

**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION
of the
SOUTHERN CONFERENCE
of the
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, INC.**

CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS

October 22, 2022

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**The Constitution and Bylaws
of the
Western North Carolina Association
of the
Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ, Inc.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – Name.....	5
ARTICLE II – Area	5
ARTICLE III – Place of Business.....	5
ARTICLE IV – Purpose.....	5
ARTICLE V – Membership.....	7
ARTICLE VI – Meetings	7
ARTICLE VII – Voting Membership	7
ARTICLE VIII – Board of Directors.....	7
ARTICLE IX – Officers	8
ARTICLE X – Duration	8
ARTICLE XI – Corporate Seal	8
ARTICLE XII – Amendments.....	8

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I – Membership.....	9
Section 1 – Membership	9
Section 2 – Voting Membership.....	9
Section 3 – Voting Delegates.....	9
Section 4 – Categories of Membership	10
A. Churches	10
B. Authorized Ministers	10

ARTICLE II – Privileges and Responsibilities of Member Churches	10
Section 1 – Covenant Responsibilities of Member Churches and the Association	10
Section 2 – Autonomy of Local Churches	11
Section 3 – Covenant Responsibilities of Members of Local Churches.....	11
Section 4 – Addition, Removal, or Withdrawal of Churches	11
ARTICLE III – Privileges and Responsibilities of Member Ministers	12
Section 1 – Covenant Responsibilities of Ministers	12
Section 2 – Ordination, Licensure, and Commissioning.....	12
Section 3 – Leave of Absence.....	12
Section 4 – Retirement and Ministerial Standing.....	12
Section 5 – Transfer of Ministerial Standing.....	12
Section 6 – Removal of Ministerial Standing.....	12
Section 7 – Standing for Pastors of Local Churches	13
Section 8 – Filling Pastoral Vacancies	13
ARTICLE IV – Meetings.....	13
Section 1 – Annual Meeting	13
Section 2 – Called Meetings.....	13
Section 3 – Notice of Meetings	13
Section 4 – Quorum	13
Section 5 – Visitor Privilege	13
Section 6 – Agenda	14
Section 7 – Electronic Meetings.....	14
ARTICLE V – Officers and Elections	14
Section 1 – Officers	14
Section 2 – Committee on Nominations	14
Section 3 – Elections and Terms of Office	15
ARTICLE VI – Board of Directors	15
Section 1 – Composition	15
Section 2 – Meetings	16
Section 3 – Quorum	16
Section 4 – Attendance	16
Section 5 – Duties.....	16
Section 6 – Institutional Representatives.....	16
ARTICLE VII – Duties of Officers and the Associate Conference Minister	17
Section 1 – President	17
Section 2 – Vice-President.....	17
Section 3 – Secretary	17
Section 4 – Treasurer.....	17
Section 5 – Associate Conference Minister	18

ARTICLE VIII – Committees	18
Section 1 – Committees	18
Section 2 – Composition and Terms of Office.....	18
Section 3 – Meetings	18
Section 4 – Duties of Committee on Ministry.....	19
ARTICLE IX – Program Districts	19
Section 1 – Purpose.....	19
Section 2 – Geographical Boundaries.....	20
A. Guilford – Randolph.....	20
B. Davidson – Forsyth	20
C. Rowan	20
D. Catawba.....	20
ARTICLE X – Fiscal Year	20
§Section 1 – Fiscal Year	20
Section 2 – Annual Budget	21
ARTICLE XI – Corporate Seal	21
ARTICLE XII - Affiliation	21
ARTICLE XIII – Order of Business	21
Section 1 – Parliamentary Authority.....	21
Section 2 – Parliamentarian	21
ARTICLE XIV – Amendments	21
ADOPTED AND AMENDED DATES	22

**THE CONSTITUTION
of the
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION
of the
SOUTHERN CONFERENCE
of the
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, INC.**

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this corporation shall be the Western North Carolina Association of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ, Inc.

