



**THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
*(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)*  
*of*  
**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA-NEVADA**

**REGIONAL BY-LAWS**

Approved by the Regional House of Representatives at Annual Meeting April 24, 2010

These By-laws were implemented as of Annual Meeting 2011

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**A Ministry Made Possible by Your Gifts to the Disciples Mission Fund**

## BY-LAWS BACKGROUND

1/22/10

- ◆ Current By-Laws written in 1980, amended 6 times, only once since 1996
- ◆ Membership in the Region down from 10,660 in 1980 to 4,559 today
- ◆ Number of churches with 150 or more members down from 30 to 8
- ◆ Number of churches down from 70 to 68, but with 10 ethnically oriented today, up from 1
- ◆ Convoluted nominating structure through 8 mostly non-functioning Geographic Areas
- ◆ 40 plus members on Board of Directors
- ◆ One whole page in By-Laws re Study & Concerns Committee which no longer functions
- ◆ ie, Current By-Laws just don't work very well
- ◆ By-Laws committee first meeting was in February 2007; last one January 11, 2010
- ◆ We reviewed the By-Laws of 6 other regions
- ◆ We met with Regional Staff
- ◆ We had input from former moderators
- ◆ We had a review by our Regional attorney
- ◆ We had 5 “outsiders” review draft 18
- ◆ The Board reviewed draft 19 and approved the concept of two Councils and Executive Cttee.
- ◆ We had 5 meetings with our churches on the R&R Road Trip in August of 2009
- ◆ The Board reviewed draft 22 on 10/10/09 and approved the draft in concept
- ◆ This is draft 25. Used the word “Final” on this one because it sounds so good to the Committee
- ◆ We have incorporated many of the suggestions of those who have reviewed the various permutations. That input has made this a much better document.
- ◆ We believe we have produced By-Laws that that work today and for the foreseeable future
- ◆ If approved at Annual Meeting in April 2010 will take effect in 2011

## BY-LAWS GLOSSARY

4/24/10

**Mission Cluster** A group of churches or people, related by geography or common mission or both, working together to carry out their mission. Examples are: a regional fellowship group; several churches sharing ideas on helping the homeless; the Regional Youth Ministry.

**Ministry Council** The body overseeing the ministry and mission of the Region. Oversees the Mission Clusters and fosters the Regional mission.

**Administrative Ministry Council** The body overseeing all administrative, legal, property and monetary functions of the Region.

**Executive Committee** The body overseeing the two Councils and ensuring the smooth functioning of the Region. It serves as the Board of Directors (required by California law) and, except for the authority of the Gathering, has final authority in Regional Affairs.

**The Gathering** Any meeting of the Congregations of the entire Region where everything from fellowship to voting occurs.

**Representatives of the Regional Expression of the Church** Four additional officers elected to the Executive Committee who are to take the broad view of the life and ministry of the Church.

**Financial Steward** The biblical name for treasurer, who is the corporate Chief Financial Officer and is a member of the Ad-Ministry Council, the Executive Committee and as needed serves on the Ministry Council.

**Financial Vice-Steward** Assists the Steward, is a member of the Ad-Ministry Council, the Executive Committee and as needed serves on the Ministry Council.

**Corporate Officers** As required by California law a President, Secretary and Chief Financial Officer who are, respectively, the Moderator and Secretary of the Ad-Ministry Council and the Financial Steward.

**Regional Elders** An appointed group, confirmed by the Executive Committee, who serve as spiritual support for pastors and church leaders. Five Elders serve as the Hearing Body.

**Hearing Body** The title of the group of five Regional Elders appointed to hear and resolve disputes.

BY-LAWS OF  
THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

PREAMBLE TO THE DESIGN FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

As members of the Christian Church,  
We confess that Jesus is the Christ,  
the Son of the living God,  
and proclaim him Lord and Savior of the World.

In Christ's name and by his grace  
we accept our mission of witness  
and service to all people.

We rejoice in God,  
maker of heaven and earth, and in the  
covenant of love which binds us to God  
and one another.

Through baptism into Christ  
we enter into newness of life  
and are made one with the whole people of God.

In the communion of the Holy Spirit  
we are joined together in discipleship  
and in obedience to Christ.

