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# BYLAWS OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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**AS APPROVED BY DELEGATES TO THE  
2001 CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING**

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## **OUR COVENANT**

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We, the members of the  
Northern Plains Conference of the United Church of Christ,  
do hereby covenant together in the presence of God  
to be a nurturing and prophetic community of the followers of Christ,  
to walk together in deep commitment to God and each other, and  
to do God's will in our personal and community journeys,  
as it is revealed to us through the Spirit and the Word.

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As the people of the United Church of Christ in the Northern Plains of  
North America, we endeavor in covenant to be God's faithful servants as we:

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- Live and proclaim the good news of God's love and God's gift of salvation in Jesus Christ;
  - Welcome all who would join in this pilgrimage of faith, inviting each to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to unite with the church and live as Christ's servants to the world;
  - Care for each other and our world by engaging in acts of mercy, love, justice and peace;
  - Engage all people with God's invitation to embrace healing, forgiveness and reconciliation;
  - Celebrate and uphold both our individuality and diversity that we might rejoice together in community;
  - Grow in understanding and appreciation of each other's heritages and cultures, and uphold them in settings of worship, fellowship, and support within our programs and our churches;
  - Honor individual conscience and local church autonomy, cherishing and nurturing spiritual and intellectual honesty and freedom, while strengthening, upholding, and nourishing our unity in Christ;

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- Join with each other and share in the tasks and responsibilities of our common faith;
- Guide and mutually support one another, empowering each local congregation to carry out its ministry;
- Identify, equip, and place church leaders in the settings for ministry which will call forth their unique gifts as they have been given by the Holy Spirit;
- Nurture the faith of children, youth, men, and women by providing Christian education, fellowship, and outdoor education;
- Extend outreach to establish and strengthen congregations and our presence in regions of growth and decline within our conference;
- Address the hurts, hopes and dreams of our people, creating safe, healthy and productive families and communities, seeking justice and upholding the dignity of all people and the integrity of God’s creation;
- Resist hatred, refuse the aggressor, and shield the powerless;
- Serve through our daily labors as faithful, responsible, and accountable stewards of all the resources given to us by God; and,
- Minister harmoniously within our conference, with the entire United Church of Christ and in ecumenical efforts to build the dominion of God on earth as it is in heaven.

In our response to the gentle, yet persuasive, murmurings of the Holy Spirit of God within and among us, we acknowledge our covenantal relationship in this common ministry and mission, and to it we pledge our mutual fidelity, offering our interests, talents, concerns, wisdom, and financial support. Relying upon God’s grace, we seek to be worthy of and faithful to this covenant to which we have been called.

## **ARTICLE I – SETTINGS OF THE CHURCH**

The Northern Plains Conference of the United Church of Christ affirms the covenantal relationship among the various parts of the church as outlined in the *Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ*. We freely enter into this covenantal relationship to carry out the work and ministry of the Conference recognizing that each ministry has its own mandates, responsibilities and voice. We seek to honor each other’s mandates, responsibilities and understandings by working in consultation and building cooperation as we walk together in all God’s ways.

### **A. CONFERENCE**

1  
2 The membership of the Conference shall consist of all local churches holding  
3 standing in the Conference, and all ordained, commissioned, and licensed  
4 ministers who have been granted standing by the Conference.

5  
6 As established in consultation with the General Synod of the United Church  
7 of Christ, the geographical boundaries of the Northern Plains Conference  
8 shall consist of the State of North Dakota in the United States of America,  
9 and the Prairie Provinces of Manitoba and Alberta in Canada.

## 10 11 B. LOCAL CHURCHES

12  
13 The basic unit of the life and organization of the Northern Plains Conference  
14 of the United Church of Christ is the local church. The Northern Plains  
15 Conference shall include all local churches, located within the boundaries of  
16 the Conference, which by their action have covenanted with the United  
17 Church of Christ and have been granted standing by the Conference.

18  
19 The autonomy of the local church is inherent and modifiable only by local  
20 church action. Nothing in these bylaws shall abrogate or limit the right of  
21 each local church to operate according to its structures and customs, as it  
22 deems appropriate through the democratic actions of its members. The local  
23 church shall have exclusive rights over the ownership and control of any real  
24 or personal property owned by the local church. Neither the local church nor  
25 the Conference may obligate or encumber each other except by specific  
26 mutual agreement.

27  
28 The Conference embodies a covenantal relationship by which local churches  
29 within the Conference voluntarily work together to further their ministry and  
30 the work of the entire church in all its settings.

