**THE CONSTITUTION**

**OF**

**THE KANSAS-OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE**

**OF THE**

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Most Recently Revised October 14, 2018

**PREAMBLE**

The Kansas-Oklahoma Conference of the United Church of Christ, formed by the union

of the Kansas Congregational and Christian Conference, the Central-South Conference of

the Congregational Christian Churches and the Kansas City Synod of the Evangelical and

Reformed Church, all within the territory of the States of Kansas and Oklahoma, and as

1. these geographical boundaries may be increased or decreased from time to time, in order
2. to express our Christian unity, to make a more effective witness in Christ, and to serve
3. God’s realm in society, hereby adopts this Constitution.
4. The Kansas-Oklahoma Conference of the United Church of Christ seeks to live in accord
5. with and serve as a fellowship of the United Church of Christ. It affirms the Christian
6. faith that Jesus Christ is the revealer of God and the Savior of Humanity. It acknowledges
7. as kindred, all who share this faith, this willingness to serve the will of God and the needs
8. of humanity. It celebrates the heritage of the Christian centuries and seeks to make the
9. heritage relevant to the current world.
10. **ARTICLE I. NAME**
11. The name of this corporation shall be The Kansas-Oklahoma Conference of the United
12. Church of Christ.
13. **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**
14. 1. To continue without break the ecclesiastical and legal identity of the Kansas
15. Congregational and Christian Conference, the Central-South Conference of the
16. Congregational Christian Churches, and the Kansas City Synod of the Evangelical and
17. Reformed Church, within the territory of the States of Kansas and Oklahoma, and as
18. these geographical boundaries may be increased or decreased from time to time, and to
19. conduct their work and to have all their powers, duties, and obligations.
20. 2. To be a Conference of the United Church of Christ composed of each of the local
21. churches which are now a part of the Kansas Congregational and Christian Conference,
22. the Central-South Conference of the Congregational Christian Churches or of the Kansas
23. City Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, within the territory of the States of
24. Kansas and Oklahoma, and as these geographical boundaries may be increased or
25. decreased from time to time, and of all ministers who compose such Conference or
26. Synod and of all local churches and ministers that are hereafter received into and granted
27. standing by any association of the United Church of Christ within the boundaries of this
28. Conference.
29. 3. To promote the interests and general welfare of the churches and authorized
30. ministers of which this Conference is composed and of the General Synod, boards,
31. institutions, agencies and covenanted, associated, or affiliated ministries of the United
32. Church of Christ or which are affiliated with such Church insofar as their interests are
33. within the boundaries of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference.
34. 4. To do each and everything which a Conference of the United Church of Christ
35. may do in the spirit of Christianity to extend the Gospel, to advance true religion, to
36. promote education, and to encourage Christian charity.
37. 5. To acquire by purchase, gift, devise, bequest or otherwise and to own, hold,
38. invest, reinvest or dispose of property, both real and personal, for such religious,
39. educational, philanthropic and other related work as the Conference may undertake and
40. to purchase, own, receive, hold, manage, care for and transfer, rent, lease, mortgage, or
41. otherwise encumber, sell, assign, transfer and convey such property for the general
42. purposes of the Conference; to receive, when requested to do so, and hold in trust both
43. real and personal property for churches, boards, institutions and instrumentalities of the
44. United Church of Christ or which are affiliated with the United Church of Christ and to
45. invest or reinvest the same; and to make any contracts for promoting the objects and
46. purposes of the Conference, which are not inconsistent with the laws of the State of
47. Kansas and Oklahoma.
48. 6. To maintain relations with other Christian fellowships and ecumenical bodies
49. within the boundaries of the Conference to the end that community, mutual
50. understanding and cooperation may be advanced.
51. 7. To exercise the functions of an association of the United Church of Christ as
52. defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.
53. 8. In general, to exercise any, all and every power which a non-profit corporation
54. relating to religious and charitable organizations can be authorized to exercise but no
55. other power. No part of the earnings or assets of this corporation shall inure to the benefit
56. of any individual member thereof, contributor thereto, or for any private, personal or
57. selfish purposes. No part of the assets of this corporation or income derived therefrom
58. shall be given to or inure to the benefit of any person, corporation, or organization not tax
59. exempt under Sub-Title (A) or Sub-Title (B) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United
60. States of America. In the event of dissolution of this corporation none of its property shall
61. be distributed to any person, corporation, or organization not tax exempt under Sub-Title
62. (A) or Sub-Title (B) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States of America and all
63. its property shall be distributed at such time solely for the purposes set forth in Article II
64. hereof.
65. **ARTICLE III. AFFILIATIONS**
66. This Conference shall have that relation to the General Synod of the United Church of
67. Christ as it is described in those portions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the United
68. Church of Christ adopted July 4, 1961, and as amended from time to time, which relate to
69. Conferences of the United Church of Christ.
70. **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP**
71. 1. The membership of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference shall be composed of:
72. A. All local churches in good standing in the Conference, and
73. B. All ordained, licensed and commissioned ministers of the United
74. Church of Christ in good standing in the Conference, and
75. C. Ordained ministers holding standing in other denominations and
76. granted dual standing while serving churches of the Conference.
77. 2. A local church within the Conference boundaries may be admitted to
78. membership in the Conference when:
