

1 **WESTERN ASSOCIATION BYLAWS**
2 **MISSOURI MID-SOUTH CONFERENCE**

3 Approved by the Western Association October 10, 2020
4

5 **Article I: Conformity, Purpose, Polity and Policy**
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7 **Section 1: Conformity with the Articles of Incorporation:**

8 The Western Association is a not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Missouri
9 and registered as a not-for-profit corporation with the Secretary of State. These Bylaws are in conformity
10 with the Articles of Incorporation and nothing herein contained shall be construed as being in contradiction
11 of the Articles of Incorporation or to supersede the Articles of Incorporation in any manner whatsoever.
12

13 **Section 2: Purpose of the Association**

14 The Western Association shall fulfill the role of an Association of the United Church of Christ (UCC)
15 defined by the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ and the Bylaws of the Missouri
16 Mid-South Conference United Church of Christ. The Western Association shall fulfill the purposes for
17 which the corporation is established as given in the Articles of Incorporation, Article Eight (8).
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19 **Section 3: Polity of the Association**

20 This Association is and shall remain an Association within the United Church of Christ and the Missouri
21 Mid-South Conference United Church of Christ, shall order its affairs and conduct its business in
22 covenant, fellowship, and concert with the national settings of the United Church of Christ, the Missouri
23 Mid-South Conference United Church of Christ, other Associations of the UCC, and all other ministries,
24 organizations, and settings of the UCC. These Bylaws are intended to be consistent with the Constitution
25 and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ and of the Bylaws of the Missouri Mid-South Conference
26 United Church of Christ.
27

28 The autonomy of the Local Church is inherent, and modifiable only by its own action. Nothing in these
29 Bylaws shall destroy or limit the right of each Local Church to continue to operate in the way customary
30 to it; nor shall be construed as giving the Association now, or at any future time, the power to abridge or
31 impair the autonomy of any Local Church of the UCC in the management of its own affairs, which affairs
32 include, but are not limited to, the right to retain or adopt its own methods of organization, worship and
33 education; to retain or secure its own charter and name; to adopt its own constitution and Bylaws; to
34 formulate its own covenants and confessions of faith; to admit members in its own way and to provide for
35 their discipline or dismissal; to call or dismiss its pastor or pastors by such procedure as it shall determine;
36 to acquire, own, manage, and dispose of property and funds; to control its own benevolence; and to
37 withdraw by its own decision from the Association at any time without forfeiture of ownership or control
38 of any real or personal property owned by it or any rights therein, belonging to a Local Church of the
39 UCC.
40

41 **Section 4: Policy of the Association**

42 The principles, practices and procedures as outlined in the latest edition of the United Church of Christ
43 “Manual on Ministry” will be used as the primary guide for shaping the policy of the Association. Any
44 changes to the Manual on Ministry will be communicated to the Association at the next called Association
45 Meeting.
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49 **Article II: Membership**

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51 **Section 1: Boundaries**

52 The boundaries of the Association shall include United Church of Christ Congregations west of Highway
53 63 to the Western state line of Missouri, from the north to the south state lines of Missouri, and shall
54 include churches in Fulton, Missouri and Western Arkansas, as well as online/virtual congregations whose
55 legal/corporate address is within the geographical boundaries of the Association.
56

57 **Section 2: Members**

58 Members of the Association shall include Local churches holding standing in the Association (hereinafter
59 referred to as “Local Church”); Authorized Ministers holding standing in the Association (hereinafter
60 referred to as “Minister”) and other persons who are granted membership.
61

62 **Section 3: Exclusivity of Membership**

63 Local Churches holding membership in the Association shall not hold membership in another Association
64 of the UCC or other connectional body which exercises the rights and responsibilities of an Association.
65

66 Ministers holding membership in the Association shall not hold ministerial standing in another
67 Association of the UCC or another denomination, with the exception of ministers with Privilege of Call
68 or Dual Standing; Ordained Ministerial Partners with Standing from the Christian Church (Disciples of
69 Christ) or the United Church of Canada; or persons serving Federated or Dually Aligned Churches.
70

71 **Section 4: Local Church Membership, Admission and Participation**

72 All churches within the geographical boundaries of the Association (as defined in Article II, Section #1)
73 who hold standing in the Association according to the standards and practices as provided in these By-
74 Laws, are members of the Association.
75