## 31 32 C. ASSOCIATIONS

33  
34 An association is a body composed of all local churches within a given  
35 geographical area of the Conference and of all ordained, commissioned or  
36 licensed ministers who reside within its boundaries with standing in the  
37 Northern Plains Conference. The bylaws of an association of the  
38 Conference shall be consistent with the *Constitution and Bylaws of the United  
39 Church of Christ* and of the Conference.

40  
41 The Conference shall act as an association on behalf of the churches within a  
42 given geographical area if there is no association, or as may be delegated by  
43 an association, or if an association is not functioning.

## 44 45 D. RECOGNIZED FELLOWSHIPS / CLUSTERS

46  
47 Members of the United Church of Christ or local churches within the  
48 Conference may join together for common objectives in ministry and/or  
49 fellowship through recognized fellowships or clusters. Recognized

1 fellowships or clusters, not otherwise represented, shall be granted voice, but  
2 not vote, at Conference meetings.

3  
4 The Conference through its Standing Committees and Council may establish  
5 recognized fellowships or clusters to facilitate the ministry, activities, and  
6 community of the Conference.

7  
8 The Conference Council may establish policies and procedures for the  
9 organization, structure, accountability and recognition of fellowships and  
10 clusters.

## 11 12 E. AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS AND SERVICES

13  
14 Organizations and services that hold membership in the council for Health  
15 and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM) shall have voice without vote.

## 16 17 18 **ARTICLE II – Ministry & Standing**

19  
20 Authorization for ministry and the standing of local churches within the Northern  
21 Plains Conference shall be determined by the Conference, acting as an  
22 association, in accordance with the provisions of the *Constitution and Bylaws of*  
23 *the United Church of Christ.*

### 24 25 A. STANDING OF MINISTERS

26  
27 Standing of ordained, commissioned, licensed ministers and authorized lay  
28 worship leaders is granted by the Conference, acting as an association. The  
29 purpose of ministerial standing in the Conference is to secure and assure  
30 local churches and their members of qualified and certified pastoral  
31 leadership, and to provide recognition and certification for persons qualified  
32 for ordained, commissioned, and licensed ministry.

33  
34 Ministerial standing is defined and maintained in accord with the provisions of  
35 the current *Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ*, and the  
36 current *United Church of Christ Manual On Ministry*. The Conference may  
37 modify and/or supplement the *Manual on Ministry* through the adoption of  
38 policies that are not inconsistent with the *Constitution and Bylaws of the*  
39 *United Church of Christ.*

#### 40 41 1. ORDAINED MINISTERIAL STANDING

42  
43 Ordained ministerial standing may be achieved by: 1) ordination; 2)  
44 transfer of ordination; and, 3) privilege of call, and is granted by the  
45 Conference in accord with the *Manual on Ministry* and Conference  
46 policies.

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## 2. COMMISSIONED MINISTERIAL STANDING:

Commissioned ministerial standing is granted by the Conference in accord with the *Manual on Ministry* and Conference policies.

## 3. LICENSED MINISTERIAL STANDING AND AUTHORIZED LAY WORSHIP LEADERS:

Licensed ministerial and authorized lay worship leaders standing is granted annually by the Conference in accord with the *Manual on Ministry* and Conference policies.

## 4. REVIEW AND DISCIPLINE OF MINISTERS

All authorizations for ministerial standing are subject to periodic review by the Conference Committee on Church and Ministry acting on behalf of the Conference. The committee shall conduct periodic consultations and information reviews. The committee may at its initiative or upon request conduct a situational support consultation or a fitness review. The committee may suspend or terminate a minister's standing only upon completion of a fitness. A minister may appeal the suspension or termination of standing to the Conference Council on question of procedure to ensure that the minister was afforded a full and fair hearing. Members of the Church and Ministry shall not participate in decision process of the Conference Council concerning an appeal. Such actions shall be in accord with the Manual on Ministry and Conference Policies.

## 5. ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCILS:

An Ecclesiastical Council is a meeting of the Conference called for the purpose of authorization or discipline of ministry. The Moderator of the Conference or the Moderator's designee shall preside at Ecclesiastical Councils.

## B. STANDING OF CHURCHES

Local churches may be admitted and granted standing in the Northern Plains Conference upon completion of a process of application and upon a vote of approval by the Conference.

By a vote of its members in accord with its bylaws, a local church may withdraw from the Conference upon notification to the Conference.

