

The Constitution

of the

United Church of Christ

As Approved by the

Adjourned Meeting of the Second General Synod

of the

United Church of Christ

July 6 - 8, 1960

Sheraton-Cleveland Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio

FOR SUBMISSION TO THE SYNODS AND THE CHURCHES

Included with the Constitution of the United Church of Christ are the By-Laws as amended by the Adjourned Meeting of the Second General Synod for submission to the Third General Synod if that General Synod shall declare the Constitution now being submitted as being "in force" according to provision IV-A of the Basis of Union.

Resolution adopted by the Adjourned Meeting of the Second General Synod of the United Church of Christ for acceptance and submission of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ to the local churches of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Synods of the Evangelical and Reformed Church for ratification or approval.

WHEREAS, Article IV-A of the Basis of Union provided as follows:

"The General Synod shall initiate action for the preparation of a constitution of the United Church. This constitution shall be based upon the principles set forth in this Basis of Union. When prepared, it shall be submitted to the General Synod; and the General Synod shall declare it in force when it shall have been ratified by not less than two-thirds of the former Congregational Christian churches voting, and by not less than two-thirds of the former Evangelical and Reformed Synods";

AND WHEREAS, the Uniting General Synod of the United Church of Christ, held June 25-27, 1957, at Cleveland, Ohio, took action as follows:

"Action Toward Preparation of a Constitution of the United Church
(Basis of Union IV-A)

"The Basis of Union provides that 'the General Synod shall initiate action for the preparation of a constitution of the United Church.'

"It was agreed 'to recommend to the United Synod that there be a Commission to Prepare a Constitution, composed of 30 persons; 15 from each fellowship'; and that 'the Nominating Committee be advised that this recommendation will be brought to the floor of the General Synod at its first meeting, and that the Nominating Committee should be prepared, if this resolution is passed, to present the necessary nominations.'

"It is recommended that the General Synod adopt these actions as its own, and in due time hear the report of the Nominating Committee and elect the members of the Commission.

"57 GS 16. VOTED: to adopt the recommendation of the Business Committee";

AND WHEREAS, The United General Synod aforementioned elected the members of this Commission as recorded in Vote 57 GS 21 on page 22 of the Minutes of the Uniting General Synod, certain changes in the membership as necessitated by death and resignation being duly reported in the Commission's report to the Second General Synod of the United Church of Christ and recorded in Appendix 7, pages 81-110, of the Minutes of that Second General Synod;

AND WHEREAS, the Second General Synod of the United Church of Christ, held July 5-9, 1959, at Oberlin, Ohio, adopted resolutions receiving a first draft of the proposed Constitution and By-Laws and establishing a time schedule providing for the revision thereof and a presentation of the revised draft to a special adjourned session of the Second General Synod (Minutes, Second General Synod pp. 31-32, and 37);

AND WHEREAS, the revised draft, in accord with the provision of the Basis of Union, provides as follows in Article X:

"The General Synod shall declare this Constitution in force when it shall have been ratified or approved by not less than two-thirds of the Synods of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and by not less than two-thirds of the Congregational Christian churches voting, such voting to have been completed not later than June 1 immediately preceding the next regular meeting of the General Synod after the submission of the Constitution for the action of the Congregational Christian churches and of the Synods of the Evangelical and Reformed Church";

BE IT RESOLVED that the General Synod hereby accepts the revised draft transmitted by the Commission to Prepare a Constitution and as amended by the General Synod as the proposed Constitution of the United Church of Christ and approves the same, subject to literary editing, for submission to the Evangelical and Reformed Synods and the Congregational Christian churches for ratification or approval, hereby requesting that such action be taken by midnight, June 1, 1961, and transmitted to the Co-Secretaries of the General Synod not later than midnight, June 5, 1961;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Council is instructed to transmit said Constitution to the Congregational Christian churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Synods together with a copy of this resolution, and the Executive Council is hereby authorized to establish appropriate procedures whereby the churches and Synods shall be requested to record their actions and transmit the same to the General Synod;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary is directed to attach a copy of said Constitution to these Minutes.

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST*

PREAMBLE

- 1 The United Church of Christ, formed June 25, 1957, by the union of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and The General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches of the United States in order to express more fully the oneness in Christ of the churches composing it, to make more effective their common witness in Him, and to serve His kingdom in the world, hereby adopts this Constitution.
- 2 The United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole Head, Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Saviour of men. It acknowledges as brethren 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.
- 3 The provisions herein define and regulate the General Synod and those instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ which are recognized, established by or responsible to the General Synod, and describe the free and voluntary relationships which the local churches, Associations, Conferences and ministers sustain with the General Synod and with each other. The pattern of relationships and procedures so described is recommended to local churches, Associations, Conferences and ministers, to enable them more effectively to accomplish their tasks and the work of the United Church of Christ.

ARTICLE I. NAME

- 4 The name of this Church shall be UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.

ARTICLE II. STRUCTURE

- 5 The United Church of Christ is composed of local churches, Associations, Conferences and the General Synod.

* This Constitution has been approved by the General Synod for submission to all Congregational Christian Churches and Evangelical and Reformed Synods for their approval or ratification. Each and every such local church and Synod should vote on the Constitution (not the By-Laws) before midnight June 1, 1961.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS

6 Officers of the United Church of Christ shall be a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and such other officers as the General Synod may from time to time determine. They shall be responsible to the General Synod.

ARTICLE IV. LOCAL CHURCHES

7 The basic unit of the life and organization of the United Church of Christ is the local church.

8 A local church is composed of persons who, believing in God as heavenly Father, and accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and depending on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, are organized for Christian worship, for the furtherance of Christian fellowship, and for the ongoing work of Christian witness.

9 In accordance with the custom and usage of a local church, persons become members by (a) baptism and either confirmation or profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour; (b) reaffirmation or reprofession of faith; or (c) letter of transfer or certification from other Christian churches.

10 All persons who are or shall become members of a local church of the United Church of Christ are thereby members of the United Church of Christ.

11 Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church unite in the United Church of Christ without break in their respective historic continuities and traditions. The following local churches compose the United Church of Christ:

12 a. The local churches of the Evangelical and Reformed Church;

13 b. The local churches of the Congregational Christian fellowship which vote to become a part of the United Church of Christ, or which vote to approve this Constitution;

14 c. Any Congregational Christian local church which, although it has not voted to become a part of the United Church of Christ, or to approve this Constitution, votes to join the United Church of Christ after this Constitution is declared in force;

15 d. Any local church which, after this Constitution is declared in force, may be accepted into an Association, or Conference, of the United Church of Christ, except as provided in paragraph 19;

16 e. The local churches of any denomination which after this Constitution is declared in force unite with the United Church of Christ; and

17 f. Any local church in a category not otherwise defined in this article, received upon its request, subject to such provisions as in consultation with the Conference may be specified by the Association within whose bounds it is located, and which are not inconsistent with this Constitution and the By-Laws of the United Church of Christ.