76 Churches seeking standing and membership in the Association may submit a request for standing to the
77 Committee on Ministry. Such churches, following a period of discernment, having completed
78 conversations with a Conference Minister and the Committee on Ministry, may be received into
79 membership by an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the delegates present at an Annual Meeting of the Association,
80 after first being approved by the Committee on Ministry and the Association Council. If the request for
81 standing is approved by the Association, the church is welcomed into the covenantal family of the United
82 Church of Christ and granted all the rights, privileges and responsibilities that such a relationship entails.
83

84 Each member church is entitled to be represented at meetings of the Association by two Delegates and
85 two Youth Delegates (a communicant member who is less than 21 years old on July 1 of the year in which
86 the meeting will be held) for the first 100 reported members, plus one additional Delegate for each
87 additional 100 members or fraction thereof up to a maximum of seven Delegates. The number of members
88 listed in the most recently published Yearbook of the United Church of Christ shall be the number of
89 members used for determining the number of representatives which the Local Church may have at any
90 meeting of the Association.
91

92 Local Churches are requested to live into their covenantal relationship as Association members by:

- 93 • Developing and nurturing the life and vitality of the Wider Church
- 94 • Participating in the work and worship of the Association
- 95 • Nurturing partnerships with other churches through clusters and other Wider Church activities
- 96 • Seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our partnership and mission
- 97 • Contributing a per-member dollar amount as voted by the Association at an Annual Meeting.

98
99 The membership of a Local Church within the Association may come to an end in the following ways:
100 • A member church may, by its own request, be removed from the roll of members. Such a request
101 must be submitted in writing to the Association Council by an officially recognized officer of the
102 church, for purposes of notification and record. The written request must be accompanied by the
103 official minutes of the Congregational Meeting at which a vote to withdraw was taken.
104 • When a church closes. A church considering closing is encouraged to contact the Association
105 Council and the Conference Minister for purposes of counsel, guidance, notification and record.
106 • By action of 2/3 of the delegates present at the Annual Meeting of the Association, upon
107 recommendation of the Association Council, after receiving such recommendation from the
108 Committee on Ministry.
109 • All closings and withdrawals from membership are to be noted at the Annual Meeting of the
110 Association and the Conference Office is to be notified immediately after the action is taken.
111

112 **Section 5: Ministers**

113 All Authorized Ministers holding standing within the Association are members of the Association and
114 shall have voting rights in the Association. Standing shall be determined by the Committee on Ministry,
115 using the guidelines of the UCC By-Laws and the United Church of Christ “Manual on Ministry.”
116

117 Membership of Authorized Ministers in the Association may be revoked in accordance with provisions
118 stated in Article V, Section 5 of these By-Laws.
119

120 **Section 6: Other Members**

121 Persons who are Directors of Christian Education in Local Churches and who have been certified by the
122 Worship and Education Ministry of Local Church Ministries of the UCC are members of the Association
123 and shall have voice and vote at all meetings of the Association.
124

125 The Conference Minister, Associate Conference Ministers, and delegates to the General Synod of the
126 UCC from the Missouri Mid-South Conference UCC and official representatives to the Association from
127 other ministries and settings of the UCC are honorary members of the Association and shall have voice
128 but no vote at any meeting of the Association.
129

130 Lay Members of the Association Council and the Committee on Ministry who are not named as voting
131 delegates by the Local Churches of which they are members are members of the Association and have
132 voice and vote at all meetings of the Association.
133

134 Any person having been granted standing as a Member in Discernment of the Association shall be a
135 member of the Association and shall have voice and vote at all Association Meetings.
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139 **Article III: Association Meetings**

140 **Section 1: Annual Meetings**

142 The Association shall meet annually at a time and place determined by the Association Council to elect
143 members to the Association Council, to elect members to the Committee on Ministry, and to conduct any
144 other business that shall properly come before the Association.
145

146 At each Annual Meeting, the Moderator of the Association shall report on the spiritual state of the
147 Association, the Secretary and Treasurer of the Association shall report on the activities and financial
148 condition of the Association since the last annual meeting, and the Chair of the Committee on Ministry
149 shall report the actions it has taken since the last Annual Meeting.
150