ARTICLE II – AREA

The area of the Western North Carolina Association of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ, Inc., shall include all the churches in North Carolina west of a line following the county lines between Rockingham and Caswell, Guilford and Alamance, Randolph and Chatham, Montgomery and Moore, Richmond and Scotland, and all the churches in Carroll County, Virginia.

ARTICLE III – PLACE OF BUSINESS

A. The principal office or place of business of the Western North Carolina Association shall be in Salisbury, North Carolina.

B. The registered office of the corporation shall be at 204 Lantz Avenue, Salisbury, North Carolina, 28144-2351, and the registered agent of the corporation at said address shall be the Associate Conference Minister for the Western North Carolina Association.

ARTICLE IV – PURPOSE

A. To continue without break the ecclesiastical and legal identity of the Southern Synod, Lincoln, North Carolina Christian, North Carolina State, North Carolina and Virginia, and Western North Carolina Acting Association of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ, Inc., located in the above-named area (Article II - Area), and to conduct their work and to have all their powers, duties, and obligations.

B. To be an Association of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ, Inc., composed of each of the local churches which are parts of the Acting Association named above and all authorized ministers, ordained ministerial partners, and directors of religious education certified by the United Church of Christ that are hereafter received into and granted standing by the Western North Carolina Association of the Southern Conference within the boundaries of this Association.

C. To promote the interest and general welfare of the churches and ministries of which this Association is composed, and of the General Synod, boards, institutions, agencies, covenanted ministries, and affiliated ministries of the United Church of Christ, and of the Southern Conference as far as their interests are within the boundaries of this Association.

D. To do each and everything which an Association of the United Church of Christ may do in the spirit of Christ to extend the gospel, to advance the Christian religion, to promote education, and to encourage Christian charity.

E. To acquire by purchase, gift, devise, bequest, or otherwise, and to own, hold, invest, reinvest, or dispose of property both real and personal for such religious, educational, philanthropic, and other related work as this Association may undertake, and to purchase, own, receive, hold, manage, care for, and transfer, rent, lease, mortgage, or otherwise encumber, sell, assign, transfer and convey such property for the general purpose of this Association; to receive and hold in trust both real and personal property for churches, boards, institutions, covenanted ministries, and affiliated ministries of the United Church of Christ or the Southern Conference; and to invest or reinvest the same, and to make any contracts for promoting the objects and purposes of the Association which are not inconsistent with the laws of the State of North Carolina.

F. To exercise the functions of an Association of the United Church of Christ within the bounds of the Southern Conference.

G. To exercise any, all, and every power for which a non-profit corporation organized under Chapter 55-A of the General Statutes of the State of North Carolina relating to religious and charitable associations can be authorized to exercise, but no other power. No substantial part of the activities of this corporation shall include the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. No part of the earnings or assets of this corporation shall inure to the benefit of any individual member thereof, contributor thereto, or for any private, personal, or selfish purposes. No part of the assets of this corporation or income derived therefrom shall be given to or inure to the benefit of any person, corporation, or organization not tax-exempt under Sub-title A. or Sub-title B. of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States of America. In the event of dissolution of this corporation, none of its property shall be distributed to any person, corporation, or organization not tax-exempt under Sub-title A. or Sub-title B. of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States of America, and all its property shall be distributed at such time solely for the purposes outlined in this article.

H. To unite all the churches within its boundaries in Christian fellowship, and with divine help and guidance, to develop an understanding of the work of the United Church in its spiritual life, stewardship, sacrificial giving, and promote Our Church's Wider Mission in the home, community, nation, and world.

I. To determine authorized ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ and the Association.

J. To determine eligibility and authorize the standing of the local churches of the United Church of Christ within its area.

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

A. The Western North Carolina Association is related to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ through the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ.

B. All local churches, as stated in Article II - Area, and all authorized ministers who have standing in the Western North Carolina Association, ordained ministerial partners, and directors of religious education certified by the United Church of Christ shall be members of the Association.

