

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF THE YORK ASSOCIATION**
Of The Penn Central Conference
Of The United Church of Christ

10
11
12
13

CONSTITUTION

14
15
16

Article I: Name

- 17
18
1. The name of this Association is the York Association of the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ. (Hereafter “the Association”)

19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

Article II: Membership

2. The membership of the Association shall be composed of all Local Churches (hereafter referred to as "member churches") in the geographical area constituting the York Association which are members of the United Church of Christ as defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ and all Ordained Ministers holding standing, all Ordained or Licensed Ministerial Partners with standing, all Ordained Ministers granted Dual Standing, all Commissioned Ministers and all Licensed Ministers of the Association (hereafter referred to as "authorized ministers").

27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44

Article III: Purpose

3. The Association provides programs, resources and services which further the mission of Christ.
4. The Association strengthens and undergirds the mission and ministry of member churches and authorized ministers.
5. The Association assists member churches and authorized ministers in situations calling for help beyond their own resources.
6. The Association is that body which determines, confers, and certifies to the standing of the Local Churches of the United Church of Christ within its area. The Association grants, certifies to, transfers and terminates authorized ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ.
7. The Association has the responsibility to conduct the rite of ordination.
8. The Association has the responsibility to install authorized ministers in their ministry position within the Association.
9. The Association is to be in covenant with Penn Central Conference and through it with the General Synod, the national boards, affiliated, and associated ministries of the United Church of Christ.

Article IV: Covenantal Relationship

45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78

10. In covenant with the United Church of Christ, the Association affirms the definition of the church as described within the preamble to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ:

The United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole Head, Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior. It acknowledges as kindred in Christ all who share in this confession. It looks to the Word of God in the Scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers. It affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians, it recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper or Holy Communion.

11. As a body of the United Church of Christ, the Association will relate to the various expressions of the church in a covenantal manner. The Association will seek God’s will and be faithful to God’s mission, attending to its responsibilities in relation to all expressions of the church. Its decisions are made in consultation and collaboration with other parts of the structure including its member churches, Conference and the General Synod. As a member of the Body of Christ, the Association is called to honor and respect the work and ministry of each other part. The Association listens, hears, and carefully considers the advice, counsel, and requests of others in this covenant. The Association joins the various expressions of the United Church of Christ to seek to walk together in all God’s ways.

12. We value and affirm our covenantal relationship within the Association. This covenant is lived out in the relationships among member churches, and the members of the Association. This covenant calls us to honor and respect the work and ministry of the members of the Association. Within this covenant we share in fellowship and service, offer a united witness to the good news of Jesus Christ, and benefit from the gifts, graces and talents of all. Our covenantal relationship calls us into mutual mission and ministry to create and sustain our fellowship, to express a common witness of faith, to share resources and talents, and to hold each other accountable in keeping with the standards established by the Association.

Article V: Ministry

- 79
80
- 81 13. The Association recognizes that God calls the whole Church and every member to
82 participate in and extend the ministry of Jesus Christ by witnessing to the Gospel in
83 church and society. The Association seeks to undergird the ministry of its members by
84 nurturing faith, calling forth gifts, and equipping members for Christian service.
- 85 14. The Association recognizes that God calls certain of its members to various forms of
86 ministry in and on behalf of the church for which ecclesiastical authorization is required.
87 Recognizing God's call, the ecclesiastical authorization is granted by the Association
88 through the rite of ordination, through commissioning, licensing, granting either ordained
89 ministerial standing or ordained ministerial partner standing and other acts of
90 authorization.
- 91 15. Ordination is the rite whereby the Association, acting on behalf of the United Church of
92 Christ, in cooperation with the person and a member church, recognizes and authorizes
93 that member whom God has called to ordained ministry, and sets that person apart by
94 prayer and the laying on of hands. By this rite ordained ministerial standing and status as
95 an Ordained Ministerial Partner is conferred and authorization given to perform duties
96 and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ.
- 97 16. An Ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ is one of its members who has been
98 called by God and ordained to preach and teach the gospel, to administer the sacraments
99 and rites of the Church, and to exercise pastoral care and leadership.
- 100 17. Ordained ministerial standing is an ongoing covenant of mutual accountability, as
101 described in the following paragraph, which recognizes and continues the authorization
102 of that person to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry.
103 Ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ is granted by and held in the
104 Association in cooperation with a member church and confers voting membership in the
105 Association.
- 106 18. The Call of an Ordained Minister or Ordained Ministerial Partner to a member church
107 establishes a covenantal relationship among the Ordained Minister or Ordained
108 Ministerial Partner, the member church, and the United Church of Christ as represented
109 by the Association. The Call of an Ordained Minister or Ordained Ministerial Partner to
110 other forms of ministry recognized by the Association establishes a covenantal
111 relationship among the Ordained Minister or Ordained Ministerial Partner, the calling
112 body, the United Church of Christ as represented by the Association and the member
113 church where the Ordained Minister or Ordained Ministerial Partner is a member.
- 114 19. Commissioning is the act whereby the United Church of Christ through an Association,
115 in cooperation with a person and a member church of the United Church of Christ,
116 recognizes and authorizes that member whom God has called to a specific church-related
117 ministry which is recognized by the Association, but not requiring ordination or
118 licensing. By this act the status of Commissioned Minister is conferred and authorization
119 granted to perform duties necessary to and for the specific ministry. Voting membership
120 in the Association is granted.
- 121 20. A Commissioned Minister in the United Church of Christ is one of its lay members who
122 has been called by God and commissioned for a specific church-related ministry.