The Conference may suspend or terminate the standing of a local church as a member of the Conference for detrimental actions, which show consistent disregard for the covenantal relationships within the United Church of Christ and which result in injury to the ministry of other local churches, authorized ministers, an association, or the Conference. The standing of a local church

1 may only be suspended or terminated upon a hearing and a vote of three-  
2 fourths of the delegates present at a duly-called meeting of the Conference.

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4 **C. STANDING OF ASSOCIATIONS**

5  
6 The standing of an association within the Conference shall be determined by the  
7 Conference at a regular or special meeting of the Conference. The Conference  
8 may not suspend or withdraw the standing of an association without its consent if  
9 the association has met the requirements of its own bylaws.

10  
11 The geographic boundaries of an association shall be established by the  
12 association in consultation and with the consent of the Conference.

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14 **ARTICLE III – MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE**

15  
16 When convened in annual or special meeting, the assembled membership of the  
17 Conference is the governing authority of the conference and may take any action  
18 it deems necessary and appropriate in the interest of the Conference, except as  
19 may be specifically limited by these bylaws.

20  
21 **A. ANNUAL MEETING** - The Annual Meeting of the membership of the  
22 Conference shall be held in June, normally on the second weekend, at a  
23 location determined by the Conference Council.

24  
25 The Annual Meeting shall provide an opportunity for the membership of the  
26 Conference to receive, review and take appropriate action on the reports of  
27 the officers and committees, and on the activities and policies of the  
28 Conference.

29  
30 The Annual Meeting shall include a financial report of the past fiscal year and  
31 a proposed budget for the next fiscal year. The fiscal year of the Conference  
32 shall be the calendar year. The financial report and proposed budget shall  
33 include the individual salaries and benefits of the professional staff of the  
34 Conference.

35  
36 The Annual Meeting shall adopt Conference policies for the administration  
37 and use of endowment and other dedicated or restricted funds. The Annual  
38 Meeting shall receive reports on such funds, and consider any  
39 recommendations for changes to such Conference policies.

40  
41 The Annual Meeting shall elect officers and members of the Standing  
42 Committees for the terms outlined by these bylaws, consider any resolutions  
43 received from members of the Conference or from Conference bodies, and  
44 consider any other business to come before the meeting in accord with the  
45 Standing Rules for Conference meetings.

46  
47 At least once every three years, the Moderator shall appoint a bylaws  
48 committee to review the bylaws and report its findings and recommendations  
49 to the annual meeting of the Conference.

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2 B. SPECIAL MEETINGS  
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4 Special meetings of the Conference other than Ecclesiastical Councils may  
5 be called by the Conference Council or by petition of one-fifth (1/5) of the  
6 local churches holding standing in the Conference.  
7

8 C. DELEGATE REPRESENTATION  
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10 Every local church holding standing in the Conference shall be entitled to  
11 representation at annual or special meetings of the Conference, as follows:  
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- 13 1. Two adult lay delegates and two youth delegates for the first 50 members  
14 of the church; and,
- 15 2. One additional delegate for each additional 50 members or major fraction  
16 thereof, with the local church deciding on youth or adult representation.  
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19 All delegates must be members in good standing of the local church they  
20 represent. Local churches are encouraged to make every effort to ensure  
21 that their delegations reflect the diversity of their memberships.  
22

23 All ordained, commissioned, and licensed ministers holding standing in the  
24 Conference shall be delegates and have voice and vote.  
25

26 Members of the Conference Council, who are not otherwise delegates, shall  
27 have voice and vote at meetings of the Conference. Members representing  
28 the Conference on a governing board of the Covenanted Ministries of the  
29 United Church of Christ shall have voice and vote at meetings of the  
30 Conference.  
31

32 The Conference meeting may grant the privilege of either voice and/or vote  
33 to other persons as it may determine appropriate and helpful in the conduct  
34 of its meeting.  
35

36 Each delegate shall have one vote on all matters before the conference.  
37 Such vote must be cast in person. However, delegates under the age of  
38 eighteen (18) shall not have vote in contractual property or fiscal matters.  
39 No votes shall be received by proxy.  
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45 D CONDUCT OF CONFERENCE MEETINGS  
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47 The Conference Council shall act as the business committee for the annual  
48 or special meetings, and shall propose Standing Rules for the Conference  
49 meeting for consideration and adoption by the delegates. The Standing  
50 Rules shall govern until the next Conference meeting.