At the table of the Lord  
we celebrate with thanksgiving  
the saving acts and presence of Christ.

Within the universal church,  
we receive the gift of ministry  
and the light of scripture.

In the bonds of Christian faith  
we yield ourselves to God  
that we may serve the One  
whose kingdom has no end.

Blessing, glory and honor  
be to God forever. Amen

## HISTORICAL NOTE

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Northern California-Nevada is the legal successor of the first State Meeting held in Stockton, California, in 1855. As “messengers” from Northern California gathered, “they prayed, they sang and exhorted one another to good works; they began to plan for the organized work of planting churches and preaching the Gospel throughout the State of California.” Meeting in Woodland in 1865, they became the Christian Church Missionary Society. In 1880 in Sacramento with delegates from around California, the first constitution was adopted and the first official board was elected. The name was Christian Churches of Northern California. Their purpose was to hire a state evangelist, supporting churches, developing colleges, and doing mission work.

The latest Constitution that can be found was adopted in Santa Cruz, California, on July 17, 1937, titled Constitution of the Convention of the Christian Churches of California North. Both Christian Churches and Churches of Christ are named. The purposes of the Convention were to promote fellowship among churches, get as many as possible to attend the Convention, promote the welfare of local churches and to promote the extension of the Kingdom of God.

On March 13, 1967, our current name appears on a Certificate of Restatement of the Articles of Incorporation filed with the Secretary of State. We do not know when the name change occurred.

## ARTICLE I – WHO WE ARE

We are the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Northern California-Nevada (hereinafter referred to as the Region), a California Corporation and a Region of the General Church, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

Members are those Congregations recognized by the Region as having either full standing in the Region or are in formation and officially under care.

## OUR VISION

Based on Micah 6:8, our vision is to be a faithful and growing church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice.

## OUR MISSION

In covenantal relationship with our General Church, the Congregations of our Region and with other bodies that share our vision, we invite everyone to discipleship - not mere church membership - calling out and nurturing the infinite variety of spiritual gifts bestowed by God in the lives of all. We will establish and receive new Congregations. We will nurture all Congregations by providing assistance, counsel and pastoral care. We accept the invitation of Jesus in Acts 1:8 to follow him by witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps “to the ends of the earth.”

## ARTICLE II – HOW WE ARE ORGANIZED

### A. The Region is governed by four bodies:

1. The Gathering, the time when all come together, has final authority over all Regional matters. For the day-to-day operation of the Region, the authority of the Gathering is delegated to the other three bodies.
2. The Executive Committee acts as the Board of Directors. Other than matters reserved to the Gathering by Art. III, Sec. 1, Para. A4, or any other matter accepted by the Gathering for decision, the Executive Committee has final authority in all Regional matters.
3. The Administrative Ministry Council (hereinafter referred to as Ad-Ministry Council) is responsible for the administrative, legal, property and fiscal concerns of the Region.
4. The Ministry Council is responsible for facilitating and coordinating the Regional ministry programming and the spiritual and human concerns of the Region.

### B. The Vision and Mission of the Region will be the guiding principle of all four bodies.

### C. All bodies will adhere to the ethical, legal and procedural guidelines of the Region.

## ARTICLE III – HOW WE WORK

### SECTION 1 – GOVERNING BODIES

#### A. THE GATHERING

1. No less often than annually, the Congregations of the Region will meet in a Gathering for worship, inspiration, learning, contemplation, fellowship, promoting the mission of the Region and conducting the business of the Corporation.
2. The Executive Committee will set the time and place of all Gatherings giving no less than thirty (30) days notice.
3. The business of the Corporation will be conducted at a meeting of the Delegates to the Gathering with the Convener of the Executive Committee presiding. In the absence of the Convener the Moderator of the other Council will preside. Delegates will be selected by member Congregations.
  - a. Each Congregation will select two (2) Delegates. In addition they will select Delegates based on Congregational membership. For 150 members, one (1) additional Delegate; for each additional 100 members, one (1) Delegate. The maximum number of Delegates from any one Congregation is five (5). Congregational membership is determined by the latest edition of the Year Book of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). To the extent possible, Congregations will select alternate Delegates. As each Congregation selects Delegates, they will remember the inclusiveness of Jesus so that the Gathering represents a full range of the membership of the Region. Elected officers of the Region may be Delegates from their Congregations.
  - b. Delegates, who represent their Congregations, will vote on all business brought before the Gathering. Prior to the Gathering they will become familiar with the business issues and to the extent needed will confer with their Congregations on those issues. Subsequent to the Gathering they will inform their Congregations of the outcome and the reasoning for the decisions made.