- 18 Local churches of the United Church of Christ are represented in the General Synod by the delegates from the Conferences to which they belong.
- 19 An Association or a Conference of the United Church of Christ may, under such provisions as it deems wise, admit, or continue in fellowship with, any Congregational Christian local church which is not part of the United Church of Christ. The names and statistics of such churches shall be kept separately; their members shall not be counted in determining the number of delegates which the Conference is entitled to send to the General Synod; nor shall any member of such a church be a delegate to the General Synod or hold elective office in that body. No direct or indirect participation by any such local church in, or support of, the work of the United Church of Christ, or of any of its instrumentalities, or of any Conference or Association, shall be construed as making it a church of the United Church of Christ.
- 20 The local churches of the United Church of Christ have, in fellowship, a God-given responsibility for that Church, its labors and its extension, even as the United Church of Christ has, in fellowship, a God-given responsibility for the well-being and needs and aspirations of its local churches. In mutual Christian concern and in dedication to Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, the one and the many share in common Christian experience and responsibility.
- 21 The autonomy of the local church is inherent and modifiable only by its own action. Nothing in this Constitution and the By-Laws of the United Church of Christ shall destroy or limit the right of each local church to continue to operate in the way customary to it; nor shall be construed as giving to the General Synod, or to any Conference or Association, now or at any future time, the power to abridge or impair the autonomy of any local church in the management of its own affairs, which affairs include, but are not limited to, the right to retain or adopt its own methods of organization, worship and education; to retain or secure its own charter and name; to adopt its own constitution and by-laws; to formulate its own covenants and confessions of faith; to admit members in its own way and to provide for their discipline or dismissal; to call or dismiss its pastor or pastors by such procedure as it shall determine; to acquire, own, manage and dispose of property and funds; to control its own benevolences; and to withdraw by its own decision from the United Church of Christ at any time without forfeiture of ownership or control of any real or personal property owned by it.
- 22 Actions by, or decisions or advice emanating from, the General Synod, a Conference or an Association, should be held in the highest regard by every local church.

ARTICLE V. THE MINISTRY

- 23 The privilege and responsibility of witnessing to the Gospel belong to every member of the Church. The United Church of Christ diligently seeks, therefore, to provide opportunities for its members to exercise such gifts of teaching, evangelizing, healing, preaching and administration as God has bestowed upon them.
- 24 The United Church of Christ recognizes that God calls certain of its members to full-time service for various forms of ministry in the Church. This calling is recognized by ordination, commissioning or other appropriate services of dedication.
- 25 A *Student in Care of Association* is a member of the United Church of Christ who has been called of God and who, under the care of his Association, is preparing himself for the Christian ministry.
- 26 A *Licentiate* is a student in care of an Association who is given a temporary license by an Association to perform such ministerial duties as it may determine.
- 27 *Ordination* is the rite whereby the United Church of Christ through an Association, in cooperation with the local church, sets apart by prayer and the laying on of hands those of its members God has called to the Christian ministry. By this rite ministerial standing is conferred and authorization is given to perform all the duties and to exercise all the prerogatives of the ministry.
- 28 An *Ordained Minister* of the United Church of Christ is one of its members who has been called of God and ordained to preach and teach the Gospel, to administer the sacraments and rites of the Church, and to exercise pastoral care and leadership.
- 29 *Ministerial Standing* in the United Church of Christ is held in an Association.
- 30 *The Call* of a minister to a pastorate establishes a covenant relationship between the minister and the local church. This relationship is also a concern of the Church at large as represented by an Association and a Conference.
- 31 A *Commissioned Worker* of the United Church of Christ is one of its unordained members who has been called of God and commissioned by his Association for a specific full-time church-related service.
- 32 A *Lay Minister* of the United Church of Christ is one of its unordained members who has been called of God and authorized by an Association to perform duties, mainly preaching and conducting services of worship, within that Association and under its guidance.

ARTICLE VI. ASSOCIATIONS AND CONFERENCES

- 33 Pending their reorganization on a territorial basis, Synods, Conferences, Conventions and Associations in existence at the time this Constitution is declared to be in force may act as Conferences and Associa-

tions of the United Church of Christ and may perform the functions thereof in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and the By-Laws of the United Church of Christ with regard to such responsibilities as they may have heretofore discharged. The Synods, Conferences, Conventions and Associations, with the counsel and confirmation of the General Synod, shall take the initiative in their reorganization which shall proceed with utmost dispatch.

Associations

- 34 An Association is that body within a Conference of the United Church of Christ which is composed of all local churches in a geographical area and of all ministers who have standing in that Association.
- 35 Subsequent to the initial reorganization of Associations in the United Church of Christ, the boundaries of any new Association, or any adjustment of boundaries between Associations shall be determined by the Associations concerned with the approval of the Conference or Conferences involved. The standing of an Association as a body of the United Church of Christ is determined by the Conference in which it is located.
- 36 An 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.
- 37 An Association is that body which determines, confers and certifies to ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ.
- 38 An Association may retain or secure its own charter, and adopts its own constitution, by-laws and other rules which it deems essential to its own welfare and not inconsistent with this Constitution and the By-Laws of the United Church of Christ.
- 39 An Association is related to the General Synod through its Conference.
- 40 When an Association meets, its voting membership consists of the ordained ministers holding standing therein and of lay delegates selected by and representing the local churches of that Association.
- 41 Meetings of the Association are held annually and at such other times as may be necessary for the discharge of its responsibilities.

Conferences

- 42 A Conference is that body of the United Church of Christ which is composed of all local churches in a geographical area and of all ministers who have standing in the Associations of that Conference or in the Conference itself.
- 43 Subsequent to the initial reorganization of Conferences in the United Church of Christ, the boundaries of any new Conference, or any ad-

justment of boundaries between Conferences, shall be determined by the Conferences concerned with the approval of the General Synod. The standing of a Conference as a body of the United Church of Christ is determined by the General Synod.

- 44 A Conference may retain or secure its own charter, and adopts its own constitution, by-laws and other rules which it deems essential to its own welfare and not inconsistent with this Constitution and the By-Laws of the United Church of Christ.
- 45 A Conference is related to the General Synod as described in the By-Laws of the United Church of Christ.
- 46 When a Conference meets, its voting membership consists of the ordained ministers holding standing in its Associations or in the Conference itself, and of lay delegates selected by and representing the local churches of that Conference.
- 47 Meetings of the Conference are held annually and at such other times as may be necessary for the discharge of its responsibilities.

Conferences Acting as Associations

- 48 A Conference may exercise the functions of an Association when they are delegated to it by an Association or where no Association exists.

ARTICLE VII. THE GENERAL SYNOD

- 49 The General Synod is the representative body of the United Church of Christ and is composed of delegates chosen by the Conferences, and of ex officio delegates; these shall constitute the *voting delegates*. There shall not be fewer than three delegates allocated to each Conference. A quorum for the conduct of business shall consist of one-third of the voting delegates, provided that in this number at least two-thirds of the Conferences are represented by at least one delegate each. There shall also be *associate delegates*, without vote.