1  
2 The quorum for conduct of business shall consist of one-fifth (1/5) of the  
3 total registered delegates, providing that one-fifth of the local churches are  
4 represented by at least one lay delegate in attendance.  
5

6 Except as may be outlined in the Standing Rules, conduct of business shall  
7 be governed by the Roberts Rules of Order. The Conference Moderator  
8 shall appoint a person to serve as parliamentarian to advise the Moderator  
9 and assist the delegates.  
10

## 11 E MEETING NOTICES

12  
13 Notice of the time, place, agenda, and purpose of annual or special  
14 meetings of the Conference shall be sent to each local church, ministerial  
15 member, Conference officer, member of Conference Standing Committees,  
16 and the officers of the United Church of Christ. The notice of meeting shall  
17 be mailed at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the meeting to the address  
18 of record in the Conference office.  
19

## 20 **ARTICLE IV – CONFERENCE COUNCIL &** 21 **CONFERENCE STANDING COMMITTEES**

### 22 23 A. CONFERENCE COUNCIL

24  
25 The Conference Council shall be the governing body of the Conference  
26 between annual or special meetings of the Conference. It shall be  
27 responsible for implementing and coordinating the work and activities of the  
28 Conference in accordance with the directions established at the meetings of  
29 the Conference.  
30

31 The Conference Council shall consist of the officers of the Conference and  
32 the members of the Conference Standing Committees. It shall meet at least  
33 three times per year. A quorum for the conduct of business shall be a  
34 majority of those entitled to vote at a council meeting. No proxy votes shall be  
35 accepted.  
36

37 The Conference Council shall provide a report of its actions to the meetings  
38 of the Conference. It shall provide for an annual audit of the financial records  
39 of the Conference by an independent qualified auditor, and report the findings  
40 to the annual meeting of the Conference.  
41

42 Members representing the Conference on the governing boards of the  
43 Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ shall be ex-officio  
44 members of the Council and the related Standing Conference Committee,  
45 with voice and vote on matters related to coordination of the Conference and  
46 that Covenanted Ministry.  
47

1 The Conference Council shall establish written policies and procedures for  
2 the operation, administration and staffing of the Conference, and shall review  
3 and coordinate the work of the Conference Standing Committees. Except as  
4 may be provided in the council's written procedures and policies, Roberts  
5 Rules of Order shall govern the work of the conference council and the  
6 standing committees.

7  
8 It may delegate responsibilities and activities to Conference Standing  
9 Committees. It may establish and appoint committees, and task groups as it  
10 may determine to be necessary and useful.

## 11 12 B. CONFERENCE STANDING COMMITTEES

13  
14 There shall be three Conference Standing Committees:

- 15
- 16 - Church and Ministry Committee
- 17 - Faith and Nurture Committee
- 18 - Mission and Outreach Committee
- 19

20 Each Standing committee shall consist of five members elected by the  
21 Conference Annual Meeting.

22  
23 Each Standing Committee at its initial meeting, following the Annual Meeting  
24 of the Conference, shall organize itself and elect a chairperson of the  
25 committee.

26  
27 Each Standing Committee shall recommend to the Conference Council  
28 policies and procedures for the carrying out of its responsibilities for adoption.

29  
30 Each Standing Committee shall report its activities to the regular meetings of  
31 the Conference Council and shall make a report to the annual meeting of the  
32 Conference.

- 33
- 34 1 The Church and Ministry Committee shall be responsible for the standing of  
35 the churches and for the authorization of ministry in the Conference, following  
36 the faith and order of the United Church of Christ. It shall administer those  
37 tasks which support ministers, local churches, and specialized ministries  
38 within the Conference. It shall encourage and assist ministers in participating  
39 in programs of continuing education, and conduct periodic retreats and  
40 workshops. It shall prepare guidelines for ministerial covenants with pastors,  
41 including salary and benefit packages. It shall encourage and facilitate the  
42 ministry of all persons within the Conference.
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- 45
- 46 2 The Faith and Nurture Committee shall be responsible for conference-level  
47 nurture and education programs for youth, adults and recognized fellowship  
48 groups; local church leadership development; outdoor ministry programs; and  
49 other learning and faith experiences. It shall help provide resources for the

1 education and nurture of local churches. It shall serve as a coordinator for  
2 conference participation in regional, national, and ecumenical education and  
3 nurture activities and events. The committee shall promote the growth of  
4 faith in local churches and encourage the use of United Church of Christ  
5 resources and leadership.

