

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN NEBRASKA  
BY LAW AMENDMENTS  
RESOLUTION FOR ARTICLE V – REGIONAL CHURCH STRUCTURE (FORMERLY CONGREGATIONAL  
CLUSTER GUIDELINES)  
Resolution 2205**

**WHEREAS:** The Christian Church In Nebraska’s Regional Church Board has engaged in conversations for more than two years, exploring what it means to be the Regional Church today, and into the future; and

**WHEREAS:** The Christian Church In Nebraska’s Continuing Review Committee has worked diligently for more than one year to discern God’s call upon us as the Regional Church In Nebraska, and how to best re-imagine with God the structure that will best support our newly stated purpose *To engage in spiritual practices as we accompany one another and our neighbors so that we can instill, support, and sustain the vitality of the Local Churches in our Region;* and

**WHEREAS:** The Christian Church In Nebraska meets every two years to consider resolutions in its Regional Assembly;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Christian Church In Nebraska, at its Regional Assembly’s Business Session held on November 5, 2022 at First Christian Church in Grand Island, adopt the Proposed Article V to its By Laws as attached to completely replace the Article V of its Current By Laws.

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN NEBRASKA  
BY LAWS  
PROPOSED LANGUAGE**

**CURRENT LANGUAGE**

365 **ARTICLE V**

366 **CONGREGATIONAL CLUSTER GUIDELINES**

- 367 A. Cluster organizations may be formed to:
- 368 1. Provide opportunities for sharing, communicating mutual experiences, activity and
- 369 interest.
- 370 2. Provide opportunities for learning and study.
- 371 3. Provide a network of support, strength and encouragement for ministers, laity and
- 372 congregations.
- 373 4. Provide opportunities for cluster leader development.
- 374 B. Each cluster cabinet is composed of the pastor and one lay representative of each
- 375 congregation of the cluster. Officers elected by the cluster may include the moderator,
- 376 vice-moderator, secretary, and treasurer.
- 377 C. Clusters are developed for the specific purpose of inter-congregational fellowship and
- 378 programming. The designated boundaries shall be determined by the specific
- 379 congregations joining together for a specific purpose. Clusters will be under the
- 380 guidance and counsel of the Board.

**ARTICLE IV  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- 218 5. Budget & Finance Committee:
- 219 a. Develop budget in accordance with regional policies, priorities and submit to
- 220 the Board for action.
- 221 b. Submit financial reports to the Board.
- 222 c. The Board shall select a member of the Regional Staff who shall act as
- 223 collecting agent for gifts, contracts, correspondence and other documents.
- 224 All expenditures with the exception of petty cash shall be by check signed by
- 225 persons authorized by the Board.
- 226 All gifts, assets, and bequests over \$500 donated to the Christian Church
- 227 (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska, unless otherwise specified by the donor, shall
- 228 be transferred to the Nebraska Christian Church and Cotner College
- 229 Foundation, Inc. to become a part of the permanent CCN endowment fund
- 230 thereof and shall not be subject to encroachment for payment of expenses or
- 231 otherwise. It shall be presumed that any undesignated gift of \$500 or less was
- 232 made for the CCN operating budget.
- 233 d. Insure that an independent audit of regional accounts is done on an annual
- 234 basis.
- 235 6. Cotner College Commission on Continuing Education:
- 236 a. The Commission will have a position on the Board for the purpose of ministry
- 237 and program coordination, and will be guided by the Cotner College Bylaws.

- 238  
239  
240  
241  
242  
243
- 244  
245
- 246  
247  
248  
249  
250  
251  
252  
253  
254
- 255  
256
- 257  
258  
259  
260  
261  
262  
263  
264  
265  
266  
267  
268
- 269  
270  
271  
272  
273  
274  
275  
276  
277
- 278  
279
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.

- 294 E. Specific Responsibilities of Other Committees, Commissions, Fellowships and Task Groups.  
295  
296 1. Continuing Review Committee:  
297 a. Moderator-Elect shall serve as Chairperson and the two (2) immediate past  
298 Moderators and two (2) others to be nominated by the Leader Identification/  
299 Nomination Committee and elected by the Board.  
300 b. This committee shall review the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The  
301 purpose of this review shall be:  
302 (1) To examine the Bylaws and determine how they may facilitate the effective  
303 and efficient business and program of the Region.  
304 (2) To examine, evaluate, and determine if the business of the Region is being  
305 conducted in accordance with the Bylaws.  
306 (3) To make recommendations to the Board and Regional Assembly.  
307 c. The Committee shall meet at least 120 days prior to the Regional Assembly to  
308 review the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.  
309 d. Proposed amendments shall be presented to the congregations for their study  
310 and to the Regional Assembly for its consideration and action.  
311 2. Regional Assembly Planning Commission:  
312 a. See Article II B for the responsibilities for this commission.  
313 3. Resolutions Committee  
314 a. See Article II, C.7. for the responsibilities of this Committee.  
315 4. Property Committee:  
316 a. Provide for the care, insurance, maintenance and upkeep of all property  
317 owned and leased by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nebraska.  
318 5. Fellowships:  
319 a. Youth Fellowship (joint ministry with United Church of Christ)  
320 b. Nebraska Disciples Women shall appoint a representative to be recognized as  
321 a voting member on the Christian Church in Nebraska Board.  
322 c. Disciples Men  
323 6. Task Groups:  
324 a. Shall be appointed by and responsible to the Board. The length of the term  
325 shall be determined at the time of the appointment. Continuation/dissolution  
shall occur based on evaluation at the end of the term.