Powers

- 50 The General Synod has the following powers, provided, however, that no power vested in the General Synod shall invade the autonomy of Conferences, Associations and local churches, or impair their right to acquire, own, manage and dispose of property and funds:
- 51 a. To carry on, directly and through its Executive Council, instrumentalities and other bodies, the work of the United Church of Christ, and to provide for the financial support of this work;
- 52 b. To organize as required for the transaction of business;
- 53 c. To nominate and elect officers of the United Church of Christ who shall be chosen from the membership of the United Church of Christ and who with the Moderators shall serve as officers of the General Synod;
- 54 d. To nominate and elect those members of instrumentalities whose election is vested in the General Synod;

- 55 e. To nominate and elect an Executive Council to act for the General Synod ad interim;
- 56 f. To establish and maintain national headquarters for the United Church of Christ;
- 57 g. To establish a central treasury which shall receive funds contributed to the General Synod for the support of the United Church of Christ and for its instrumentalities;
- 58 h. To determine the relationships of the United Church of Christ with ecumenical organizations, world confessional bodies, and other interdenominational agencies;
- 59 i. To encourage conversations with other communions and when appropriate to authorize and guide negotiations with them looking toward formal union;
- 60 j. To amend this Constitution as hereinafter provided; and
- 61 k. To adopt by-laws for the United Church of Christ and, as hereinafter provided, to amend them.

Meetings

- 62 The General Synod shall hold meetings at regular intervals as provided in the By-Laws of the United Church of Christ. Special meetings may be called in the manner provided in those By-Laws.

ARTICLE VIII. INSTRUMENTALITIES

- 63 The United Church of Christ recognizes responsibilities at home and abroad for missions, fraternal aid and service, ecumenical relations, interchurch relations and Christian unity, education, publication, the ministry, ministerial pensions and relief, evangelism, stewardship, social action, health and welfare and any other appropriate area of need or concern.

Establishment or Recognition

- 64 The General Synod shall establish or cause to be established boards, commissions, councils, offices, or other instrumentalities, temporary or permanent, incorporated or unincorporated, suitable for the discharge of its responsibilities. Such instrumentalities shall perform all their acts in accordance with this Constitution and the By-Laws of the United Church of Christ, and instructions given them from time to time by the General Synod.
- 65 The General Synod shall determine the conditions under which it will recognize an existing agency to serve as an instrumentality of the United Church of Christ. Each instrumentality so recognized shall administer its own program and financial affairs, and establish its own by-laws and rules of procedure.

Correlation

66 The General Synod and its Executive Council shall consider the programs of such instrumentalities with a view to correlating their work, publicity and promotion, preventing duplication and effecting economies of administration, so as to secure maximum effectiveness and efficiency through careful stewardship of personnel and financial resources. Due protection shall be given to all trust funds, including pension funds.

World Mission and Service

67 The General Synod recognizes the United Church Board for World Ministries as the instrumentality of the United Church of Christ for the planning and conduct of its program of mission and service abroad and of emergency relief anywhere. This Board continues the work previously carried on by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, the Board of International Missions, the Commission on World Service and the Congregational Christian Service Committee.

68 The General Synod nominates and elects the corporate members of the United Church Board for World Ministries. This Board shall report its program and finances annually to the Executive Council and to each regular meeting of the General Synod. It shall submit to the Budget Committee of the General Synod a detailed request for allocation from the budget to be recommended to the General Synod for the component parts of its program.

Homeland Mission and Service

69 The General Synod recognizes the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries as the instrumentality of the United Church of Christ for the planning and conduct of the homeland mission not otherwise assigned.

70 The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries continues the work of, and acts as agent for, the following corporations during the life of agreements as executed by them:

Board of National Missions
Board of Christian Education and
Publication
Board of Business Management
Board of Home Missions of the Re-
formed Church in the U. S.

The American Missionary Association
Congregational Church Building So-
ciety
Congregational Education Society
Congregational Home Missionary So-
ciety
Congregational Publishing Society
The Congregational Sunday School
Extension Society
The Congregational Woman's Home
Missionary Federation

71 The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries is responsible for evangelism in the United Church of Christ.

72 The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries coordinates the

mission of the United Church of Christ in higher education and in health and welfare through the Councils hereinafter established for service in these fields.

- 73 The General Synod nominates and elects the corporate members of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries. This Board shall report its program and finances annually to the Executive Council and to each regular meeting of the General Synod. Each organization related to the Board shall have a part in determining the program and budget of the Board. The Board shall submit to the Budget Committee of the General Synod a detailed request for allocation from the budget to be recommended to the General Synod for those parts of the Board's program not otherwise provided for in this Constitution and in the By-Laws of the United Church of Christ. Organizations related to the Board shall have free access to the Budget Committee of the General Synod.

Higher Education

- 74 There shall be a Council for Higher Education with purposes and organization as described in the By-Laws of the United Church of Christ.

Health and Welfare

- 75 There shall be a Council for Health and Welfare Services with purposes and organization as described in the By-Laws of the United Church of Christ.

Pension and Relief Activities

- 76 The pension activities of the United Church of Christ are administered by a non-profit membership corporation(s). The control of each such corporation lies in its members through a board of trustees chosen by the members from a list of persons whose names have been presented to and approved by the General Synod or by the Executive Council. Persons for this list may be proposed by any member of the corporation(s) or by the Trustees thereof. Such corporation(s) shall report its program and finances annually to its members and to the Executive Council, and to each regular meeting of the General Synod. The General Synod shall from time to time make examination of the practices and developments of such corporation(s).

- 77 The ministerial relief activities of the United Church of Christ, by whatever corporate bodies administered, are co-ordinated with the pension activities of the Church through the corporation(s) above described. The pension and the relief corporation(s) shall submit to the Budget Committee of the General Synod a request for allocation of sufficient funds, from the budget to be recommended to the General Synod, for the payment of ministerial relief benefits and such other benefits as the General Synod may provide. Payment of such benefits shall be limited to the funds received for that purpose.

Social Education and Action

- 78 The General Synod shall establish a Council for Christian Social Action as the instrumentality of the United Church of Christ to study the content of the Gospel in its bearing on man in society, provide and publish information and literature on social issues, cooperate with instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ and with other appropriate bodies in making the implications of the Gospel effective in society, and formulate and promote a program of social education and action for the United Church of Christ.
- 79 The Council shall report its program and finances annually to the Executive Council and to each regular meeting of the General Synod. It shall submit to the Budget Committee of the General Synod a detailed request for support of its work through funds allocated from the budget to be recommended to the General Synod.

Church and Ministry

- 80 The General Synod shall establish a Council for Church and Ministry as an instrumentality of the United Church of Christ. The Council shall study, plan and oversee the program of the Church in such areas of concern as pastoral relations, professional standards, education for church-related vocations, life enlistment, aid for students in care of Association, in-service training, religion and health, social and parish workers, military, industrial and institutional chaplaincies. It shall cooperate and counsel with Associations and Conferences in implementing the work and witness of the Church in these areas.
- 81 The Council shall report its program and finances annually to the Executive Council and to each regular meeting of the General Synod. It shall submit to the Budget Committee of the General Synod a detailed request for support of its work through funds allocated from the budget to be recommended to the General Synod.

Lay Life and Work

- 82 The General Synod shall establish a Council for Lay Life and Work as the instrumentality of the United Church of Christ responsible for increasing, developing and coordinating the activities and participation of laymen and laywomen in the Church as a means of witnessing effectively for Jesus Christ in all areas of life.
- 83 The Council shall report its program and finances annually to the Executive Council and to each regular meeting of the General Synod. It shall submit to the Budget Committee of the General Synod a detailed request for support of its work through funds allocated from the budget to be recommended to the General Synod.