- c. A quorum for the transaction of business is a simple majority of all Congregations, as well as a simple majority of all Delegates. Approval of business items is by a simple majority of Delegates present.
  - d. Bob's Rules (attached) will ordinarily govern procedure. Upon the joint decision of the Convener and the Regional Minister, then parliamentary procedure, using Robert's Rules of Order will govern.
4. The Gathering is responsible for:
- a. Electing the Officers of the Region
  - b. Calling the Regional Minister
  - c. Approving the sale or purchase of real estate of the Region
  - d. Approving the dissolution or merger of the Region
  - e. Deciding any other issue submitted to the Gathering

## B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Members: The Moderator of each Council, the Vice-Moderator of each Council, the Secretary of each Council, the Financial Steward, the Financial Vice-Steward, the two (2) Members at Large of the Ad-Ministry Council, the two (2) Members at Large of the Ministry Council, four (4) Representatives of the Regional Expression of the Church and the Regional Minister. One of the Moderators, selected by the Executive Committee, will be the Convener and preside at all meetings. In the absence of the Convener the Moderator of the other Council will preside.
2. The Moderator and the Secretary of the Ad-Ministry Council are the President and the Secretary of the Corporation and the Financial Steward is the Chief Financial Officer. These officers and the Regional Minister are authorized to sign legal documents on behalf of the Corporation.
3. Duties
  - a. Serve as the Board of Directors.
  - b. Facilitate all staff, the Councils and Mission Clusters in living out the Vision and Mission of the Region.
  - c. Prepare an annual budget with input from the Ad-Ministry Council, the Ministry Council, appropriate committees and task teams. Upon approval by the Executive Committee the budget will be presented to a Gathering for its information.
  - d. Be the final authority when:
    - (1) The two Councils cannot resolve an issue.
    - (2) An issue requires prompt action and the appropriate Council cannot act in a timely manner.
    - (3) A Council refers an issue to the Executive Committee.
    - (4) There is an issue or issues that are deemed by the Executive Committee to be of major importance to the Region and beyond the purview of either the Ad-Ministry Council, the Ministry Council or the Regional Minister.
    - (5) A large bequest is received by the Region.
  - e. Create, receive reports from and disband committees and task teams as needed.
  - f. Replace Representatives of the Regional Expression of the Church when vacancies occur.
  - g. Confirm the appointment of Regional Elders.
  - h. Review the recommendation of the Ad-Ministry Council for the sale or purchase of

real property and make a recommendation to the Gathering.

- i. Review and act on resolutions presented for submission to the Gathering in accordance with Art. III, Sec. 5.
  - j. Determine the need for calling a Regional Minister in accordance with the process outlined in Art. III, Sec. 6, Para. D and effectuating that call. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Regional Minister provide for the administration of the Region.
  - k. Make recommendations to the Gathering in the event of possible dissolution or merger of the Region.
  - l. Perform any other task necessary for the ministry and life of the Region.
4. Meetings: The Executive Committee will meet as necessary but no less than twice a year at a time and place selected by the Convener and Regional Minister. Action on any item may be taken by telephonic, electronic or written means provided that members are given notice at least seventy two (72) hours in advance. A quorum for taking action is a simple majority of members.

#### C. AD-MINISTRY COUNCIL

1. Members: Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary, Financial Steward, Financial Vice-Steward, two (2) Members at Large, the Regional Minister and, when deemed necessary by the Council, additional members appointed by the Council.
2. Duties
  - a. Oversee the administrative mission of the Region.
  - b. Oversee the buying, selling, leasing, renting and managing of all property, either real or personal. The sale or purchase of real property will be referred, with recommendation, to the Executive Committee.
  - c. Oversee the collection, disbursement, management and investment of all monies.
  - d. Oversee the legal matters of the Region.
  - e. Work collaboratively with the Ministry Council.
  - f. Create, receive reports from and disband committees and task teams as needed.
  - g. Replace elected and appointed members of the Council when vacancies occur.
3. Meetings: The Council will meet as necessary but no less than twice a year at a time and place selected by the Moderator. Action on any item may be taken by telephonic, electronic or written means provided that members are given notice at least seventy two (72) hours in advance. A quorum for taking action is a simple majority of members.