151 At each Annual Meeting the Association shall elect a sufficient number of members to fill all vacancies
152 on the Association Council and the Committee on Ministry.
153

154 The terms of all Council members and members of the Committee on Ministry shall begin immediately
155 after the Annual Meeting at which they are elected.
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157 **Section 2: Special Meetings** 158

159 A Special Meeting shall be convened at the Call of the Moderator of the Association upon the request of
160 the Committee on Ministry or by written request of the Board or Council of ten (10) Local Churches of
161 the Association and/or ten (10) ministers holding standing in the Association.
162

163 A Special Meeting will consist of representatives as defined in Article II, Section 4, Paragraph 2.
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165 The Moderator of the Association shall preside at all Special Meetings.
166

167 **Section 3: Quorum**

168 A quorum for the Annual Meeting or any Special meeting shall consist of lay delegates from at least ten
169 (10) Local Churches and at least ten (10) Ministers authorized by the Association, including at least one
170 (1) person from at least three (3) of the four (4) Area Clusters.
171

172 **Section 4: Parliamentary Authority**

173 The rules contained in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all Association Meetings
174 in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with these By-Laws, the Articles
175 of Incorporation, or any special rules of order the Association may adopt.
176

177 **Section 5: Notice of Meetings Required**

178 Written notice of Annual Meetings and Special Meetings shall be given by the Association Council to the
179 Members of the Association. Notice of Meeting shall include the time, date, and location at which the
180 meeting is to be held. In case of Annual Meetings, Notice shall be mailed or electronically communicated
181 ninety (90) days before the date of the meeting.
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183 Notices for Special Meetings shall include a specific and detailed description of the matter or matters for
184 which the Special Meeting is called. No item not described in the Notice shall be discussed or determined
185 at any Special Meeting. In case of Special Meetings, Notice shall be mailed or electronically
186 communicated thirty (30) days before the date of the meeting.
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188 Notice of all meetings will also be conveyed utilizing social media.
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190 **Section 6: Other Meetings**

191 The Association, or members of the Association, may gather at any other time or place for fellowship,
192 worship, education, or other matters which shall further the purposes of the Association. Such gatherings
193 may not take actions or make statements in the name of the Association.
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Article IV: The Association Council

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Section 1: Purpose

The Association Council shall be the governing body of the Association subject to the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws and the actions or instructions of the Association Annual Meetings. They shall make all final decisions regarding Association policies and their interpretation.

Section 2: Meetings

The Association Council shall meet at least quarterly at a time and place of its choosing and at other times and places as it shall deem necessary for the carrying out of the business of the Association.

Section 3: Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the latest edition of Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern all Association Council Meetings in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with these By-Laws, the Articles of Incorporation, or any special rules of order the Association Council may adopt.

Section 4: Organization

The Association Council shall consist of the four Officers of the Association (**Moderator, Vice Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer**); a representative from the Committee on Ministry, representatives from the Association Standing Ministry Teams (Communications Ministry, Youth Ministry, Pastoral Care Ministry and Social Justice Ministry), and representatives from the four area clusters. All of these positions will be voting members of the Council. All terms of office will be for two years. After serving four consecutive years (two terms) no Council Member shall be eligible for re-election until a one-year period has passed. Any vacancies on Association Council or Committee on Ministry between elections shall be filled by the Association Council, in consultation with the ministry represented.

The Association Council shall be elected according to the following schedule:

Even Numbered Years: Moderator, Vice Moderator, and representatives from the Committee on Ministry, Communications Ministry Team, Youth Ministry Team, Lafayette Cluster and Ozark Cluster.

Odd Numbered Years: Secretary, Treasurer, and representatives from the Pastoral Care Ministry Team, Social Justice Ministry Team, Central Cluster and Kansas City/St. Joseph Cluster.

The Association Council shall strive to be as equitable as possible representing both clergy and lay members of the Association, and in regard to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity.

The Association Council shall appoint a Nominating Committee at least three months prior to the Annual Meeting of the Association to nominate a slate of candidates for election to the Association Council, the Committee on Ministry, and any other committees or task forces needed.

Section 5: Duties

The Duties of the Officers of the Association/Association Council shall be those which fall generally to their respective offices according to the latest edition of Robert’s Rules of Order. In addition, the Moderator of the Association shall be an ex-officio member of all Committees, Ministry Teams or Task Forces of the Association with voice but without vote.