Public Relations and Mass Communications

- 84 The General Synod shall establish an Office of Communication as the instrumentality of the United Church of Christ for public relations

and mass communications, with responsibilities as defined in the By-Laws of the United Church of Christ.

- 85 The Office shall report its program and finances annually to the Executive Council and to each regular meeting of the General Synod. It shall submit to the Budget Committee of the General Synod a detailed request for support of its work through funds allocated from the budget to be recommended to the General Synod.

Stewardship

- 86 The General Synod shall establish a Stewardship Council as the instrumentality of the United Church of Christ to foster the principles and practice of Christian Stewardship and to discharge such other responsibilities as may be described in the By-Laws of the United Church of Christ or assigned to it by the General Synod.
- 87 The Council shall report its program and finances annually to the Executive Council and to each regular meeting of the General Synod. It shall submit to the Budget Committee of the General Synod a detailed request for support of its work through funds allocated from the budget to be recommended to the General Synod.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

The Constitution

- 88 Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by a Conference, the General Synod or the Executive Council. Such proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the United Church of Christ at least three months prior to a meeting of the General Synod to which they are to be presented. At least two months prior to the meeting of the General Synod, the Secretary shall transmit such proposed amendments to the delegates, to the Conferences and to the local churches. Adoption of an amendment to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of those present and voting in the General Synod and, before the next regular meeting of the General Synod, an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Conferences. If so approved the General Synod, if in session, or the Executive Council, shall declare the amendment adopted and in force.

The By-Laws

- 89 Amendments to the By-Laws of the United Church of Christ may be proposed by an Association, a Conference, the General Synod, or the Executive Council. Such proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the United Church of Christ at least three months prior to the meeting of the General Synod to which they are to be presented. At least two months prior to the meeting of the General Synod, the Secretary shall transmit such proposed amendments to the

delegates, to the Conferences and to the local churches. Adoption of an amendment to the By-Laws shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of those present and voting in the General Synod.

ARTICLE X. EFFECTIVE DATE

90 The General Synod shall declare this Constitution in force when it shall have been ratified or approved by not less than two-thirds of the Synods of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and by not less than two-thirds of the Congregational Christian churches voting, such voting to have been completed not later than June 1 immediately preceding the next regular meeting of the General Synod after the submission of the Constitution for the action of the Congregational Christian churches and of the Synods of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

NOTE. The draft of the By-Laws as amended by the Adjourned meeting of the Second General Synod of the United Church of Christ follows herewith. It is included for information and study. At the General Synod meeting at which the Constitution is declared in force, these By-Laws will be presented and the Executive Council will recommend that the General Synod adopt them by a two-thirds affirmative vote of those present and voting.

The Adjourned meeting of the Second General Synod of the United Church of Christ at its meeting in the Sheraton-Cleveland Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio, July 6-8, 1960, voted: To approve the By-Laws as amended for submission to the Third General Synod if that General Synod shall declare the Constitution now being submitted as being "in force" according to provision IV-A of the Basis of Union.

BY-LAWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST*

PREAMBLE

100 These By-Laws, consistent with the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, further define and regulate the General Synod and those instrumentalities which are recognized, established by or responsible to it, and describe the free and voluntary relationships which the local churches, Associations, Conferences and ministers sustain with the General Synod and with each other. The pattern of relationships and procedures so described is recommended to local churches, Associations, Conferences and ministers, to enable them more effectively to accomplish their tasks and the work of the United Church of Christ.

ARTICLE I. THE MINISTRY

Students for the Ministry

101 An individual desiring to prepare for the ministry applies to be received as a *Student in Care of Association*. Application is made to the Association through his pastor and the local church of which he is a member.

102 The committees on the Ministry of his Conference and Association cooperate in examining the applicant as to his fitness, aptitudes, Christian experience and commitment. If he is found to be qualified, he is received into the care of his Association.

103 The Association extends fellowship, counsel and assistance to the student during the time of his academic preparation for the ministry. The student is responsible to the Association.

104 A student is expected to pursue a course of study leading to a bachelor's degree or its equivalent and to graduation from a theological seminary approved by the Council for Church and Ministry.

* These By-Laws have been approved by the Adjourned Meeting of the Second General Synod (1960) for submission to the Third General Synod (1961). They are not to be voted on by any local church or Synod.

Licensure

- 105 Application for licensure is made by a student through a local church to its Association.
- 106 The committees on the Ministry of that Association and its Conference cooperate in examining the student concerning his growth in the Christian faith, his character, and his ability to do the work expected of a *licentiate*. If he is found to be qualified, he is granted licensure by the Association for not more than one year. Licensure is granted only after completion of one year of seminary study and only for services in designated local churches. If his service as a *licentiate* is to be performed within an Association other than his own, the procedure is initiated by that Association and its Conference after consultation with the Association which holds him in care.
- 107 In special cases and at the request of the local church which he serves, the Association may grant a *licentiate* the right to administer the sacraments and rites of the Church for this local church.
- 108 A *licentiate* is listed separately on the roll of his Association and is not considered a ministerial member.

Ordination

- 109 Not more than six months prior to the completion of theological training, a student for the ministry applies through his local church to his Association for approval as a candidate for ordination. If his service of ordination is to be performed within an Association other than his own, the procedure, including that described in the following paragraph, is initiated by that Association and its Conference after consultation with the Association which holds him in care.
- 110 The committees on the Ministry of the Conference and Association cooperate in examining the students as to his abilities, his reasons for seeking the office of the Christian ministry, his educational and theological attainments, his knowledge of the history, polity and practices of the United Church of Christ, and his growth in Christian faith and experience. If he is found to be qualified the Association authorizes his ordination.
- 111 Ordination by an Association of the United Church of Christ, in cooperation with the local church, confers *standing* as a minister of the United Church of Christ.
- 112 After the ordination or in anticipation of it a certificate is issued bearing the signatures of the proper officers of the Association and the President of the United Church of Christ.

Ministerial Standing

- 113 A minister moving from the bounds of one Association to another requests a transfer of his ministerial standing to the Association of his new residence.

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- 114 A minister engaged in other than the parish ministry has his standing in the Association where he resides.
- 115 A minister engaged in a ministry requiring his prolonged absence from the United States, or one that does not permit him a fixed residence, is entitled to have his standing in the Association of his choice.
- 116 A minister under sixty-five years of age who withdraws from active full-time service in the ministry applies to his Association for leave of absence. His Association may grant him leave of absence for one year at a time. Except in special cases such leave of absence is not granted for more than five years in succession.
- 117 A minister retiring from active service by reason of age or disability retains his ministerial standing in the Association of his choice.
- 118 A minister of the United Church of Christ serving a local church not affiliated with the United Church of Christ retains ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ so long as his Association approves.
- 119 A pastor's church membership is in the local church which he serves.
- 120 The discipline of a minister is the responsibility of the Association in which he holds his standing.