C. Any local church, upon request to the Association's Committee on Ministry and subject to such provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Western North Carolina Association, may become a part of the Association.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

The Western North Carolina Association shall hold meetings annually and at such other times as may be necessary for the discharge of its responsibilities.

ARTICLE VII – VOTING MEMBERSHIP

The voting membership of the Western North Carolina Association consists of the ordained, licensed, and commissioned ministers, ordained ministerial partners and directors of religious education certified by the United Church of Christ holding standing in the Association, and lay delegates selected by and representing the local churches of the Association, and such other persons as the Bylaws shall provide. The control of the Association shall reside in its voting members and may be exercised directly at any annual or other meetings of the Association or through and by a Board of Directors elected by the Association.

ARTICLE VIII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A. There shall be a Board of Directors that shall administer the affairs of the Association between its meetings. Membership of the Board of Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Association and shall have such powers and duties as are usual and customary to a Board of Directors under the laws of the State of North Carolina, and as provided in the Bylaws of this Association.

B. There shall not be fewer than five members of the Board of Directors. Each voting member shall be in ecclesiastical relation with one of the local churches of which this Association is composed.

C. The Bylaws shall specify the exact number of members on the Board of Directors, and shall provide for the method of election, term of office, meetings, powers, and duties of the Board of Directors, and the committees and commissions appointed by it.

ARTICLE IX – OFFICERS

The officers of the Association shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and other such officers as the Association may from time to time determine. The powers and duties of the officers of this Association shall be outlined in its Bylaws.

ARTICLE X – DURATION

The duration and number of years the Western North Carolina Association is to continue is perpetual.

ARTICLE XI – CORPORATE SEAL

The Western North Carolina Association shall have a corporate seal as described in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS

The Constitution of this Association may be amended at any annual or called meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, provided that such amendment shall have been:

A. Presented to the Association at the last annual or called meeting of the Association, signed by not less than twenty percent of the local churches composing the Association, or

B. Recommended to the Association by the Board of Directors and a copy thereof distributed (which may include electronic distribution) to each church, authorized minister, ordained ministerial partners, and director of religious education certified by the United Church of Christ of which the Association is composed forty-five-days before the meeting at which action on the proposed amendment is to be taken.

**THE BYLAWS
of the
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION
of the
SOUTHERN CONFERENCE
of the
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, INC.**

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Membership

The membership of the Western North Carolina Association shall consist of all churches and authorized ministers in the Western North Carolina Associations of the Southern Conference situated in the area defined in the Constitution (Article II – Area) at the time of the formation of the Association, and any churches and authorized ministers and directors of religious education certified by the United Church of Christ thereafter received into and granted standing by the Association within the boundaries described in the Constitution (Article II – Area).

Section 2 – Voting Membership

A. The voting membership of the Association consists of the ordained, licensed, and commissioned ministers, ordained ministerial partners, and directors of religious education certified by the United Church of Christ holding standing in the Association and of lay delegates selected by and representing the local churches of the Association, and of such other persons as shall be provided for elsewhere in these Bylaws.

The control of the Association shall reside in its voting members and may be exercised directly at any annual or other meeting of the Association, or through and by a Board of Directors elected by the Association.

B. Members of the Board of Directors shall be voting members of the Association.

Section 3 – Voting Delegates

The voting delegates of the Association shall consist of the ordained, licensed, and commissioned ministers, ordained ministerial partners, and directors of religious education certified by the United Church of Christ holding standing in the Association.

Each church is entitled to two delegates. Local churches with more than 300 hundred members will be entitled to have one additional lay delegate for each additional 200 members or fraction thereof.

- Churches with up to 300 members shall be entitled to have 2 lay delegates.
- Churches with 301 to 500 members shall be entitled to have 3 lay delegates.
- Churches with 501 to 700 members shall be entitled to have 4 lay delegates.

- Churches with 701 to 900 members shall be entitled to have 5 lay delegates.
- Churches over 900 members shall be entitled to one additional lay delegate per each additional 200 members or fraction thereof.