Oversight of the Association Treasury is the responsibility of the duly-elected Treasurer and the Association Council. Treasury funds will be used to support the work of Association committees and programming, the theological training of pastors (including the required psychological testing for “Members in Discernment”), and other needs or new possibilities as identified by the Association Council.

246 **Section 6: Quorum**
247 A quorum for meetings of the Association Council shall consist of at least two (2) of the Officers and five
248 (5) of the other Council members from at least two of the Area Clusters.
249

250 **Section 7: Temporary Appointments**
251 The Association Council may appoint any persons integral to the work of the Association Council as
252 temporary members of the Association Council with full voice but not vote at all meetings of the
253 Association Council.
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255 **Section 8: Task Forces/Ad Hoc Committees**
256 The Association Council may form or organize such committees or task forces as deemed necessary and
257 expedient for carrying out the business of the Association.
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260 **Article V: Committee on Ministry**

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262 **Section 1: Purpose**
263 The Committee on Ministry is that body which is responsible for maintaining the sacred covenant by
264 which the United Church of Christ is held together in essential unity as the Body of Christ through its
265 work on authorizing ministers and churches in the Western Association.
266

267 **Section 2: Guidance**
268 Pursuant to Article I, Section 4 and Article V, Section 1, the Committee on Ministry is to be guided in its
269 work by all policies adopted by the Association Council relating to Committee on Ministry matters, and
270 by the most recent edition of the Manual on Ministry of the United Church of Christ which is made a part
271 of these bylaws.
272

273 **Section 3: Organization**
274 The Committee on Ministry shall consist of twelve (12) persons. Four (4) members shall be elected each
275 year by the Association at its Annual Meeting and shall serve a term of three (3) years with eligibility for
276 election to a second three (3) year term. No members of the Committee on Ministry shall serve for more
277 than two (2) consecutive terms. Persons filling unexpired terms will be eligible for election to two (2)
278 terms after filling the duration of the unexpired term. Every effort should be made to ensure geographic
279 equity is represented; at least three (3) of the four (4) geographic areas of the Association shall be
280 represented at any given time.
281

282 The Committee on Ministry shall strive to be as equitable as possible representing both clergy and lay
283 members of the Association, and in regard to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity.
284

285 At the first meeting of the Committee on Ministry following each Annual Meeting of the Association, the
286 Committee shall elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary/Registrar. Members of the Committee may
287 serve successive terms as Chair, Vice-Chair or Secretary/Registrar during their term on the Committee.
288 The Chair and Vice-Chair shall perform the usual and customary duties associated with such offices. The
289 Secretary/Registrar shall keep full and accurate minutes of all meetings and shall complete and submit
290 official records of ordinations, transfers, and all other matters carried out by the Committee to the proper
291 offices and settings within the Conference and the National UCC.
292

293 The Association Council Moderator or a designated representative shall be a member of the Committee
294 on Ministry with full voice but shall not vote on any matters brought before the Committee on Ministry.
295

296 **Section 4: The Committee on Ministry and Local Churches**

297 The Committee on Ministry is charged with the maintenance of the covenant bonds between Local
298 Churches and between Local Churches and the Association and, through the Association, to other settings
299 of the United Church of Christ. To do so, the Committee on Ministry shall provide opportunity for Local
300 Churches to share with one another and the Committee the life and ministry of that Local Church and to
301 seek the covenantal perspective of other Local Churches and the Committee on that church's life and
302 ministry.
303

304 Recognizing that conflict sometimes arises within any human endeavor and that the church is not exempt
305 from conflict, the Committee on Ministry is to be open to receiving and shall respond to any invitation to
306 assist Local Churches in resolving internal conflict, resolving conflict between churches, resolving
307 conflict between a Local Church and its pastor or pastors, and resolving issues of disagreement which may
308 arise over actions taken by other Local Churches or other settings of the United Church of Christ.
309

310 Mindful that the Committee on Ministry may not in any way compromise the local autonomy of any Local
311 Church in any matter, the Committee is never-the-less enjoined to seek every opportunity and avenue to
312 open lines of communication that each Local Church may have the benefit of the perspective of other
313 Local Churches and the Committee upon its life and ministry.
314