6  
7 3 The Mission and Outreach Committee shall call members and leaders of  
8 local churches of the Conference to faithful engagement in service to God's  
9 world. The Committee shall keep the churches aware of the needs and  
10 opportunities of mission arising out of circumstances and issues affecting  
11 God's people within the conference and throughout the world. It shall develop  
12 strategies by which members of the Conference can join with others in  
13 seeking justice and in creating caring communities to express the good news  
14 of God's love. The Committee shall be responsible for assisting and  
15 encouraging local churches in stewardship development and participation in  
16 Our Church's Wider Mission.

## 17 **ARTICLE V - OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE**

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19  
20 The officers of the Northern Plains Conference of the United Church of Christ  
21 shall be: Conference Chairperson, Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer and  
22 Conference Minister.

- 23  
24 C. CONFERENCE CHAIRPERSON - The Conference Chairperson shall be  
25 the executive officer of the Conference, and preside at all the meetings of  
26 the Conference Council. The Conference Chairperson shall serve as the  
27 corporate president of the Conference and sign all documents on behalf  
28 of the Conference as may be required by state, federal, or provincial law.  
29 The Conference Chairperson shall be an ex-officio member of all the  
30 conference standing committees and task groups of the Conference  
31 Council.
- 32  
33 D. MODERATOR – The Moderator shall preside at all Annual and Special  
34 meetings of the membership. The Moderator shall serve as the corporate  
35 vice-president and as the vice-chair of the Conference Council and fulfill  
36 the duties of the Conference Chairperson when needed due to the  
37 absence of the Conference Chairperson. The Moderator shall be an ex-  
38 officio member of the Nominating, Bylaws, and other committees  
39 established by the meetings of the Conference.
- 40  
41 E. SECRETARY - The Secretary shall be responsible for the recording of  
42 the minutes of all the meetings of the Conference and the Conference  
43 Council. Together with the Conference Chairperson, the Secretary shall  
44 sign all documents as may be required by state, federal, or provincial law.  
45 The Secretary shall be responsible for providing notices of meetings and  
46 communications as may be directed by the Conference or the Conference  
47 Council. The Secretary shall be responsible for forwarding proposed  
48 bylaws changes to the membership of the conference and forwarding  
49 resolutions to the meetings of the Conference.

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2 F. TREASURER – The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial  
3 accountability and reporting system of the Conference to the membership  
4 of the Conference. The Treasurer shall assist and advise the Conference  
5 Council and its committees in matters of financial management. The  
6 Treasurer shall make a report of the financial condition of the Conference  
7 to the Conference Annual Meeting, and shall make other such reports as  
8 may be required or directed by the Conference Council.  
9

10 G. CONFERENCE MINISTER - The Conference Minister shall be the  
11 administrative officer of the conference and shall have supervisory  
12 responsibility for the employment and work of the professional and  
13 support staff of the Conference in accord with policies and procedures  
14 established by the Conference Council.  
15

16 The Conference Minister shall be an ordained minister with standing in the  
17 United Church of Christ and shall be a voting member of the Conference.  
18 The Conference Minister shall be an ex-officio member, with voice but not  
19 vote, of the Conference Council, and all its Committees and task forces.  
20

21 The Conference Minister shall be the liaison officer of the Conference in  
22 relationship to the Officers and Ministries of the United Church of Christ,  
23 associations, local churches and ministers, and ecumenical bodies.  
24

25 H. ASSISTANT OFFICERS, & ASSOCIATE OR ASSISTANT  
26 CONFERENCE MINISTER  
27

28 The Conference Council may elect a Council member to serve as an  
29 assistant officer as it may deem necessary and appropriate.  
30

31 An Associate or Assistant Conference Minister shall be a member of the  
32 Conference, and serve as an ex-officio member, with voice but not vote,  
33 of the Conference Council and its committees and task groups, as may be  
34 determined to be appropriate by the Conference Council.  
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## 36 **ARTICLE VI - TERMS, NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS &** 37 **VACANCIES**

38  
39 A. TERMS AND ELECTIONS OF CONFERENCE OFFICERS AND  
40 CONFERENCE STANDING COMMITTEES  
41

42 The Conference Chairperson and Conference Moderator shall be elected  
43 in even numbered years for a two-year term.  
44

45 The Conference Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected in odd-  
46 numbered years for a two–year term.  
47

48 Five members shall be elected to each Conference Standing Committee  
49 for two-year terms.

1 9. In even numbered years, three members will be elected to the Church  
2 and Ministry Committee, two members to the Faith and Nurture  
3 Committee, and two members to the Mission and Outreach  
4 Committee.