- 123 21. Licensing is the act whereby the United Church of Christ through the Association, in
124 cooperation with a person and a member church of the United Church of Christ,
125 recognizes and authorizes that member whom God has called to perform specified duties
126 in a designated member church or within the Association, mainly preaching and
127 conducting services of worship, for a designated time within a covenant of mutual
128 accountability that includes appropriate supervision and guidance of the Association.
129 The license may be renewed. Voting membership in the Association is granted.
- 130 22. A Licensed Minister of the United Church of Christ is one of its members whom God has
131 called and who has been recognized and authorized by the Association to perform
132 specified duties in a designated member church or within the Association, mainly
133 preaching and conducting services of worship, for a designated time within a covenant of
134 mutual accountability that includes appropriate supervision and guidance of the
135 Association.
- 136 23. A Member in Discernment is a member of the United Church of Christ who has been
137 called by God and who is, in covenant with their member church and the Association,
138 engaging in a time of discernment of that call and preparation for ministry in response to
139 that call.

140
141 **Article VI: Meetings**
142

- 143 24. The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held at such time and place as the
144 Association may designate, or, lacking such designation, as may be determined by the
145 Association Council.
- 146 25. An Ecclesiastical Council for a Member in Discernment seeking ordination is an official
147 meeting of the Association and shall be called by the Association Council at the request of
148 the Committee on Ministry.
- 149 26. Special Association meetings may be called by the Council of the Association, or upon the
150 written request of five (5) member churches, or upon the written request of five (5)
151 authorized ministers of the Association, specifying the particular business to be transacted.
- 152 27. Notice of the time and place of any Association meeting, and of items of business that will
153 claim attention, shall be given to each member church and authorized minister and each
154 member of the Association Council at least two (2) weeks before the time of such meetings.

155
156 **Article VII: Officers**
157

- 158 28. The officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary/Registrar and
159 Treasurer.
- 160 29. Other officers may be elected as the Association deems necessary.

161
162

163
164
165
166
167
168
169
170
171
172
173
174
175
176
177
178
179
180
181
182
183
184
185
186
187
188
189
190
191
192
193
194
195
196
197
198
199
200

Article VIII: Governance and Organization

- 30. The Association Council shall act on behalf of the Association between Annual Meetings. Its actions will be subject to approval by majority vote of the membership at the next Annual Meeting of the Association.
- 31. The work of the Association shall be delegated to standing committees and to other special committees as needed.
- 32. Staff members and members of the Board of Directors of Penn Central Conference, delegates to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, members of the national boards, affiliated, and associated ministries of the United Church of Christ may serve as advisory members of the Association Council without vote.

Article IX: Rules to Govern Order

- 33. The rules in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern the Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the rules of order or bylaws of the Association.

Article X: Interpretation of this Constitution

- 34. As a means of strengthening our covenantal partnerships, this Constitution is prepared with a view toward consistency with the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ and the Penn Central Conference, and it shall be as long as it is the will of the Association.