315 The Committee on Ministry may release a Local Church from Membership in the Association when that
316 church requests such a release or by initiating procedures to remove that church from membership in the
317 Association pursuant to Article II, Section 4. Churches whose possible release is not of their own request
318 shall be notified in writing at least 30 days before the Annual meeting at which that action will be on the
319 agenda.
320

321 **Section 5: The Committee on Ministry and Authorized Ministers**

322 The Committee on Ministry is entrusted with primary responsibility for maintaining the sacred covenant
323 between authorized ministers who hold, who may come to hold, and who shall seek to hold standing in
324 this Association and the whole United Church of Christ.
325

326 The Committee on Ministry shall act in all matters relating to the granting or the transfer of standing of
327 ordained ministers, the granting of Privilege of Call or Dual Standing, the granting of full Ordained
328 Ministerial Partner Standing to ministers of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) or the United
329 Church of Canada, the granting of standing as a Member in Discernment of the Association, the
330 installation of ministers, the granting of standing as licensed or commissioned ministers, ecclesiastical
331 endorsement and approval of persons for certification by professional organizations, government
332 chaplaincies, and chaplaincy programs, the periodic review of ministers, the granting or continuation of
333 leaves of absence, the discipline of ministers, and the termination of standing as an Authorized minister.
334

335 **Section 6: Quorum**

336 A quorum for meetings of the Committee on Ministry shall consist of seven members then in office.
337

338 **Section 7: Action of the Committee Final**

339 The Action of the Committee on Ministry in all matters related to its responsibilities pursuant to Article
340 V, Section 5 shall be final and is the action of the Association, except in the appeal of a Fitness Review.
341

342 **Section 8: Appealing a Fitness Review**

343 A request for an appeal of a "Fitness Review" must be made in writing to the Association Council within
344 thirty (30) days of the Committee on Ministry's decision. The appeal can only question whether the
345 Committee on Ministry properly followed the procedure for a "Fitness Review" as outlined in the Manual

346 on Ministry. The written appeal must contain specific descriptions of the Committee on Ministry's failure
347 to follow the procedure outlined in the Manual on Ministry. The two outcomes of the appeal are: 1) the
348 Association Council reaffirms the Committee on Ministry's decision; or 2) if the Association Council
349 determines that the Committee on Ministry failed to follow the procedure in the Manual on Ministry and
350 the Association Council shall instruct the Committee on Ministry to re-examine the matter following the
351 procedure as outlined in the Manual on Ministry. No matter may be appealed from the Committee on
352 Ministry more than once.

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Article VI: Standing Ministry Teams

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Section 1: Definition

357 The Standing Ministry Teams of the Western Association shall be the Communications Ministry Team,
358 the Youth Ministry Team, the Pastoral Care Ministry Team and the Social Justice Ministry Team.

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360 Each Standing Ministry Team will provide an accurate description of its mission and work annually to the
361 Association Council and the Nominating Team, and a regular report of activity and finances to the
362 Association Council and the Annual Meeting of the Association.

363

Section 2: Structure

365 Each Ministry Team shall consist of at least four (4) members representing each of the four (4) area
366 clusters; one of whom shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Association who shall represent the
367 Ministry Team on the Association Council and act as convener of the team. Teams may have more than
368 four (4) members at their discretion as ministry tasks warrant.

369

370 Each Ministry Team shall strive to be as equitable as possible representing both clergy and lay members
371 of the Association, and in regard to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity.

372

Section 3: Budgets

374 Each Ministry Team shall submit a budget to the Association Council at a time designated by the Council
375 Moderator, to be submitted for approval with the rest of the Association Budget at the Annual Meeting of
376 the Association.

377

Section 4: Meetings

379 Each Ministry Team shall meet at least quarterly at a time and place of its choosing and at other times and
380 places as it shall deem necessary for the carrying out of their Ministry Work.

381

Section 5: Authority

383 Exemplifying the covenant we share as various settings of the United Church of Christ, each ministry
384 team shall coordinate their work with entities and/or staff members at the Conference and National settings
385 that have similar duties, or may have resources to offer.

386

387 The rules contained in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all Ministry Team
388 Meetings in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with these By-Laws,
389 the Association Articles of Incorporation, Association policies, or any special rules of order the
390 Association Council may adopt.