#### D. MINISTRY COUNCIL

1. Members: Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary, either the Financial Steward or Financial Vice-Steward, two (2) Members at Large, the Regional Minister, one (1) Representative from each Mission Cluster, and when deemed necessary by the Council, additional members appointed by the Council.
2. Duties
  - a. Oversee the ministry mission of the Region.
  - b. Foster, support and work with Mission Clusters, standing committees and individual Congregations in carrying out the missions of each.
  - c. Create, receive reports from and disband committees and task teams as needed.
  - d. Work collaboratively with the Ad-Ministry Council.
  - e. Replace elected and appointed members of the Council when vacancies occur.



3. Meetings: The Council will meet as necessary but no less than twice a year at a time and place selected by the Moderator. Action on any item may be taken by telephonic, electronic or written means provided that members are given notice at least seventy two (72) hours in advance. A quorum for taking action is a simple majority of members.

## SECTION 2 – OTHER BODIES

### A. MISSION CLUSTERS

1. A Mission Cluster is a group of people or Congregations formed to promote mission and fellowship. They are accountable to and report to the Ministry Council.
2. The first type of Mission Cluster is a group of Congregations based on geography. The geographical composition of these Clusters will be determined by the Ministry Council in consultation with the Congregations. Every Congregation is encouraged to be in a Geographic Cluster.
3. The second type of Mission Cluster is, ordinarily but not necessarily, several Congregations or groups within several Congregations, who may or may not be geographically related, and who have similar interests, or needs, or vision for a particular mission and wish to work together to live out their mission. Congregations may, and are encouraged to, participate in more than one Cluster. When a Cluster disbands it will inform the Council.
4. The third type of Mission Cluster is a Regional Fellowship Group, (e.g., Women's Ministry, Men's Ministry, Youth Ministry, GLAD, NAPAD).
5. A group wishing to be designated a Mission Cluster will request such from the Ministry Council. Upon a finding by the Council that the purpose of the Cluster is in accord with the Vision and Mission of the Region, the designation will be granted.
6. Each Cluster will form its internal structure and programs and will select one person as a Representative to the Ministry Council.
7. Representatives will bring their knowledge, enthusiasm and insight to the Ministry Council. They will bring the programs of the Ministry Council to their respective clusters.
8. If a cluster ceases to function in accord with the Vision and Mission of the Region it may be disbanded by a majority vote of the seven (7) elected officers of the Ministry Council. That decision may be appealed to a Hearing Body formed pursuant to Art. III, Sec. 4, Para. 5, whose decision will be final.

### B. ELDERS

1. In cooperation with Regional Staff, Regional Elders serve as spiritual support to pastors and church leaders in the Region.
2. They serve as the Hearing Body as outlined in Art. III, Sec. 4, Para. 5.
3. They are appointed by the Regional Minister and currently serving Elders and confirmed by the Executive Committee.
4. Their term of office is six years.

## SECTION 3 - OFFICERS

### A. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

1. The members of the nominating committee are the Moderator or Vice-Moderator of each

Council, the two (2) Members at Large of the Ad-Ministry Council, the two (2) Members at Large of the Ministry Council, two (2) Representatives of the Regional Expression of the Church selected by the Executive Committee, and the Regional Minister.

2. They will nominate in accordance with the election schedule in Paragraph B of this Section the two Moderators, two Vice-Moderators, two Secretaries, one (1) Financial Steward, one (1) Financial Vice-Steward, two (2) Members at Large of the Ad-Ministry Council, two (2) Members at Large of the Ministry Council, four (4) Representatives of the Regional Expression of the Church who serve on the Executive Committee and a person to serve on the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) according to the election cycle of the General Board.
3. They will present the slate of officers to the Congregations no less than thirty (30) days prior to the Gathering at which the vote will occur.
4. The committee will work assiduously at being inclusive, with attention to both the geographic and human diversity of our Region, in its selection of nominees.