Article XI: Amendments to the Constitution

- 35. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by the Association Council, a member church, or any group of ten (10) authorized ministers of the Association. Such proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary/Registrar of the Association at least three (3) months prior to the meeting of the Association at which they are to be presented. At least two (2) months prior to the meeting, the Secretary/Registrar shall notify each member church and each member authorized minister in writing of the meeting, including a copy of the proposed amendment(s). Adoption of an amendment shall require a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of those delegates present and voting. Amendments may be considered at an Annual Meeting or a Special Association Meeting called for that purpose.

201 **BYLAWS**

202 **Preamble**

- 203
- 204
- 205 100. These bylaws, consistent with the Constitution of the York Association, further define
- 206 and/or regulate the officers, committees, and membership. They also describe the
- 207 covenantal relationship with the Penn Central Conference and through it with the General
- 208 Synod, the national boards, affiliated, and associated ministries of the United Church of
- 209 Christ.
- 210
- 211

212 **Article I: Membership Covenantal Responsibilities**

213

- 214 101. In response to God's, call member churches and authorized ministers of the Association are
- 215 bound in covenant. Accordingly we recognize the need to fulfill covenantal responsibilities
- 216 that unite us in mutual mission and ministry. Failure to honor these responsibilities may
- 217 indicate a breach of covenant, and precipitate a review by the Association through its
- 218 Committee on Ministry, following current ministry guidelines established by the United
- 219 Church of Christ.
- 220 102. Member churches honor their covenantal responsibilities by:
- 221 a. sending delegates and representatives to officially called meetings (Annual Meeting,
- 222 Ecclesiastical Councils, and Special Meetings), Ordinations, Installations, and other
- 223 events of the Association;
- 224 b. supporting the Association by remitting the recommended annual contribution;
- 225 c. encouraging members to serve on Association Committees or Association Council;
- 226 d. considering any request for local action sent to them by the Association Council or
- 227 by the Association at Annual Meeting;
- 228 e. publicizing to their members all approved Association sponsored events;
- 229 f. offering use of their facilities as requested for Association meetings and events;
- 230 g. encouraging their authorized ministers to be connected and involved with the wider
- 231 church;
- 232 h. keeping the Association officers, Council and committees, member churches, and
- 233 authorized ministers in prayer;
- 234 i. completing and returning accurate annual Yearbook information and other reports
- 235 requested by the Penn Central Conference; and by making an annual contribution to
- 236 both Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and also at least two (2) all-church
- 237 offerings of the United Church of Christ.
- 238 103. Authorized ministers who are ordained honor their covenantal responsibilities by:
- 239 a. attending officially called meetings (Annual Meeting, Ecclesiastical Councils, and
- 240 Special Meetings), Ordinations, Installations, and other events of the Association;
- 241 b. maintaining their standing, following the guidelines of the Committee on Ministry,
- 242 and participating in periodic reviews and boundary training conducted by the
- 243 Committee on Ministry;

- 244 c. informing the Chairperson of the Committee on Ministry within one (1) month after
245 they experience any change in their status with the member church of which they are
246 a member;
- 247 d. encouraging the member church which they serve or of which they are a member to
248 remit the recommended annual contribution and to fulfill the other covenantal
249 responsibilities of member churches as described in paragraph #102;
- 250 e. serving on Association Council or committees;
- 251 f. attending Ministerium meetings and paying annual Ministerium dues;
- 252 g. keeping the Association officers and committees, member churches, and authorized
253 ministers in prayer;
- 254 h. attending Annual Meeting of the Penn Central Conference or asking to be excused if
255 they are unable to attend;
- 256 i. participating in the UCC Pension Fund.
- 257 104. Authorized ministers who are commissioned or licensed honor their covenantal
258 responsibilities by:
- 259 a. attending officially called meetings (Annual Meeting, Ecclesiastical Councils, and
260 Special Meetings), Ordinations, Installations, and other events of the Association;
- 261 b. contacting the Chairperson of the Committee on Ministry annually regarding
262 renewal of commissioning or licensing;
- 263 c. maintaining their authorization for ministry following the guidelines of the
264 Committee on Ministry and participating in periodic reviews and boundary training
265 conducted by the Committee on Ministry;
- 266 d. informing the Chairperson of the Committee on Ministry within one (1) month after
267 they experience any change in their status with the local calling body with which
268 they serve;
- 269 e. encouraging the member church which they serve or of which they are a member to
270 remit the annual recommended contribution and to fulfill the other covenantal
271 responsibilities of member churches as described in paragraph #102;
- 272 f. serving on Association Council or committees;
- 273 g. attending Ministerium meetings and paying annual Ministerium dues;
- 274 h. keeping the Association officers, Council and committees, member churches, and
275 authorized ministers in prayer;
- 276 i. attending Annual Meeting of the Penn Central Conference or asking to be excused if
277 they are unable to attend.