391

392 Each Ministry Team shall designate one person to keep a record of their meeting minutes, reports to the
393 Association and Association Council, and all correspondence pertaining to their ministry work. These
394 records will be kept with the Ministry Team recorder and shared with new members and the Association
395 Council as requested.

396
397 **Section 6: Duties and Responsibilities**
398 The Communications Ministry Team shall work with the Association Council, the Committee on Ministry
399 and the Standing Ministry Teams to build webs of communication among entities of the Association and
400 share information about Association concerns and events. Specific attention will be focused on publicity
401 and technology, sharing information about the ministries and relevance of entities of our Association,
402 including local churches.
403

404 The Youth Ministry Team shall work with Youth and Youth Leaders to encourage Youth Ministry in the
405 Association, providing avenues and/or events for enhanced youth ministry, continuing education, spiritual
406 formation and growth. Specific attention will be focused on providing congregations with opportunities
407 for enhanced Youth Ministry.
408

409 The Pastoral Care Ministry Team shall work to communicate with Authorized Ministers in the Association
410 to bring comfort and pastoral care; and shall provide avenues and/or events for continuing education and
411 action to promote and encourage their physical, social and mental health. Specific attention will be
412 focused on maintaining covenantal connection with retired clergy and chaplains as well as active clergy
413 in times of distress.
414

415 The Social Justice Ministry Team shall work to identify issues of social injustice, systemic injustice and
416 inequity globally and locally; and provide avenues and/or events for continuing education and action that
417 can be implemented in the Association. Specific attention will be focused on disseminating information
418 about local justice issues and social concerns.
419

420 **Article VII: Area Clusters**

421 **Section 1: Purpose**

422 Area Clusters are groups of Local Churches and/or ministers and/or other persons which exist to foster
423 fellowship and cooperative efforts among Association members within their respective areas, to provide
424 a forum for discussion and dissemination of information from other settings of the United Church of
425 Christ, and to encourage mutual care and concern among and between the churches and ministers within
426 their areas.
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429 **Section 2: Structure**

430 The four (4) clusters are organized by geographical areas: Central Area, Lafayette Area, Kansas City-St.
431 Joseph Area, and Ozark Area. Any adjustment of the Area Cluster boundaries or transfer of membership
432 of churches between Area Clusters will be done by the Association Council with the agreement of the
433 Local Churches concerned.
434

435 **Section 3: Authority**

436 Area Clusters may not take actions or make statements in the name of the Association. Area Clusters may
437 gather, convene, discuss, worship, plan and carry out program and activities for their own members, and
438 are encouraged to become an active and integral part of the mission and ministry of the Association and
439 of United Church of Christ to and with its members.
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441 **Section 4: Quorum**

442 No quorum is necessary for Area Cluster meetings.
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Article VIII: Gifts and Property

The Association may receive, refuse, or hold by gift, purchase, devise, bequest or otherwise, any property, whether real, personal or mixed, in order to provide for any lawful uses and purposes of the Association; and may convey, lease, improve, mortgage or otherwise encumber such property for such purposes.

The Association may purchase or sell real property, only after appraisal and advise of legal counsel and only after proper notice has been given to all Association members, and such purchase or sale is approved by majority vote at a duly called Association meeting.

Article IX: Dissolution

Should the Association dissolve for any reason, voluntarily or otherwise, all money, assets and property of the Association shall be delivered, transferred and conveyed to the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ or its successor, for whatever uses and purposes it may designate in the pursuit of its religious endeavors. Under no circumstances shall said assets ever benefit one or more private individuals.

Article X: By-Laws Review

The Association Council shall appoint an ad-hoc team to review these By-Laws at least every five (5) years, or sooner at the discretion of the Council. Any revisions or amendments will be suggested to the Association Council, who will then choose whether to bring such action to the Association.

Article XI: Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended or revised by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at any meeting of the Association provided such amendments or revisions have been reviewed at a previous meeting of the Association Council; and provided that written notice of the vote to be taken on amendments or revisions shall have been sent to Association members at least 60 days prior to the meeting at which the proposed amendments or revisions will be presented for approval.

Article XII: Declaration

These Bylaws shall become the Bylaws of the Association and shall be in force upon their adoption and shall remain in force until and unless amended, superseded, or set aside by the Association according to Article XI of these Bylaws.