

**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 these geographical boundaries may be increased or decreased from time to time, in order to express our Christian unity, to make a more effective witness in Christ, and to serve God's realm in society, hereby adopts this Constitution.

The Kansas-Oklahoma Conference of the United Church of Christ seeks to live in accord with and serve as a fellowship of the United Church of Christ. It affirms the Christian faith that Jesus Christ is the revealer of God and the Savior of Humanity. It acknowledges as kindred, all who share this faith, this willingness to serve the will of God and the needs of humanity. It celebrates the heritage of the Christian centuries and seeks to make the heritage relevant to the current world.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this corporation shall be The Kansas-Oklahoma Conference of the United Church of Christ.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

1. To continue without break the ecclesiastical and legal identity 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, within the territory of the States of Kansas and Oklahoma, and as these geographical boundaries may be increased or decreased from time to time, and to conduct their work and to have all their powers, duties, and obligations.

2. To be a Conference of the United Church of Christ composed of each of the local

churches which are now a part of the Kansas Congregational and Christian Conference, the Central-South Conference of the Congregational Christian Churches or of the Kansas City Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, within the territory of the States of Kansas and Oklahoma, and as these geographical boundaries may be increased or decreased from time to time, and of all ministers who compose such Conference or Synod and of all local churches and ministers that are hereafter received into and granted standing by any association of the United Church of Christ within the boundaries of this Conference.

3. To promote the interests and general welfare of the churches and authorized ministers of which this Conference is composed and of the General Synod, boards, institutions, agencies and covenanted, associated, or affiliated ministries of the United Church of Christ or which are affiliated with such Church insofar as their interests are within the boundaries of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference.

4. To do each and everything which a Conference of the United Church of Christ may do in the spirit of Christianity to extend the Gospel, to advance true religion, to promote education, and to encourage Christian charity.

5. To acquire by purchase, gift, devise, bequest or otherwise and to own, hold, invest, reinvest or dispose of property, both real and personal, for such religious, educational, philanthropic and other related work as the Conference may undertake and to purchase, own, receive, hold, manage, care for and transfer, rent, lease, mortgage, or otherwise encumber, sell, assign, transfer and convey such property for the general purposes of the Conference; to receive, when requested to do so, and hold in trust both real and personal property for churches, boards, institutions and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ or which are affiliated with the United Church of Christ and to invest or reinvest the same; and to make any contracts for promoting the objects and purposes of the Conference, which are not inconsistent with the laws of the State of Kansas and Oklahoma.

6. To maintain relations with other Christian fellowships and ecumenical bodies within the boundaries of the Conference to the end that community, mutual understanding and cooperation may be advanced.

7. To exercise the functions of an association of the United Church of Christ as defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

8. In general, to exercise any, all and every power which a non-profit corporation relating to religious and charitable organizations can be authorized to exercise but no other power. No part of the earnings or assets of this corporation shall inure to the benefit of any individual member thereof, contributor thereto, or for any private, personal or

selfish purposes. No part of the assets of this corporation or income derived therefrom shall be given to or inure to the benefit of any person, corporation, or organization not tax exempt under Sub-Title (A) or Sub-Title (B) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States of America. In the event of dissolution of this corporation none of its property shall be distributed to any person, corporation, or organization not tax exempt under Sub-Title (A) or Sub-Title (B) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States of America and all its property shall be distributed at such time solely for the purposes set forth in Article II hereof.

ARTICLE III. AFFILIATIONS

This Conference shall have that relation to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ as it is described in those portions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ adopted July 4, 1961, and as amended from time to time, which relate to Conferences of the United Church of Christ.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

1. The membership of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference shall be composed of:
 - A. All local churches in good standing in the Conference, and
 - B. All ordained, licensed and commissioned ministers of the United Church of Christ in good standing in the Conference, and
 - C. Ordained ministers holding standing in other denominations and granted dual standing while serving churches of the Conference.

2. A local church within the Conference boundaries may be admitted to membership in the Conference when:
 - A. Its statement of faith is in essential agreement with that of this Conference,
 - B. It has covenanted with the Conference to assume and fulfill obligations of a member local church as hereafter set forth,
 - C. It has been recommended by the Conference Council for membership, and
 - D. It has received a two-thirds vote by those present and voting at a called meeting of the Conference.