## B. ELECTIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE

1. The nominated officers will be elected at a Gathering, taking office at the conclusion of the Gathering at which they are elected. The terms of office are two (2) years except for the Financial Steward and Financial Vice-Steward whose terms are three (3) years.
2. At the first election under these By-laws all officers will be elected with the two Moderators, the two Secretaries, the two (2) Ad-Ministry Council Members at Large and two (2) Representatives of the Regional Expression of the Church elected for three-year terms; the two (2) Vice-Moderators, the two (2) Ministry Council Members at Large and two (2) Representatives of the Regional Expression of the Church elected for two-year terms; the Financial Steward and Financial Vice-Steward for three-year terms.
3. On the second year there will be no election. On the third year and yearly thereafter elections will be held.
4. An office may be shared with one other person but with only one vote in meetings.
5. No person may serve as an officer for more than three consecutive election cycles. After two years out of office, a person is again eligible for office.

## C. DUTIES

1. Moderators
  - a. Preside at all meetings of their respective Councils.
  - b. Set the time and place for meetings of their respective Councils.
  - c. Perform such other duties as assigned by their respective Councils.
  - d. The Executive Committee Convener will preside at the business portion of Gatherings.
2. Vice-Moderators
  - a. Preside at any meeting where the Moderator is absent.
  - b. Perform other duties as assigned by their respective Moderators or Councils.
3. Ad-Ministry Council Secretary
  - a. Make a complete record of the business portion of any Gathering.
  - b. Make a complete record of the meetings of the Ad-Ministry Council and the Executive Committee.
4. Ministry Council Secretary: Make a complete record of the meetings of the Ministry Council.

5. Financial Steward: Working with the Regional Minister, oversee the financial well being of the Region.
6. Financial Vice-Steward: Assist the Financial Steward.
7. Members at Large: Bring their knowledge and insight to and from their respective Councils.
8. Representatives of the Regional Expression of the Church: Bring a concern for the life and ministry of the Church, from global to regional to local.

#### D. ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Each person accepting an office will do so with the intent of serving the full term of the office and with the intent of being accountable through spiritual, physical, financial and mental presence.
2. Any officer with two unexcused absences from meetings may be subject to dismissal from that office by the Executive Committee.
3. Any allegation of inappropriate conduct by an officer will be brought to the Executive Committee for informal discussion and resolution. If that does not resolve the issue, the Regional Minister will appoint a Hearing Body pursuant to Art. III, Sec. 4, Para. 5, whose decision will be final.

### SECTION 4 – SETTLEMENT OF ISSUES

- A. It is the obligation of the Region, the Executive Committee, the Ad-Ministry Council and the Ministry Council to be sensitive to all concerns that come before them. In the event of an issue on which a minority believes it cannot get a hearing, the following applies:
  1. For Committees and Clusters: Issues that cannot be resolved within the Committee or Cluster will be brought to their supervising Council for resolution.
  2. For the Executive Committee, the Ad-Ministry Council and the Ministry Council: After good-faith efforts to be heard fail, one-third (1/3) of the members, either orally or in writing, may request a hearing on an issue, which request will be granted.
  3. For the Region: After good-faith efforts to be heard fail, no fewer than seven (7) Congregations may, by board action and in writing, request a hearing on an issue, which request will be granted.
- B. Hearings will be before a a Hearing Body of five (5) Regional Elders, appointed for each case, by the Regional Minister. The Hearing Body for each case will devise its process and issue its decision, which will be final. The obligation of the Hearing Body is to fully hear the proponents of the issue so that the proponents believe they have been heard and understood. They will act on issues arising in the following Sections of Article III: Sec. 2, Para. A8; Sec. 3, Para. D3; paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Section 4; and Sec. 5.

### SECTION 5 – RESOLUTIONS BEFORE THE GATHERING

A group of seven (7) or more Congregations by board action and in writing or fifty (50) or more active members of Disciples churches from seven (7) or more Congregations wishing to place an issue before the Gathering will submit, no less than ninety (90) days prior to the Gathering, their resolution to the Executive Committee for review and decision to grant, modify or deny their

request. If their request is denied they may request a hearing before a Hearing Body formed pursuant to Art. III, Sec. 4, Para. 5, whose decision will be final.