Section 4 - Categories of Membership

A. Churches

1. The local churches of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches located within the boundaries of the Association, which were a part of an Acting Association at the time of the formation of the Southern Conference, and which have voted to be part of the United Church of Christ.

2. Any local church whose articles or statement of faith are in essential agreement with that of this Association and which, having covenanted with the Association to assume and fulfill faithfully the obligations of a church as hereinafter set forth, and has been recommended by the Committee on Ministry and the Board of Directors of the Association, is received into membership by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at a duly called meeting of the Association.

B. Authorized Ministers

All authorized ministers of the Acting Association of the Southern Conference at the time of the formation of the Association shall be continued in ministerial standing in an Association of the Conference.

1. Ordained and licensed ministers of the Southern Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church located within the boundaries of this Association.

2. Ordained and licensed ministers who hold their ministerial standing in one of the Acting Congregational Christian Associations located within the boundaries of this Association at the time of the formation of the Southern Conference.

3. Any person upon whom ministerial standing is conferred through ordination or commissioning by this Association in cooperation with the local church.

4. Any ordained ministerial partners and directors of religious education certified by the United Church of Christ.

ARTICLE II – PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBER CHURCHES

Section 1 - Covenant Responsibilities of Member Churches and the Association

A church holding membership in this Association has a God-given responsibility for the Association, its labor, its financial stability, and its witness, even as the Association has a God-given responsibility for the well-being and aspirations of each member church. In Christian concern and dedication to Jesus Christ, the one and the many share in common Christian experience and responsibility.

Section 2 – Autonomy of Local Churches

The autonomy of the local church is inherent and modifiable only by its action. Nothing in this Constitution and the Bylaws of the Western North Carolina Association shall destroy or limit the right of each local church to continue to operate in the way customary to it; nor shall it be construed as giving to the Western North Carolina Association, the Southern Conference, or the General Synod, 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:

- A.** Retain or adopt its own methods of organization, worship, and education.
- B.** Retain or secure its own charter and name.
- C.** Adopt its own constitution and bylaws.
- D.** Formulate its own covenants and confessions of faith.
- E.** Admit members in their own way and provide for their discipline or dismissal.
- F.** Call or dismiss its pastor or pastors by such procedure as it shall determine.
- G.** Acquire, own, manage, and dispose of property and funds.
- H.** Control its own benevolences.

Section 3 – Covenant Responsibilities of Members of Local Churches

The privileges and responsibility of witnessing to the Gospel belong to every member of each local church. Members offer their prayers, their gifts, their financial resources, their presence, and their service for the ongoing ministries in the local church and the Association as opportunities are presented.

Section 4 – Addition, Removal, or Withdrawal of Churches

A. A church may be added to the roll of member churches upon recommendation of the Committee on Ministry and the Board of Directors and by a two-thirds vote of the Association, provided a forty-five-day notice (which may include electronic communications) of the proposed action has been given to the parties concerned.

B. A church may be removed from the roll of member churches upon recommendation of the Committee on Ministry and the Board of Directors and by a two-thirds vote of the Association, provided a forty-five-day notice (which may include electronic communications) of the proposed action has been given to the parties concerned.

C. A church seeking to withdraw from the Association shall notify in writing or through electronic communication the Association through the Committee on Ministry.

ARTICLE III – PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBER MINISTERS

Section 1 – Covenant Responsibilities of Ministers

All authorized ministers holding ministerial standing in this Association are in a covenantal relationship with the Association and with other member ministers and thus share in the responsibility for the well-being of the Association and its ministries. Each member minister is called upon to live out covenant faithfulness by attending Association and Conference meetings, participating in the Association's work, offering prayerful support for the Association's life and witness, adhering to all Committee on Ministry's approved requirements to maintain standing, and expressing collegial support to other member ministers.

Section 2 – Ordination, Licensure, and Commissioning

The Association recognizes that God calls certain persons to full-time service in various forms of ministry in the church. This calling is recognized by ordination, licensing, commissioning, or other appropriate services of dedication.

