, such as the Media Center, shall be encouraged when such programs are in keeping with the purposes of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

ARTICLE IX
RULES OF ORDER

The rules contained in ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER shall govern the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not
inconsistent with the Bylaws of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

Amendment of these Bylaws may be made at any Regional Assembly by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the qualified representatives present and voting, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been published in full in the official publication of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska at least thirty (30) days prior to the Regional Assembly at which action is to be taken, and, provided further, that the amendment shall have been mailed to congregations, registered voting and alternate representatives. The amendment(s) shall be posted at the Assembly.

Adopted as Revised – November 17, 2019 Regional Assembly.

Amended at October 20, 2012 Regional Assembly.

Amended at October 9, 2010 Regional Assembly.

Revised and Adopted at October 19, 2002 Regional Assembly.