278 **Article II: Ministry**

- 279
- 280
- 281 105. A member of the Association wishing to explore God's call to ministry, and the potential
282 of that call leading to authorized ministry (ordained, commissioned or licensed), requests,
283 along with their member church, to enter a Covenant of Discernment with the
284 Association.
- 285

- 286 106. The Association, through its Committee on Ministry, interviews the member to decide
287 whether to join with the member and their member church in a covenant of discernment.
288 The goal of discernment is to determine whether the member is called to authorized
289 ministry, what the specific character of that ministry might be, and, if authorization is
290 appropriate, what steps are to be taken toward authorization. Normally a covenant of
291 discernment leading to authorization is expected to be for not less than two years.
- 292 107. Ordination by the Association is in cooperation with a member church and confers
293 ordained ministerial standing as an Ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ and
294 status as an Ordained Ministerial Partner of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
- 295 108. The Association grants ordained ministerial partner standing in the United Church of
296 Christ only when a person is serving a calling body of the United Church of Christ.
- 297 109. An ordained minister of another denomination who resides within the bounds of the
298 Association and desires to enter the ordained ministry of the United Church of Christ
299 applies to the Association for Privilege of Call.
- 300 110. A Member in Discernment of the Association who is seeking initial recognition and
301 authorization as a Commissioned Minister applies, with their member church, to the
302 Association.
- 303 111. A Commissioned Minister is listed separately from Ordained Ministers and from
304 Licensed Ministers on the rolls of the Association. A Commissioned Minister is eligible
305 for service only in lay categories for all positions referred to in the Bylaws.
- 306 112. A Commissioned Minister who retires from service as a Commissioned Minister may be
307 recognized by the Association as a Retired Commissioned Minister of the United Church
308 of Christ. Voting membership in the Association is thereby granted. Such recognition is
309 to be reviewed regularly.
- 310 113. A Member in Discernment of the Association who is seeking recognition and
311 authorization as a Licensed Minister applies, with their member church, to the
312 Association.
- 313 114. A Licensed Minister is listed separately from Ordained Ministers and from
314 Commissioned Ministers on the rolls of the Association. A Licensed Minister is eligible
315 for service only in lay categories for all positions referred to in the Bylaws.
- 316 115. A Licensed Minister who retires from service as a Licensed Minister may be recognized
317 by the Association as a Retired Licensed Minister of the United Church of Christ. Voting
318 membership in the Association is thereby granted. Such recognition is to be reviewed
319 regularly.
- 320 116. The Association, through the Committee on Ministry, will follow the guidelines and
321 policies regarding authorized ministry as outlined in the Article on Ministry in the United
322 Church of Christ Bylaws.

323
324 **Article III. The Association Council's Duties and Meetings**
325

- 326 117. The Association Council shall be composed of a President, Vice-President,
327 Secretary/Registrar, Treasurer, four (4) At-Large Members and the Chairpersons of all
328 committees.

- 329 118. A member who fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings without informing the
330 President of the reason for the absence may be removed as a member of Council. A vacancy
331 may be declared by the President (or the Vice-President in the case of the President's
332 removal) who may ask the remaining Association Council members to fill the unexpired
333 term.
- 334 119. At the Annual Meeting of the Association, the Association Council shall:
335 a. report its activity for the preceding year;
336 b. propose a budget for consideration;
337 c. recommend an amount for per capita support by the member churches;
338 d. present a slate of names to fill all vacant offices and committees for which election is
339 necessary.
- 340 120. The Association Council shall:
341 a. meet a minimum of five (5) times between Annual Meetings, such meeting times
342 and places to be announced by the President;
343 b. declare its quorum to be a majority of Association Council members;
344 c. hear reports of committees, review financial reports, act upon requests for special or
345 emergency funds;
346 d. appoint persons to complete unexpired terms, and deal with other appropriate
347 business referred to it by individuals, member churches, committees, the Penn
348 Central Conference or the General Synod;
349 e. work from a prepared agenda;
350 f. convene meetings requested by a petition signed by at least five (5) members of the
351 Association Council.