3. The Conference Registrar shall keep an accurate list of all the authorized ministers and local churches that are members of the Conference. They shall properly report those records as required to the United Church of Christ.

4. The removal of a local church from the roll of members may be initiated in one of two

ways. First, a local church may be immediately removed from the roll of members upon notice to the Conference Council that the local church has closed or has voted to withdraw from the denomination. Second, a local church may also be removed upon recommendation of the Conference Council and a two-thirds vote by those present and voting at a called meeting of the Conference.

5. When the Conference meets, its voting membership shall consist of the lay delegates selected by and representing each local church which has membership in the Conference, all ordained, commissioned and licensed ministers who have membership in the Conference, the members of the Conference Council and all such other persons as the Bylaws shall provide shall each hold voting membership. Each local church having a standing in the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference shall be entitled to two voting lay delegate and each such church having membership of more than 200 shall be entitled to an additional voting lay delegate for each additional 200 members or fraction thereof. No delegate or official representative at the meetings of the Conference shall be entitled to more than one vote. The control of the Conference shall reside in its voting members and may be exercised directly at any annual or other meeting of the Conference or, between meetings of the Conference, by the Conference Council.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS AND QUORUM

1. The Conference shall hold an annual meeting and other meetings as may be necessary at such time and place as may be determined by the Conference Council and upon notice as may be provided in the Bylaws.

2. Delegates from one third (1/3) of the congregations of the Conference shall constitute a quorum for any regular or special meeting, except for a meeting called to act as an Ecclesiastical Council.

3. At any meeting of the Conference a majority vote of those present and voting shall be necessary for the transaction of any business except as otherwise provided in the Bylaws.

4. Meetings of the Conference shall be called as necessary to act as an Ecclesiastical Council in matters of ministerial authorization notice as provided in the Bylaws. A quorum shall be those eligible delegates who attend the Ecclesiastical Council.

ARTICLE VI. MINISTERS AND OFFICERS

1. The spiritual leader and administrator of the Conference shall be the Conference Minister whose term of office, mode of election and determination of duties shall be

prescribed in the Bylaws.

2. The officers of the Conference shall be: a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer, all of whom shall be in ecclesiastical relation with one of the local churches composing this Conference. The powers and duties of the officers of this Conference shall be set forth in the Bylaws. All such officers shall be elected in the manner and for the terms and shall perform such duties as shall be prescribed in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII. CONFERENCE COUNCIL

A Conference Council shall administer the affairs of the Conference between meetings of the Conference. It shall be vested with the usual powers given to directors of business corporations organized under the laws of the State of Kansas and as defined in the Bylaws. The Council shall consist of not less than ten (10) nor more than fifteen (15) members, each of whom shall be in ecclesiastical relation with one of the local churches comprising this Conference except one member may be a representative from a denomination in ecumenical partnership with the Conference. The Bylaws shall specify the exact number of members of the Conference Council and shall provide for a method of election, term of office, meetings, powers and duties of the Conference Council.

ARTICLE VIII. DURATION

The duration and number of years the Conference is to continue is perpetual.

ARTICLE IX. CORPORATE SEAL

The Conference shall have a corporate seal as described in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE X.- AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates present and voting at any annual or special meeting, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been published with the minutes of the preceding annual meeting or provided notice thereof has been transmitted to each local church and to the Pastor of each local church comprising the Conference at least six weeks prior to the meeting at which it is to be considered.

ARTICLE XI. INTERPRETATION

From the Constitution of the United Church of Christ: “The autonomy of the Local Church is inherent and modifiable only by its own action. Nothing in this Constitution and the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ shall destroy or limit the right of each Local Church to continue to operate in the way customary to it; nor shall be construed as giving to the General Synod, or to any Conference or Association, now or at any future time, the power to abridge or impair the autonomy of any Local Church in the management of its own affairs, which affairs include, but are not limited to, the right to retain or adopt its own methods of organization, worship and education; to retain or secure its own charter and name; to adopt its own constitution and bylaws; to formulate its own covenants and confessions of faith; to admit members in its own way and to provide for their discipline or dismissal; to call or dismiss its pastor or pastors by such procedure as it shall determine; to acquire, own, manage and dispose of property and funds; to control its own benevolence; and to withdraw by own decision from the United Church of Christ at any time without forfeiture of ownership or control any real or personal property owned by it.”