Calling a Pastor

- 121 It is the responsibility of a committee of the local church to seek a candidate for a vacancy in the office of pastor.
- 122 In filling a vacancy or in securing supply ministers during the period of a vacancy, the committee of the local church, through its Conference executive, seeks the counsel of the placement committee. This placement committee consists of the Conference executive and other officers elected or appointed by the Conference.
- 123 The committee of a local church requests the conference executive to secure relevant information about any minister whom it wishes to consider for the vacancy.
- 124 Any minister may confer with the conference executive concerning a pastoral vacancy. At the minister's request, his name shall be submitted by the conference executive for consideration by the committee of any local church where there is a pastoral vacancy.
- 125 All vacancies within the Conference shall be reported promptly to the Secretary of the United Church of Christ by the Conference executive for publication in the *United Church Herald*.
- 126 The committee of the local church presents to the church the name of a candidate it recommends to fill the vacancy. The local church determines whether or not it wishes to call the person recommended.

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- 127 In the call the terms of the pastoral relationship are stated, including the agreement of the local church to participate in the pension fund on the pastor's behalf. The minister, the local church, and the Conference executive should each receive a copy of the call.

Installation of a Pastor

- 128 When a minister accepts a call to a local church, he and the church join in requesting the Association to arrange for a service of installation or recognition.
- 129 Report of the service of installation or recognition is signed by the proper officer of the Association and by the Conference executive, and copies of it sent to the Secretary of the United Church of Christ and to the Council for Church and Ministry.

Termination of a Pastorate

- 130 When a pastor or a local church decides to terminate the pastoral relationship, notice of the decision is sent to the conference executive and the Association. The Association takes action appropriate to the dissolution of the pastoral relationship. The Conference executive promptly informs the Secretary of the United Church of Christ and the Council for Church and Ministry of these actions.

Ministers from Other Denominations

- 131 An ordained minister of another denomination who desires to enter the ministry of the United Church of Christ applies for *Privilege of Call* to the Association within whose bounds he resides.
- 132 The committees on the Ministry of the Conference and Association cooperate in examining the applicant as to his abilities, his reasons for desiring to enter the ministry of the United Church of Christ, his educational and theological attainments, his knowledge of the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ, and his Christian faith and experience. If he is found to be qualified, the Association grants him *Privilege of Call*, thereby commending him for placement in the United Church of Christ. *Privilege of Call* shall be granted for a period of one year and may be renewed. After he has accepted a call, he applies for ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ to the Association of which the local church extending the call is a part.
- 133 A certificate granting *Privilege of Call* is issued bearing the signatures of the proper officer of the Association and the President of the United Church of Christ.
- 134 An ordained minister of another denomination who wishes to retain his present denominational standing and who has become pastor of a local church of the United Church of Christ, or of a yoked charge or a federated church one part of which is affiliated with the United

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Church of Christ, is enrolled as a ministerial member of his Association and Conference for the duration of that pastorate, and during that period may have the rights and privileges of such membership, except that he shall have no vote on matters affecting the standing of ministers or local churches, neither shall he be elected an officer of the Conference or General Synod, nor be a delegate to General Synod.

Commissioned Workers

- 135 A person desiring the status of *Commissioned Worker* applies to his Association.
- 136 The committees on the Ministry of his Conference and Association cooperate in examining the applicant concerning his Christian faith, his character, his ability to do the work expected of him, and his education and training to meet the responsibilities of the office he seeks to fill. If he is found to be qualified, his Association commissions him.
- 137 A certificate designating him as a *Commissioned Worker* is issued bearing the signatures of proper officers of the Association and the President of the United Church of Christ.
- 138 A *Commissioned Worker* is listed separately on the roll of his Association and is not considered a ministerial member.
- 139 A *Commissioned Worker* who takes up some other full-time employment resigns his commission or applies to his Association for leave of absence. Leave of absence is granted for one year at a time, but for not more than three consecutive years.

Lay Ministers

- 140 A person desiring the status of *Lay Minister* applies through his local church to his Association.
- 141 The committees on the Ministry of his Conference and Association cooperate in examining the applicant concerning his Christian faith, his character, his ability to do the work expected of him, and his knowledge of the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ. If he is found qualified, his Association formally recognizes him as a *Lay Minister*.
- 142 A *Lay Minister* is listed separately on the roll of his Association and is not considered a ministerial member.

ARTICLE II. ASSOCIATIONS AND CONFERENCES

Associations

- 143 An Association elects officers and elects or appoints such committees as it deems necessary for the transaction of its business and the correlation of its work with that of the Conference and the General Synod.

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- 144 An Association determines its own method for securing financial support.
- 145 An Association is concerned with the welfare of all local churches within its boundaries.
- 146 An Association seeks ways and means to assist local churches when they are undergoing unusual difficulties requiring help beyond their own resources.
- 147 An Association offers encouragement, guidance, and assistance in the organization of new local churches.
- 148 An Association, with the counsel of the Conference, receives local churches into the United Church of Christ.
- 149 An Association receives under its care students for the ministry and extends to them fellowship, counsel and assistance during their academic preparation.
- 150 An Association grants licensure, ordains qualified applicants and installs ministers.
- 151 An Association receives and acts upon business referred to it by its local churches, its Conference, the General Synod and other bodies.
- 152 An Association may petition and overture its Conference or the General Synod.

Conferences

- 153 A Conference elects officers and elects or appoints such committees as it deems necessary for the transaction of its business and the correlation of its work with that of the General Synod.
- 154 A Conference employs such salaried personnel as its program may require.
- 155 A Conference receives and acts upon business, requests, counsel, and references from local churches, Associations, the General Synod and other bodies.
- 156 A Conference may petition and overture the General Synod.
- 157 A Conference elects delegates and alternate delegates to the General Synod in accordance with the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and these By-Laws.
- 158 A Conference receives from the local churches contributions for *Our Christian World Mission* and keeps detailed records of the same.
- 159 A Conference consults with the Budget Committee of the General Synod and reaches mutual agreement upon the percentage, or the dollar amount, of the undesignated gifts for *Our Christian World Mission* to be retained for its own support.
- 160 Upon the basis of the agreed upon percentage, or dollar amount, the Conference each month retains the amount necessary for its own support and forwards the balance to the Central Treasury.

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- 161 A Conference, in the interest of the local churches, discharges those duties and provides those services which will strengthen the witness of the United Church of Christ, such as:
- 162 a. Co-ordinating the work and witness of the local churches and Associations;
 - 163 b. Rendering counsel to local churches and ministers in situations calling for help beyond their own resources;
 - 164 c. Rendering an advisory service to local churches and to ministers with reference to pastoral placement;
 - 165 d. Establishing and maintaining Conference offices, Conference centers, institutions, and other agencies needful to its growth and welfare;
 - 166 e. Sponsoring in-service training for ministers; and
 - 167 f. Conducting conferences, retreats, clinics, and workshops.
- 168 A Conference maintains relations with other Christian fellowships within its boundaries to the end that brotherhood, mutual understanding and cooperation may be advanced.