352 **Article IV. The Association's Officers and Council Members**

- 353
- 354
- 355 121. The President of the Association shall:
356 a. be a layperson of a member church or an authorized ordained minister (the President
357 shall be a layperson when the Vice-President is an authorized ordained minister, and
358 the President shall be an authorized ordained minister when the Vice-President is a
359 layperson);
360 b. be elected in a year ending in an even number;
361 c. serve a term as President for two (2) years, and may not be re-elected to a
362 consecutive term in office;
363 d. preside over meetings of the Association and Association Council;
364 e. shall be responsible for preparing meeting agendas;
365 f. provide for representation by Association Council at Installations and Ordinations;
366 g. convene meetings requested by a petition signed by at least five (5) members of the
367 Association Council.
368 h. be an ex-officio member of each Association committee, with voice without vote.
- 369 122. In the case of a vacancy in the Presidency, the Vice-President shall be installed as President.
370 The Secretary/Registrar shall officiate at this installation at the next meeting of the
371 Association Council, and the new President shall complete the unexpired term.
372

- 373 123. The Vice-President of the Association shall:
374 a. be a layperson of a member church or an authorized ordained minister (the Vice-
375 President shall be a layperson when the President is an authorized ordained minister,
376 and the Vice-President shall be an authorized ordained minister when the President
377 is a layperson);
378 b. be elected with the President in a year ending in an even number;
379 c. serve a term of two (2) years as Vice-President, and then be available for election as
380 President;
381 d. not be re-elected to a consecutive term to this office;
382 e. serve in the place of the President when asked to do so;
383 f. be installed as President in case of a vacancy in that office (In this case, a person
384 could serve longer than a two (2) year term if they had become President because of
385 a vacancy in the previous Presidency.);
386 g. serve as Chairperson of the Communications Committee.
- 387 124. In the case of a vacancy in the Vice-Presidency, the Association Council shall appoint a
388 person to complete the unexpired term.
- 389 125. The Secretary/Registrar of the Association shall:
390 a. be a layperson of a member church or an authorized ordained minister;
391 b. be elected to a two (2) year term in a year ending in an odd number, and may serve
392 for a maximum of three (3) consecutive terms;
393 c. keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the Association and Association Council;
394 d. sign all official documents and reports to the Penn Central Conference and the
395 United Church of Christ denominational offices;
396 e. maintain the official roll of member churches and authorized ministers who hold
397 standing in the Association;
398 f. keep attendance records at official meetings;
399 g. issue calls to official meetings of the Association;
400 h. keep such other records, write such other correspondence and complete such other
401 business as may be requested by the President and/or Association Council, and
402 i. serve as President Pro-Tempore in case of concurrent vacancies in the Presidency
403 and Vice-Presidency, taking immediate steps to recommend names of persons to fill
404 these positions by the next Association Council meeting.
- 405 126. In case of a vacancy in the office of Secretary/Registrar, the Association Council shall
406 appoint a person to complete the unexpired term.
- 407 127. The Treasurer of the Association shall:
408 a. be a layperson of a member church or an authorized ordained minister;
409 b. be elected to a two year term in a year ending in an odd number, and may serve for a
410 maximum of three consecutive terms;
411 c. receive, hold and disburse funds of the Association under the direction of the
412 Association or the Association Council;
413 d. keep accurate records of all monies, funds and properties of the Association, and
414 make regular reports to the Council and Association Annual Meeting;
415 e. keep accurate records of per capita support of member churches, and report same to
416 the Annual Meeting;

- 417 f. cooperate in an annual fiscal review or audit;
418 g. be bonded.
- 419 128. In case of a vacancy in the office of Treasurer, the Association Council shall appoint a
420 person to complete the unexpired term.
- 421 129. The At-Large Members shall:
- 422 a. be four (4) in number, two (2) being laypersons of member churches and two (2)
423 being authorized ordained ministers;
- 424 b. be elected to two year terms (2 per year), and may serve for a maximum of three (3)
425 consecutive terms;
- 426 c. not be a member of any church already represented by an At-Large Member.
- 427 130. In case of a vacancy of an At-Large Member, the Association Council shall appoint a person
428 to complete the unexpired term.