79. A. Its statement of faith is in essential agreement with that of this
80. Conference,
81. B. It has covenanted with the Conference to assume and fulfill obligations
82. of a member local church as hereafter set forth,
83. C. It has been recommended by the Conference Council for membership, and
84. D. It has received a two-thirds vote by those present and voting at a
85. called meeting of the Conference.
86. 3. The Conference Registrar shall keep an accurate list of all the authorized
87. ministers and local churches that are members of the Conference. They shall properly
88. report those records as required to the United Church of Christ.
89. 4. The removal of a local church from the roll of members may be initiated in one of two
90. ways. First, a local church may be immediately removed from the roll of members upon notice to
91. the Conference Council that the local church has closed or has voted to withdraw from the
92. denomination. Second, a local church may also be removed upon recommendation of the Conference
93. Council and a two-thirds vote by those present and voting at a called meeting of the Conference.
94. 5. When the Conference meets, its voting membership shall consist of the lay
95. delegates selected by and representing each local church which has membership in the
96. Conference, all ordained, commissioned and licensed ministers who have membership in
97. the Conference, the members of the Conference Council and all such other persons as the
98. Bylaws shall provide shall each hold voting membership. Each local church having a
99. standing in the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference shall be entitled to two voting lay delegate
100. and each such church having membership of more than 200 shall be entitled to an
101. additional voting lay delegate for each additional 200 members or fraction thereof. No
102. delegate or official representative at the meetings of the Conference shall be entitled to
103. more than one vote. The control of the Conference shall reside in its voting members and
104. may be exercised directly at any annual or other meeting of the Conference or, between
105. meetings of the Conference, by the Conference Council.
106. **ARTICLE V. MEETINGS AND QUORUM**
107. 1. The Conference shall hold an annual meeting and other meetings as may be
108. necessary at such time and place as may be determined by the Conference Council and
109. upon notice as may be provided in the Bylaws.
110. 2. Delegates from one third (1/3) of the congregations of the Conference shall
111. constitute a quorum for any regular or special meeting, except for a meeting called to act
112. as an Ecclesiastical Council.
113. 3. At any meeting of the Conference a majority vote of those present and voting
114. shall be necessary for the transaction of any business except as otherwise provided in the
115. Bylaws.
116. 4. Meetings of the Conference shall be called as necessary to act as an
117. Ecclesiastical Council in matters of ministerial authorization notice as provided in the Bylaws.
118. A quorum shall be those eligible delegates who attend the Ecclesiastical Council.
119. **ARTICLE VI. MINISTERS AND OFFICERS**
120. 1. The spiritual leader and administrator of the Conference shall be the Conference
121. Minister whose term of office, mode of election and determination of duties shall be
122. prescribed in the Bylaws.
123. 2. The officers of the Conference shall be: a President, a Vice-President, a
124. Secretary and a Treasurer, all of whom shall be in ecclesiastical relation with one of the
125. local churches composing this Conference. The powers and duties of the officers of this
126. Conference shall be set forth in the Bylaws. All such officers shall be elected in the
127. manner and for the terms and shall perform such duties as shall be prescribed in the
128. Bylaws.
129. **ARTICLE VII. CONFERENCE COUNCIL**
130. A Conference Council shall administer the affairs of the Conference between meetings of
131. the Conference. It shall be vested with the usual powers given to directors of business
132. corporations organized under the laws of the State of Kansas and as defined in the
133. Bylaws. The Council shall consist of not less than ten (10) nor more than fifteen (15)
134. members, each of whom shall be in ecclesiastical relation with one of the local
135. churches comprising this Conference except one member may be a representative from a
136. denomination in ecumenical partnership with the Conference. The Bylaws shall specify
137. the exact number of members of the Conference Council and shall provide for a method
138. of election, term of office, meetings, powers and duties of the Conference Council.
139. **ARTICLE VIII. DURATION**
140. The duration and number of years the Conference is to continue is perpetual.
141. **ARTICLE IX. CORPORATE SEAL**
142. The Conference shall have a corporate seal as described in the Bylaws.
143. **ARTICLE X.- AMENDMENTS**
144. This Constitution may be amended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the
145. delegates present and voting at any annual or special meeting, provided notice of the
146. proposed amendment has been published with the minutes of the preceding annual
147. meeting or provided notice thereof has been transmitted to each local church and to the
148. Pastor of each local church comprising the Conference at least six weeks prior to the
149. meeting at which it is to be considered.
150. **ARTICLE XI. INTERPRETATION**
151. From the Constitution of the United Church of Christ: “The autonomy of the Local
152. Church is inherent and modifiable only by its own action. Nothing in this Constitution
153. and the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ shall destroy or limit the right of each
154. Local Church to continue to operate in the way customary to it; nor shall be construed as
155. giving to the General Synod, or to any Conference or Association, now or at any future
156. time, the power to abridge or impair the autonomy of any Local Church in the
157. management of its own affairs, which affairs include, but are not limited to, the right to
158. retain or adopt its own methods of organization, worship and education; to retain or
159. secure its own charter and name; to adopt its own constitution and bylaws; to formulate
160. its own covenants and confessions of faith; to admit members in its own way and to
161. provide for their discipline or dismissal; to call or dismiss its pastor or pastors by such
162. procedure as it shall determine; to acquire, own, manage and dispose of property and
163. funds; to control its own benevolence; and to withdraw by own decision from the United
164. Church of Christ at any time without forfeiture of ownership or control any real or
165. personal property owned by it.”