ARTICLE III. GENERAL SYNOD

Meetings

- 169 Regular meetings of the General Synod shall be held biennially.
- 170 Special meetings of the General Synod may be called by resolution of the General Synod, by the Executive Council, or upon receipt of a petition from at least seven Conferences. A special meeting so petitioned shall be convened not earlier than sixty days nor later than one hundred and twenty days after the petition is received by the Secretary of the United Church of Christ. The petition and the call for a special meeting shall contain a statement of the purpose of the meeting. In any special meeting only such business may be transacted as is specified in the call.
- 171 The time and place of all meetings of the General Synod shall be determined by the Executive Council or its Administrative Committee unless otherwise directed by the General Synod.
- 172 The call for any meeting of the General Synod shall be signed by the President and the Secretary of the United Church of Christ. Such call shall be issued at least six months prior to a regular meeting and at least forty-five days prior to a special meeting of the General Synod. All calls shall be sent to the Conferences and notice of these calls shall be transmitted to the local churches and published in the *United Church Herald*.
- 173 All proceedings of the General Synod shall, unless otherwise provided for, be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, as amended.

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174 Expenses of meetings of the General Synod including the travel expense of voting delegates shall be borne by the General Synod. Other expenses of Conference delegates are the responsibility of the Conferences.

Membership

175 The membership of the General Synod shall consist of *voting delegates* and *associate delegates*. Visitors shall be welcome.

176 *Voting delegates* consist of Conference delegates and ex officio delegates as these are hereinafter defined.

177 *Conference delegates*. The number of Conference delegates shall be allocated to each Conference by the Executive Council on the basis of the number of persons who have membership in the local churches of the Conference. There shall not, however, be fewer than three delegates allocated to any conference. The total number of conference delegates in any biennium shall be not less than 675 nor more than 725. Delegates and alternate delegates shall be elected by their conferences, which may invite and consider nominations from the Associations. Ministers may constitute not more than one-half of the delegates.

178 The term of *conference delegates* shall begin at the opening of the next regular meeting of the General Synod following their election and shall terminate at the opening of the succeeding regular meeting of the General Synod. They shall be members of all intervening special meetings of the General Synod unless they have moved from the bounds of the conference which elected them.

179 *Ex Officio delegates*. The elected officers of the United Church of Christ, members of the Executive Council, the Moderator and Assistant Moderators shall be ex officio delegates with vote.

180 *Associate delegates*. The chairman of the governing body and the chief executive of each of the established or recognized instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ, and the executive of each Conference, shall be associate delegates, with voice but without vote.

181 The General Synod shall elect the following officers of the United Church of Christ: President, Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall also be officers of the General Synod. These officers shall be elected for terms of four years and shall be eligible for re-election. Their terms of office shall begin ninety days following their election. They shall hold office until their successors have been elected and qualified, and have assumed the duties of their offices. No officer of the Church shall be elected or re-elected to an office for a term which would extend beyond his 70th birthday.

182 *The President*, who shall be a minister, shall be the Minister of the United Church of Christ and the chief executive officer of the General Synod. He shall be charged with the care and nurture of the spiritual

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life of the Church. He shall be a member ex officio, without vote, of the Executive Council and its Administrative Committee. He shall have voice, but not vote, in the meetings of all instrumentalities and committees of the United Church of Christ, except of the Nominating Committee which he may attend on invitation. He shall be the official representative of the Church in ecumenical and interdenominational relations. He may appoint a representative for such occasions as he deems advisable. In the event the President is unable to discharge his responsibilities, the Executive Council shall name the person to act in his stead.

183 *The Secretary* shall keep the official record of the proceedings of the General Synod and of the meetings of the Executive Council and its Administrative Committee. He shall be the statistician of the United Church of Christ and editor of the yearbook and other official documents of the General Synod. He shall maintain a record of the ministers and local churches of the United Church of Christ. He shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the President or the Executive Council. He shall be a member ex officio, without vote, of the Executive Council and its Administrative Committee.

184 *The Treasurer* shall receive and deposit in banks approved by the Executive Council all funds contributed to the General Synod for the support of the United Church of Christ and for its instrumentalities. He shall disburse these monies to the General Synod and to the instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ as directed by the General Synod. He shall have such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Executive Council. He shall be a member ex officio, without vote, of the Executive Council and its Administrative Committee.

Moderators of the General Synod

185 *The Moderator* shall be elected by the General Synod upon nomination from the floor. Such election shall be held at the first business session of each regular meeting. The office of Moderator shall be filled alternately by lay persons and ministers. The Moderator shall take office upon the adjournment of the regular meeting at which he is elected and shall hold office through the next regular meeting or until his successor has been qualified and installed.

186 The Moderator shall preside at the sessions of the General Synod. As a representative of the fellowship of the United Church of Christ he may visit and address such groups as local churches, Associations and Conferences. He shall be a member ex officio, without vote, of the Executive Council.

187 There shall be two *Assistant Moderators* of the General Synod, elected on nomination from the floor, to assist the Moderator in presiding at sessions of the General Synod. Such elections shall take

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place following the election of the Moderator. The Assistant Moderators shall take office upon adjournment of the regular meeting at which they are elected and shall hold office through the next regular meeting or until their successors have been qualified and installed.

188 The Moderator and Assistant Moderators shall include a minister, a layman and a laywoman.

Executive Council

189. The *Executive Council* shall consist of twenty-one voting members, not more than one of whom shall be from any one Conference, except that a member moving from one Conference to another may complete his term of office. The President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer of the United Church of Christ and the Moderator of the General Synod shall be *ex officio* members, without vote, of the Executive Council and its Administrative Committee.

190 Seven voting members shall be elected at each biennial meeting of the General Synod for a term of six years. Of these seven members there shall be at least two ministers, two laymen and two laywomen. A member of the Executive Council who has served a full term shall not be eligible for re-election until one biennium has elapsed after the expiration of his term.

191 Immediately following the meeting of the General Synod the Executive Council shall organize, electing a chairman, a vice-chairman, and an Administrative Committee of seven members, two of whom shall be the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Executive Council. The Chairman of the Executive Council shall act as the Chairman of the Administrative Committee. The Chairman, in consultation with the Administrative Committee, shall appoint such other committees as are deemed necessary to carry on the work of the Executive Council.

192 Between meetings of the Executive Council the Administrative Committee shall act with such power and limitations as the Executive Council may direct.

193 Vacancies occurring in offices, commissions and committees of the United Church of Christ or of the General Synod, or in the membership of the Executive Council shall, unless otherwise provided, be filled temporarily by the Executive Council. Officers of the Church so chosen shall serve until ninety days after the next regular meeting of the General Synod. Others shall serve only through the next regular meeting of the General Synod. At that meeting the General Synod shall elect persons for all such temporarily filled vacancies.

194 The Executive Council shall determine the salaries for the officers of the United Church of Christ and provide necessary staff assistance.

195 The Executive Council shall appoint the editor of the *United*

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Church Herald and the editor of the *Reformatusok Lapja* and a separate committee to counsel with each.

- 196 The Executive Council shall submit to the General Synod any recommendation it may deem useful for the development of the effectiveness and efficiency of the life, work and organization of the United Church of Christ.
- 197 The Executive Council shall prepare the agenda for all meetings of the General Synod and appoint committees not otherwise provided.
- 198 The Executive Council shall submit a report of its work to the General Synod at each regular meeting. With the cooperation of the instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ, it shall make a yearly informational report of the total program of the Church to the Conferences. It shall submit to the Budget Committee of the General Synod a detailed request for the support of the administrative work of the General Synod and its Executive Council through funds allocated from the budget to be recommended to the General Synod.