429 **Article V. Committees**

- 430
- 431 131. Rules for All Standing Committees:
- 432 a. Committee members and Chairpersons shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the
433 Association for a two (2) year term, and shall serve no more than three (3)
434 consecutive terms (6 years) without the lapse of at least one (1) year before re-
435 election to that committee.
- 436 b. Vacancies will be filled by Association Council appointment for the length of the
437 unexpired term. An unexpired term of one year or more will constitute a full term.
- 438 c. A member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings without informing the
439 Chairperson of the reason for the absence may be removed as a member of that
440 committee. A vacancy may be declared by the committee Chairperson, who may ask
441 the Association Council to fill the vacancy.
- 442 d. Each committee will organize no later than ninety (90) days after Annual Meeting.
443 The committee will elect or appoint its own Secretary.
- 444 e. Each committee is responsible to and will report on its work to the Association
445 Council and the Association.
- 446 f. Each committee will elect or appoint its own liaison to Penn Central Conference
447 Commissions as needed.
- 448 132. There shall be a Community Outreach Committee consisting of eight (8) persons, of whom
449 at least three (3) shall be lay persons, elected for a term of two (2) years and so arranged that
450 four (4) shall be elected annually. This committee shall:
- 451 a. interpret to member churches and take or recommend action on relevant priorities
452 established by the General Synod;
- 453 b. interpret to York County communities items of concern to the United Church of
454 Christ and the York Association;
- 455 c. be interpreters of Community Ministry Grants in our area;
- 456 d. be advocates in such areas as health and welfare issues, multi-cultural and multi-
457 racial issues, peace and justice issues, hunger issues, environmental issues, and other
458 social concerns, as the committee sees fit;

- 459 e. plan and develop workshops, worship experiences or other Association-wide events
460 as it desires;
- 461 f. complete other relevant work as requested by the Association Council.
- 462 133. There shall be a Committee on Ministry consisting of eight (8) persons, of whom at least
463 three (3) shall be lay persons, elected for a term of two (2) years and so arranged that four
464 (4) shall be elected annually. This committee shall:
- 465 a. be guided in all its work by the current ministry guidelines of the United Church of
466 Christ;
- 467 b. act as credentials committee for all persons and churches seeking standing;
- 468 c. shepherd those seeking authorized ministries through the process of education,
469 member in discernment process, examination or Ecclesiastical Council, and
470 placement and service of recognition of authorized ministry;
- 471 d. conduct periodic, special and disciplinary reviews;
- 472 e. participate in Ordinations, Installations, services recognizing other authorized
473 ministries, and other services of the Association, along with an Officer of the
474 Association;
- 475 f. interpret to member churches and member authorized ministers the rules and
476 regulations applicable to those holding standing;
- 477 g. understand that it acts as representative of the entire United Church of Christ when
478 making decisions, and that its priority must be what is best for the United Church of
479 Christ rather than what is best for a particular individual;
- 480 h. complete other relevant work as requested by the Association Council.
- 481 134. There shall be a Communications Committee consisting of six (6) persons, of whom at least
482 two (2) shall be lay persons, elected for a term of two (2) years and so arranged that three (3)
483 shall be elected annually. This committee of six (6) shall:
- 484 a. communicate the mission and ministry of the Association to the covenanted
485 members of the Association and to the wider community by utilizing various forms
486 of media;
- 487 b. encourage and support the work of other Association committees;
- 488 c. use current United Church of Christ identity material in publicity and promotion.
- 489 135. There shall be a Nominations Committee consisting of six (6) persons, of whom at least two
490 (2) shall be lay persons, elected for a term of two (2) years and so arranged that three (3)
491 shall be elected annually. This committee shall:
- 492 a. place in nomination the names of persons to fill all offices, committees and
493 vacancies of the Association and all Conference positions for which the Association
494 is responsible at the annual meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor
495 at the meeting with previous consent of the nominee;
- 496 b. ascertain that all nominees have consented to serve if elected;
- 497 c. keep a list of interested individuals in order to help fill any vacancy that may occur
498 between elections;
- 499 d. present to Council for approval the names of individuals to fill vacancies on
500 Association Committees or Council and Penn Central Conference representative
501 positions as needed between Annual Meetings;
- 502 e. complete other relevant work as requested by the Association Council.