## SECTION 6 – REGIONAL MINISTER

- A. The term of office is six (6) years with a limit of two terms. A second term may be served consecutively under paragraph D1 below or at a later time under paragraph D2 below.
- B. Duties: Be the watchful pastoral presence of the Region ensuring that regional ministry functions effectively. Foster the Vision and Mission of the Region as set forth in these By-Laws and as determined from time to time by the two Councils and the Executive Committee. Minister to Congregations and their pastors. Serve as the Regional Representative to the General Church and other church bodies as needed from time to time. Administer the Regional Office with full authority over procedures, hiring, supervision and dismissal of staff and anything else necessary for an effective office.
- C. Discharge will be by policies outlined in the Personnel Procedure Manual.

### D. VACANCY

1. At the beginning of the sixth year of the first term, the Executive Committee, in consultation with the Ad-Ministry Council and the Ministry Council, will begin a process to determine if re-election is appropriate. If so, they will inform members of the Region and set a Gathering for the election. A quorum for this Gathering is two-thirds (2/3) of all Congregations and two-thirds (2/3) of all Delegates. On a favorable vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Delegates present, the Regional Minister will be called for a second term.
2. In all other situations, on the determination of the Executive Committee, in consultation with the Ad-Ministry Council and the Ministry Council, that a new Regional Minister needs to be called, they will appoint a Regional Minister Selection Committee of eight (8) members and three (3) alternates, representing a full range of the Congregations and membership of the region. The Ad-Ministry Council and the Ministry Council will have no fewer than two (2) members each on the eight (8) member committee. In the event of the expiration of the term of office of a member of the committee prior to selection of a Regional Minister nominee, that person shall remain on the committee until the conclusion of its work. Six votes are necessary for the selection of a candidate.
  - a. On selection of a candidate, the Selection Committee will present the name to a joint meeting of the full membership of the Ad-Ministry Council and the Ministry Council for approval. On a favorable vote of three-quarters (3/4) of the total membership of both Councils, the name will be presented to the Executive Committee, who will present the name and qualifications to the members of the Region and recommend a call.
  - b. The Executive Committee will set a Gathering for the purpose of calling the Regional Minister. A quorum for this Gathering is two-thirds (2/3) of all Congregations and two-thirds (2/3) of all Delegates. On a favorable vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Delegates present a call will be issued to the nominee.

## SECTION 7– PROPERTIES, ASSETS AND FISCAL YEAR

- A. The properties and assets of the Region are irrevocably dedicated to religious or charitable purposes.
- B. None of the assets of the Region will inure to the benefit of any director, officer or employee of the Region or any private individual.
- C. The fiscal year of the Corporation is January 1 through December 31.
- D. In the event of dissolution of the Region, all liabilities and obligations of the Region will be satisfied by payment or transfer, and discharged. Any assets remaining will be transferred or conveyed to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada or its corporate successor. Should the above entity be no longer in existence or not qualify for exempt status under Sec. 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, all assets remaining will be transferred or conveyed to one or more domestic or foreign churches, societies or organizations engaged in activities substantially similar to those of the Region and who qualify under Sec. 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, pursuant to a plan of distribution approved by the Executive Committee and the Gathering and directed by the Ad-Ministry Council.
- E. In the event of dissolution of the Region by merger with another body of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada or another ecumenical body, transfer of assets and liabilities from the Region to the new body will be pursuant to a plan approved by the Executive Committee and the Gathering and directed by the Ad-Ministry Council.

## ARTICLE IV – HOW WE CHANGE

When the inevitable time arrives that these By-laws need changing, the Executive Committee, with the concurrence of the Ad-Ministry Council and the Ministry Council, will set in motion the process to amend or repeal these By-laws. Notice of changes will be given to all Congregations no less than thirty (30) days prior to the Gathering that will consider them. A quorum for this Gathering is two-thirds (2/3) of all Congregations and two-thirds (2/3) of all Delegates. On a favorable vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Delegates present the changes will be approved.