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN NEBRASKA  
BY LAWS  
PROPOSED LANGUAGE**

**PROPOSED LANGUAGE**

This new Article replaces the old Article V which addressed the Regional Church structure by way of Clusters (lines 365-380)

And replaces Committees and Commissions in the existing By Laws in Article IV (lines 218-279 and 294-325).

*The Christian Church In Nebraska is governed by the Regional Church Board.*

**Purpose of CCN:** *To engage in spiritual practices as we accompany one another and our neighbors so that we can instill, support, and sustain the vitality of the Local Churches in our Region.*

The stated purpose as of November 2022 Regional Assembly is In-line with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) *The Design's* statement that the Regional Church has a two-fold purpose of mission and nurture: *take the initiative in developing new forms of ministries in mission, witness, and service; and be concerned for the continuing renewal of the life of congregations, members, and ministers, and offer leadership in matters of mutual concern, providing help and counsel to ministers and congregated in such matters as standing and credentialing of ministers, ministerial search and call, and installations of ministers. The Regional Churches are called, further, to witness to the unity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to call Local Churches beyond local concerns, as well as to work for reconciliation across racial and ethnic lines.*

The Regional Church Purpose (i.e., function) will be fulfilled through a new “form” provided for by four (4) Centers. The Centers will be structured to have no fewer than 5, and up to 7 members each who will engage their specific purposes, with an eye on how each Center is part of the whole Regional Church. The Centers are empowered to establish short-term work groups and teams to complete specific tasks and responsibilities, and commissions for on-going responsibilities.

**A. Center on Church Development**

**Purpose:** *To establish, receive, and strengthen local churches by providing pastoral care and counsel to ministers and members of local churches.*

**Chair:** *To draft a job description of the chair of the Center to be approved by the Regional Church Board at its first quarterly meeting of the biennium and select 4-6 members to serve on the Center.*

**Charter:**

- A. *To ensure that the Regional Church has in place and/or is open to the most up-to-date best practices for establishing new Local Churches.*
- B. *To sustain Local Churches as vital congregations:*
  1. To determine what the Christian Church In Nebraska means by “church vitality” for the coming biennium;

2. To encourage clergy and lay leaders to connect directly with one another;
3. To create clergy learning and retreat opportunities on Church Vitality;
4. To maintain an on-line presence of resources on Church Vitality;
5. To share information on Church Vitality from various resources.

C. *To partner with Local Churches in discerning their future legacy, including foster the legacy of any congregation that discerns that their physical presence is no longer possible.*

1. To work closely with the Christian Church Foundation's resources (e.g., Sacred Stories);
2. To ensure that the Christian Church In Nebraska has updated guidance on Congregational Legacy;

#### **B. Center on Church Leadership**

**Purpose:** *To teach and witness to spiritual practices that enable leaders and emerging leaders to serve the people and the structures of the Local, Regional, and General Church.*

**Chair:** *To draft a job description of the chair of the Center to be approved by the Regional Church Board at its first quarterly meeting of the biennium, and select 4-6 members to serve on the Center.*

**Charter:**

- A. *To ensure that the Christian Church In Nebraska fulfills its responsibilities to commission and ordain ministers, as well as support their nurture and care and ministerial standing.*
- B. *To ensure that the Christian Church In Nebraska provides ongoing programs of growth and education for clergy and lay leaders;*
- C. *To develop, support, and sustain ministries focused on youth;*

#### **C. Center on Church Mission**

**Purpose:** *To relate the local church, its members, and ministers, to the mission of the church and the wider community locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.*

**Chair:** *To draft a job description of the chair of the Center to be approved by the Regional Church Board at its first quarterly meeting of the biennium and select 4-6 members to serve on the Center.*

**Charter:** *To identify ministries in which the Regional Church can incubate, foster, sustain, and/or partner with Local Churches in no more than five areas of mission during the current biennium, and connect such ministries to related General Church Ministries. Ministries may be hands-on initiatives (e.g., refugee resettlement, disaster recovery), trainings (e.g., anti-racism), and/or mission trips.*

#### **D. Center on the Regional Church**

**Purpose:** *To ensure that there is a framework in which the other three Centers are able to fulfill their purposes (e.g., Church Leadership to identify new leaders).*

**Chair:** *To draft a job description of the chair of the Center to be approved by the Regional Church Board at its first quarterly meeting of the biennium, and select 4-6 members to serve on the Center.*

**Charter:** *To ensure that the Christian Church In Nebraska attends to the necessary infrastructure to fulfill its broader Purpose, including an annual budget and financial management, a process for nominating future leadership, adequate planning for assemblies and gatherings, continuing to review the Regional Church's By Laws, and sustaining fellowship groups for Men, Women, and Youth.*