- 503 136. There shall be a Parish Life Committee consisting of eight (8) persons, of whom at least
504 three (3) shall be lay persons, elected for a term of two (2) years and so arranged that four
505 (4) shall be elected annually. This committee shall:
- 506 a. interpret to member churches and take or recommend action on relevant priorities
507 established by the General Synod, Conference or Association Annual Meetings;
 - 508 b. introduce and encourage member churches to use the resources of the United Church
509 of Christ in such areas as worship and the arts, Christian education, church growth,
510 evangelism, family life issues, healing ministries, men's ministries, spiritual
511 formation, stewardship education, women's ministries, young adult ministries and
512 youth ministries;
 - 513 c. plan and develop workshops, worship experiences or other Association wide events
514 as it desires;
 - 515 d. complete other relevant work as requested by the Association Council.
- 516 137. There shall be such other committees as the Association may from time to time determine.
517 Special committees are appointed by the Association or its Council to carry out a specified
518 task, at the completion of which it automatically ceases to exist. A special committee may
519 not be appointed to perform a task that falls within the assigned function of an existing
520 standing committee.

521 **Article VI. Meetings**

- 522
- 523
- 524 138. When the Association meets, its voting membership shall be composed of lay delegates
525 selected by and representing the member churches holding standing in the Association, and
526 authorized ministers holding standing in the Association.
- 527 a. Each member church shall be entitled to two (2) lay delegates, elected or appointed
528 by the member church. Member churches having membership exceeding 750 are
529 entitled to one (1) additional delegate for each increment of 500 members
530 [membership of 751-1250 receives one (1) additional delegate; 1251-1750 receives a
531 total of two (2) additional delegates]. Delegates are entitled to one (1) vote. They
532 must vote in person and no delegate may cast a vote by proxy.
 - 533 b. Authorized Ministers with standing in the Association are entitled to one (1) vote.
534 They must vote in person and no one may cast a vote by proxy.
- 535 139. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the voting membership. The voting
536 membership is determined from the eligible number of delegates from member churches
537 and the number of authorized ministers holding standing in the Association at the time of the
538 meeting.
- 539 140. The following persons are granted the privilege of voice at Association meetings:
- 540 a. Council members and visitors from member churches who are not delegates;
 - 541 b. Penn Central Conference Staff;
 - 542 c. members of the Board of Directors of Penn Central Conference;
 - 543 d. official delegates to General Synod;
 - 544 e. board members of the national bodies of the United Church of Christ;
 - 545 f. United Church of Christ National Staff;
 - 546 g. representatives of ecumenical agencies;

- 547 h. representatives of other denominations.
548 141. Other persons in attendance may be granted the privilege of voice by majority vote of the
549 body.
550 142. At the Annual Meeting the membership:
551 a. receives reports from the Council, officers and committees of the Association;
552 b. adopts a budget;
553 c. establishes the per capita support paid by its member churches;
554 d. elects persons to fill all offices, committees and vacancies of the Association;
555 e. receives and acts upon all appropriate business of the Association.
556

557 **Article VII. Interpretation of the Bylaws**

- 558
559 143. Should these Bylaws, at any time, be found to be inconsistent with the Constitution and
560 Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, or of the Penn Central Conference, the matter shall
561 be referred to the Judicial Commission of the Penn Central Conference for its advice and
562 counsel. Action to correct the inconsistency shall be taken by the Association.
563

564 **Article VIII. Dissolution**

- 565
566 144. Upon dissolution of the Association, its assets and all property and interest it may then
567 possess, including any devise, bequest, gift or grant contained in any will or other
568 instrument, in trust or otherwise, made before or after such dissolution, shall be transferred
569 to the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ or its successor.

570 **Article IX. Amendments to the Bylaws**

- 571
572 145. Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by the Association Council, a member
573 church, or any ten (10) authorized ministers of the Association. Such proposed
574 amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary/Registrar of the Association at
575 least three (3) months prior to the meeting of the Association at which the proposed
576 amendment is to be considered. At least two (2) months prior to the meeting, the
577 Secretary/Registrar shall inform in writing each member church and each member
578 authorized minister a copy of the proposed amendment. Adoption of an amendment shall
579 require a simple majority affirmative vote of those delegates present and voting at an official
580 meeting of the Association. Amendments may be considered at an Annual Meeting or a
581 special meeting called for that purpose.

582 **END**

583 Revised at Annual Meeting 4.98 / current constitution.doc
584 Adopted at Annual Meeting 11.07.2010
585