## BOB'S RULES OF ORDER

For most organizations in which people share a sense of trust and a common vision, these simple rules are enough to run meetings in a friendly, yet efficient manner---without the need for using hundreds of specific and sometimes obscure rules of parliamentary procedure.

- A. To speak at the meeting, a person must be recognized by the chair. Only one person can be recognized at a time.
- B. A main motion must be made and seconded before discussion can begin on any proposal for action.
- C. Only three things can happen to a main motion: it may be amended, tabled, adopted/rejected.
  - 1. An amendment can be debated, amended itself, and finally adopted or rejected by a

majority vote of those voting. If it is adopted, it becomes part of the main motion. If it is rejected, the debate returns to the main motion.

2. A motion to table requires a majority vote of those voting. A main motion may be tabled to a subsequent meeting or to a later time in the current meeting. If tabled, it cannot be brought up again until the date or time specified in the motion.

3. The main motion (as amended) can be adopted or rejected by a majority of those voting. Once the main motion has been voted upon, there can be no further discussion of it.

D. After sufficient debate has taken place on an amendment or a main motion, anyone can “call the question” --ie, move to end debate and proceed immediately to a vote. This can be done either “informally” or “formally”.

1. If the question is called “informally”, the chair asks if everyone is ready to vote. If there is no objection, an immediate vote is taken, with no more debate allowed.

2. If someone objects to ending the debate, an immediate vote with no discussion allowed is taken. If two-thirds of those voting wish to end debate, then no more discussion is allowed. If less than two-thirds vote to end debate, then discussion continues until someone else “calls the question”.

E. A motion to adjourn a meeting can be made at any time. There is an immediate vote with no debate allowed. If a majority of those voting wish to adjourn, then the meeting is adjourned. If less than a majority wish to adjourn, then the meeting continues.

Under “Bob's Rules of Order”, all other questions regarding the running of a meeting should be decided by the chair on the basis of...common sense! If someone tries to speak out of turn or disrupt the meeting in any way, the chair can rule that person “out of order”.

If anyone objects to any decision by the chair, that person can “challenge the ruling of the chair”.

When this occurs, each voting participant---including the chairperson---can speak to the challenge once and for only one minute. The debate is ended and a vote is taken immediately to either uphold or reject the decision of the chair. If the majority of those voting uphold the ruling of the chair, then the meeting proceeds. If the majority votes to reject the ruling of the chair, then the chair must announce a different decision, which can also be challenged if it is not acceptable.

ELECTION SCHEDULE \*

2011	2 Mods	2 VMods	2 Sctys	2 AdMin MAL	2 Ministry MAL	FinStew	FinVStew	4 Reps of Church
2012			<b>N O</b>	<b>E L E</b>	<b>C T I O</b>	<b>N S</b>		
2013		2 VMods			2 MAL			2 Reps
2014	2 Mods		2 Sctys	2 MAL		FinStew	FinVStew	2 Reps
2015		2 VMods			2 MAL			2 Reps
2016	2 Mods		2 Sctys	2 MAL				2 Reps
2017		2 VMods			2 MAL	FinStew	FinVStew	2 Reps
2018	2 Mods		2 Sctys	2 MAL				2 Reps

\* *Corrected Schedule (02/16/2015)*

The original Election Schedule had inaccurately shown the bi-annual elections of the Administry Council Members-at-Large (AMAL) beginning 2013 and the biannual elections of the Ministry Members-at-Large (MMAL) beginning 2014. In accordance to Section 3, Part B, Paragraph 1, these positions are elected for a term of two year (2) term with the exception that in the first election of these bylaws, the AMAL are elected for a term of three (3) years, as directed by Section 3, Part B, Paragraph 2. As such, the bi-annual elections for the AMAL begins in 2014 and the bi-annual elections for the MMAL begin in 2013. This corrected visual reflects the directives put forth in Section 3, Part B, Paragraphs 1 & 2.

# STANDING COMMITTEES RELATIONSHIP TO COUNCILS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## Executive Committee

Recognition and Standing

Training and Care

Regional Elders

The Gathering Planning Committee

Justice Commission

## Ad-Ministry Council

Resources

Personnel

CGC Facilities

## • Ministry Council

— Regional Mission

— Outdoor Ministries

— New Church

— Transformation

— Congregational Care

— Reconciliation