Committees

- 199 The General Synod shall have such committees as it may deem necessary, including but not limited to those named hereafter.
- 200 *The Nominating Committee* shall consist of eighteen members. At least nine months before each regular meeting of the General Synod the Executive Council shall invite each Conference not currently represented on the Nominating Committee to submit the names of a minister and a lay person for possible membership on the Nominating Committee. The Executive Council shall submit twelve of these names, six ministers and six lay persons, to the General Synod which shall elect three ministers and three lay persons to serve on the *Nominating Committee* for terms of six years. Not more than one member of the Nominating Committee shall be from any one Conference. A member of the Nominating Committee who has served a full term shall not be eligible for re-election until a biennium has elapsed. Terms of members shall begin at the close of the General Synod at which the members have been elected and continue to the close of the third regular General Synod after their election.
- 201 *The Nominating Committee* shall maintain records of suggested nominees and their qualifications.
- 202 When selecting candidates for offices, the *Nominating Committee* shall consider all names submitted.
- 203 *The Nominating Committee* shall make all nominations to the General Synod for which the General Synod does not otherwise provide. The *Nominating Committee* shall make one or more nominations for each office. Nominations may also be made from the floor. The *Nominating Committee* shall submit its report to the General Synod

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at least twenty-four hours before the elections are scheduled to take place, unless the General Synod by a three-fourths vote consents to an earlier election.

- 204 A *Credentials Committee* shall be appointed by the Executive Council prior to each regular meeting of the General Synod. The Committee shall serve through the succeeding biennium.
- 205 The Executive Council shall serve as the *Business Committee* at all regular and special meetings of the General Synod. As such it may recommend changes in the agenda or schedule of the General Synod.
- 206 *The Budget Committee* shall consist of thirty-two voting members each elected or appointed for a term of four years, one half at each biennium, and selected as provided in the three following paragraphs:
- 207 a. Ten persons elected by the General Synod, six on the nomination of the Nominating Committee and four upon the nomination of the current Budget Committee;
- 208 b. Eighteen persons whose names shall be reported at the same meeting of the General Synod, of whom two shall be members of and selected by each of the following:
- The Executive Council
 - The board of directors of the United Church Board for World Ministries
 - The board of directors of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries
 - The Trustees of the Pension Board(s)
 - The Council for Christian Social Action
 - The Council for Lay Life and Work
 - The Council for Church and Ministry
 - The Stewardship Council
 - The Board of Directors of the Office of Communications;
- 209 c. Four Conference executives, chosen by their associates.
- 210 The Treasurer of the United Church of Christ and the chief executive officer and the treasurer of each of the instrumentalities named in the second sub-paragraph above shall be advisory members without vote.
- 211 A member of the *Budget Committee* who has served a full term shall not be eligible for re-election until after a biennium has elapsed.
- 212 The *Budget Committee* shall prepare and submit to the General Synod the biennial United Church Budget for the support of *Our Christian World Mission*; recommend the schedule of payments to the General Synod and to the instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ; make provision for the financial requirements of organizations not directly related to one of the instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ but approved and recognized by the General Synod;

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consult with Conferences with regard to the fiscal affairs of the United Church of Christ; continually review and analyze budget and fiscal matters; and have continuous communication and consultation with the Long Range Planning Committee.

213 The *Long Range Planning Committee* shall consist of twenty members, ten of whom shall be nominated and elected for a term of four years at each regular meeting of the General Synod. Of these ten members there shall be at least two pastors, two laymen, two laywomen and two chosen from the officers of the United Church of Christ or the staffs of its instrumentalities. A member of the Long Range Planning Committee who has served two full terms may not be re-elected until after a biennium has elapsed.

214 The duties of the *Long Range Planning Committee* shall be to study the needs of people at home and abroad, to consult with and review the work of the various instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ, and to develop and recommend long range plans. This committee shall report annually to the Executive Council, and to each regular meeting of the General Synod.

Membership of Instrumentalities

215 A person shall not at the same time be a voting member of more than one of the following: Executive Council, board of directors of the United Church Board for World Ministries, board of directors of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, Council for Christian Social Action, and Council for Church and Ministry.

216 A member of the staff of any instrumentality of the United Church of Christ shall not be a voting member of any of the following: Executive Council, board of directors of the United Church Board for World Ministries, board of directors of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the Council for Christian Social Action, and the Council for Church and Ministry.

217 A member of an instrumentality of the United Church of Christ, elected by the General Synod, having served a full term shall be ineligible for re-election until one biennium has elapsed.

ARTICLE IV. INSTRUMENTALITIES

World Mission and Service

218 The corporate membership of the United Church Board for World Ministries shall consist of two hundred twenty-five persons, nominated and elected by the General Synod, all of them for terms of six years, one-third to be elected each biennium, and to serve until their respective successors are elected and qualified. The number of members and their terms of office may be modified by appropriate

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action of the Board with the concurrence of the General Synod. Nomination and election are to be distributed so as to be equitably representative of ministers, laymen, and laywomen. Vacancies where terms of service have not been completed shall be filled through election by the Board for the unexpired terms, subject to approval of the Executive Council.

Homeland Mission and Service

219 The corporate membership of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries shall consist of two hundred twenty-five persons nominated and elected by the General Synod, all of them for terms of six years, one-third to be elected each biennium, and to serve until their respective successors are elected and qualified. The number of members and their terms of office may be modified by appropriate action of the Board with the concurrence of the General Synod. Nomination and election are to be distributed so as to be equitably representative of ministers, laymen, and laywomen. Vacancies where terms of service have not been completed shall be filled through election by the Board for the unexpired terms, subject to approval of the Executive Council.

Higher Education

220 The Council for Higher Education shall be composed of the executive heads of the academies, colleges and theological schools which indicate their desire to be recognized as related to the United Church of Christ and which are accepted by the Council as conforming to its standards; and of the members of the committee of the board of directors of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries assigned as the committee for the Board's Division of Higher Education. The Council shall organize with its own chairman, secretary, and any other officers needed to carry on its work. It shall be administratively related to the General Synod through the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, this provision not precluding the Council's right of direct access to the Executive Council and to the General Synod concerning any matters in which it may feel that its interests in program or budget require the exercise of such access. The executive head of the Board and of the Division shall be advisory members of the Council with voice but without vote.

221 The Council for Higher Education shall devote itself to a general concern for the program of Christian higher education in the United Church of Christ, including the cultivation of closer relationships between the educational institutions and the Church, the maintenance and development of the principles and ideals of the Christian religion in those institutions, and, in cooperation with the Division of Higher Education of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the

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promotion of Christian higher education as an integral part of the Church's mission.

Health and Welfare Services

222 The Council for Health and Welfare Services shall be composed of the executive heads of institutions operating in these fields which indicate their desire to be recognized as related to the United Church of Christ and which are accepted by the Council as conforming to its standards; and of the members of the committee of the board of directors of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries assigned as the committee for the Board's Division of Health and Welfare. The Council shall organize with its own chairman, secretary, and any other officers needed to carry on its work. It shall be administratively related to the General Synod through the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, this provision not precluding the Council's right of direct access to the Executive Council and to the General Synod concerning any matters in which it may feel that its interests in program or budget require the exercise of such access. The executive head of the Board and of the Division shall be advisory members of the Council, with voice but without vote.