5  
6 10. In odd-numbered years, two members will be elected to the Church  
7 and Ministry Committee, three members to the Faith and Nurture  
8 Committee, and three members to the Mission and Outreach  
9 Committee.

10  
11 The Conference Chairperson, the Conference Moderator, and the  
12 members of Conference Standing Committees shall be eligible to succeed  
13 themselves in office for one additional term, having served one full term.  
14 The Conference Secretary, and Conference Treasurer shall be eligible to  
15 succeed themselves for two additional terms after serving a full term.

16  
17 Terms of office shall begin upon the adjournment of the Conference  
18 annual meeting.

19  
20 Upon adoption of these Bylaws at the 2001 Annual Meeting, those  
21 Officers and members of Standing Committees to be elected in even  
22 numbered years shall be initially elected for a one year term.

23  
24 **B VACANCIES**

25  
26 The Conference Council may appoint a person to fill the remaining  
27 unexpired term in case of a vacancy in an office or Conference Standing  
28 Committee.

29  
30 **C. CONFERENCE MINISTER**

31  
32 As is a custom of the United Church of Christ in the calling of a pastor, the  
33 Conference Minister shall be elected to an indefinite term of office.

34  
35 Upon or pending a vacancy in the position of Conference Minister, the  
36 Conference Council shall appoint a Search Committee to seek  
37 applications and to nominate a person to fill the office. The Search  
38 Committee shall include one member from each Conference Standing  
39 Committee and such other persons as may be deemed appropriate by the  
40 Council to represent the diversity of the conference. The Search  
41 Committee shall present the candidate to a duly called meeting of the  
42 membership of the Conference. A two-thirds majority vote of those  
43 present and voting shall be necessary to elect the Conference Minister.

44  
45 The call of the Conference Minister may be terminated by a majority vote  
46 of those present and voting at a duly-called meeting of the membership of  
47 the Conference.

48  
49 **D. NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**

50

1 A nominating committee, consisting of five members representative of the  
2 diversity and geography of the churches of the Conference and including  
3 both lay person and clergy, shall be elected for two year terms at the  
4 annual meeting of the Conference. Three members shall be elected in  
5 odd-numbered years, and two members shall be elected in even-  
6 numbered years. The Moderator may appoint up to two additional  
7 members for one-year terms to ensure the committee is representative of  
8 the diversity and geography of the Conference.

9  
10 The nominating committee shall seek out candidates for nomination to fill  
11 the positions to be elected at the next Annual Meeting, including officers,  
12 and members of the Conference Standing Committees and the  
13 Nominating Committee. The Standing Rules shall outline timetables and  
14 procedures to be followed by the Nominating Committee. In seeking  
15 candidates for positions, the Nominating Committee shall consider the  
16 diversity and geography of the churches of the conference, seeking  
17 representation from both clergy and laity for the officers and the members  
18 of each of the Conference Standing Committees.

19  
20 The Nominating Committee shall report its nominations directly to the  
21 meetings of the Conference. The committee shall be convened by the  
22 Conference Moderator, at which time the committee shall elect one of its  
23 members to serve as chairperson of the committee.

24  
25 The Nominating Committee shall assist the Conference Minister in  
26 developing and maintaining a list of United Church of Christ members  
27 within the Conference who could effectively serve the Conference, and  
28 represent the interests of the Conference on the governing bodies of the  
29 General Synod and Covenanted Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

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## 32 **ARTICLE VII – SEAL**

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34 The Northern Plains Conference shall have a corporate seal, consisting of a  
35 circle containing the words: “The Northern Plains Conference of the United  
36 Church of Christ.”

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## 39 **ARTICLE VIII DISSOLUTION**

40

41 In case of voluntary or involuntary dissolution, the remaining assets of the  
42 Northern Plains Conference of the United Church of Christ shall be held in trust  
43 by the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ and the  
44 Executive Council of the United Church of Christ. Such remaining assets shall  
45 then be made available and transferred to the successor organization(s) and  
46 shall be used to carry out the ministry of the United Church of Christ in the  
47 geographic area served by the Northern Plains Conference and for the purposes  
48 for which the funds were designated.

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1 **ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS**

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Amendments to these bylaws shall be adopted upon a vote of two-thirds of those present and voting at a meeting of the members of the Conference. Notice of any proposed bylaw amendment, including the full text of the proposed amendment, shall be mailed by the Conference Secretary to the membership of the Conference at least sixty days prior to the Conference meeting at which such amendment is to be considered.