223 The Council for Health and Welfare Services shall devote itself, in cooperation with the Division of Health and Welfare Services of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, to the study and planning of a program of health and welfare ministries for the United Church of Christ, including the relation of benevolent institutions to the Church, to each other, and to interdenominational agencies operating in this field.

Social Education and Action

224 The Council for Christian Social Action shall be composed of twenty-seven persons divided in two classes, one third of each class to be nominated and elected each biennium, all of them for terms of six years, and to serve until their respective successors are elected and qualified. The first class of eighteen persons shall be nominated and elected by the General Synod; the second class of nine shall be nominated and elected by the members of both classes remaining in office at the close of the regular meetings of the General Synod. Nominations and elections are to be distributed so as to be equitably representative of ministers, laymen and laywomen of the United Church of Christ. Vacancies where terms of service have not been completed shall be filled through election by the Council for the unexpired terms, subject to approval of the Executive Council.

Church and Ministry

225 The Council for Church and Ministry shall be composed of twenty-seven persons divided in two classes, one third of each class to be nominated and elected each biennium, all of them for terms of six

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years, and to serve until their respective successors are elected and qualified. The first class of eighteen persons shall be nominated and elected by the General Synod; the second class of nine shall be nominated and elected by the members of both classes remaining in office at the close of the regular meetings of the General Synod. Nominations and elections are to be distributed so as to be equitably representative of ministers, laymen and laywomen of the United Church of Christ. Vacancies where terms of service have not been completed shall be filled through election by the Council for the unexpired terms, subject to approval of the Executive Council.

Lay Life and Work

226 The Council for Lay Life and Work shall be composed of thirty persons chosen for terms of six years, one-third of them each biennium, to serve until their respective successors are chosen and qualified. Eighteen members shall be nominated and elected by the General Synod, so as to secure an equal number of ministers, laymen, and laywomen of the United Church of Christ. Twelve members of the Council shall be designated by and from the boards of the men's and women's fellowships. Vacancies where terms of service have not been completed shall be filled through election by the Council for the unexpired terms, subject to approval of the Executive Council.

Public Relations and Mass Communication

227 The Office of Communication shall exercise leadership in establishing and maintaining public relations for the United Church of Christ and its instrumentalities; in conducting the denomination's ministry in television and radio; in producing audio-visual aids when requested to do so; in educational programming in the mass media for the benefit of the instrumentalities, regional bodies and local churches; and in research in mass communication. It shall cooperate with similarly responsible offices of other denominations in the planning, production, distribution and utilization of mass media and audio-visual materials which seek to promote and interpret the witness of ecumenical Christianity.

228 The Office of Communication shall be governed by a Board of Directors of eighteen persons. Twelve members shall be elected by the General Synod; three on nomination by the Executive Council from its own membership and three each upon nomination by the United Church Board for World Ministries, the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, and the Council for Christian Social Action. In each case one of the three members nominated by each of the bodies aforementioned may be a member of its staff. Six members shall be nominated and elected by the members of both classes remaining in office

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at the close of the regular meetings of the General Synod. One-third of each group shall be chosen each biennium for a term of six years. Members of the Board of Directors shall serve until their respective successors are chosen and qualified. Membership of the Board is to be distributed equitably among ministers, laymen, and laywomen of the United Church of Christ. Vacancies where terms of service have not been completed shall be filled through election by the Board of Directors for the unexpired terms, subject to approval of the Executive Council.

Stewardship Council

- 229 The general duties of the Stewardship Council shall be:
- 230 a. To foster the principles of Christian Stewardship.
- 231 b. To cooperate with the Conferences and local churches in securing support for the United Church Budget for *Our Christian World Mission*;
- 232 c. To recommend to the Conferences suggested goals for meeting the United Church Budget for *Our Christian World Mission*;
- 233 d. To function as an informative and interpretative instrumentality in the development and distribution of information insofar as education for the support of *Our Christian World Mission* is directly involved in attaining specific goals;
- 234 e. To develop the policies and plans of the Stewardship Council and its Departments in close cooperation and consultation with the chief executive officers of the Conferences, who shall represent the interests of the Stewardship Council within their respective Conferences; and
- 235 f. To be responsible for carrying out the general promotional policies of the instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ, and, in cooperation with the Conference officers, for promotion in the Conference.
- 236 The *Stewardship Council* shall consist of 51 persons selected, except for the chief executive officers of designated organizations, each for a term as provided in the following three paragraphs:
- 237 a. Twenty-four persons nominated and elected by the General Synod, each for a term of six years, one-third each biennium, of whom twelve shall be elected to the Department of Stewardship Education, six elected to the Department of Information and Interpretation, and six elected to the Department of Promotion;
- 238 b. Two members, one elected each biennium by the General Synod for a term of four years, nominated of and by each of the following:

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- The Executive Council
 The board of directors of the United Church Board for World Ministries
 The board of directors of the United Church Board for Home-
 lan Ministries
 The Trustees of the Pension Board(s)
 The Council for Christian Social Action
 The Council for Church and Ministry
 The Council for Lay Life and Work, and
 The Board of Directors of the Office of Communication
- 239 c. Two Conference executives chosen by their associates, one each biennium for a term of four years; and
- 240 d. The chief executive officer of each organization listed above and of the Stewardship Council.
- 241 Nominations and elections in the first category shall be distributed so as to secure equitable representation of ministers, laymen and lay-women of the United Church of Christ. Vacancies in the first category where terms of service have not been completed shall be filled through election by the Council for the unexpired terms, subject to the approval of the Executive Council. Except for the chief executive officers of designated organizations, members of the Stewardship Council after serving two full terms may not be re-elected until after a biennium has elapsed. Vacancies in the second and third categories whose terms of service have not been completed shall be filled through election by the respective organizations for the unexpired terms, subject to approval of the Executive Council.
- 242 The Stewardship Council shall include three departments: Stewardship Education; Information and Interpretation; and Promotion.
243. Each Department shall have its own committee which shall consist of not less than seven or more than twenty-one persons chosen by the Stewardship Council from its own membership, including those assigned to the Department by election of the General Synod. Each Committee may co-opt additional advisory members as it may deem necessary.
- 244 The area of responsibility of each Department is defined as follows:
- 245 It shall be the duty of the *Department of Stewardship Education* to foster the principles of Christian Stewardship by means of a broad educational program interpreting the theological basis for the stewardship of all of life at the heart of Christian faith and urging personal dedication appropriate to this faith.
- 246 It shall be the duty of the *Department of Information and Interpretation* to develop literature and plans designed to evoke an interest in the growth and progress of the Christian faith throughout the

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whole world and thereby to attain the specific goals of *Our Christian World Mission*.

247 It shall be the duty of the *Department of Promotion*, in close cooperation with the other Departments of the Stewardship Council, to initiate and develop specific programs, methods, and techniques which will assist Conferences and local churches in attaining adequate financial support for the local church and for *Our Christian World Mission*.

248 The Stewardship Council shall determine its internal organization and rules of procedure not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and these By-Laws.

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