Section 3 – Leave of Absence

A minister who withdraws from active service in the ministry before retirement applies to the Committee on Ministry for a leave of absence. The Committee on Ministry may grant a leave of absence for one year at a time. Except in special cases, such leave of absence is not granted for more than five consecutive years.

Section 4 – Retirement and Ministerial Standing

A minister retiring from the active ministry because of age, disability, or health shall not forfeit their ministerial standing in this Association.

Section 5 – Transfer of Ministerial Standing

Any ordained minister who is in good standing in this Association may receive a transfer to the ecclesiastical body of their choice upon written request to the Committee on Ministry.

Section 6 – Removal of Ministerial Standing

A minister may be removed from the roll of ministers upon recommendation of the Committee on Ministry and the Board of Directors and by a two-thirds vote of the Association, provided a forty-five-day notice of the proposed action has been given to the parties concerned. In extraordinary circumstances, the Committee on Ministry may act in concert with the Board of Directors to remove a minister's standing and this decision should be ratified at the Association's next annual meeting.

Section 7 – Standing for Pastors of Local Churches

The Committee on Ministry expects that pastors of churches of the Association shall have standing in the Association. Any exception shall be recommended by the Committee on Ministry and the Board of Directors and approved by the Association in session by a two-thirds vote.

Section 8 – Filling Pastoral Vacancies

It is the expectation of the Committee on Ministry that the churches of the Association in seeking a pastor work closely with the Associate Conference Minister and the Committee on Ministry of the Association. It is also strongly suggested that only those ministers who have been granted standing in the United Church of Christ be considered for pastoral vacancies.

ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS

Section 1 – Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Association shall be held during the month of October for worship, fellowship, resourcing, community building, education, and the transaction of business including the adoption of a budget and the election of officers.

Section 2 – Called Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the Board of Directors or by a petition of one-third of the churches.

Section 3 – Notice of Meetings

Written notice (which may include electronic communications) of all meetings of the Association, stating the time, place, and purpose of such meetings shall be distributed (which may include electronic communications) to the local churches and authorized ministers at least forty-five days before the meetings.

Section 4 – Quorum

A quorum at any meeting of the Association shall consist of the physical or virtual presence of one-fourth of the voting members.

Section 5 – Visitor Privilege

During annual and called meetings, the Association may grant visitors the privilege of voice, but not vote.

Section 6 – Agenda

The Board of Directors shall act as the Business Committee for preparing the agenda and appointing committees for the meetings of the Association.

Section 7 – Electronic Meetings

The Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, the Committees, and the Commissions may conduct their meetings via Video-Conferences, Tele-Conferences, or other forms of simultaneous aural electronic communications, provided that each of the following is met:

- A.** A proper quorum is present for the meeting.
- B.** Each person present has an opportunity to have an aural input into the deliberative process.
- C.** A legal vote can be taken and verified during the electronic meeting.
- D.** Non-members cannot participate in the meeting unless properly invited to participate in the discussion. Invited non-members would have a voice, but not vote.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1 – Officers

The officers of this Association shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, with such other officers, as the Association from time to time shall determine. All officers shall reside within the geographical bounds of the Association.

Section 2 – Committee on Nominations

A. There shall be a Committee on Nominations with representatives from each Program District. They shall be elected to a two-year term and shall be eligible to be reelected. The Associate Conference Minister shall initially convene the Committee on Nominations and inform them of any positions that need to be filled and ensure that the nominations are made.

B. The Committee on Nominations shall submit nominations for officers, the Board of Directors, General Synod delegates, and the Association's committees to the annual meeting of the Association. It shall submit one name for each office, member-at-large of the Board of Directors, members of a committee, and two or more names for delegates to the General Synod. Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the annual meeting. All nominees shall have given prior consent.

C. Members of the Committee on Nominations may not be nominated by the Committee on Nominations to become an officer, a member-at-large of the Board of Directors, a General Synod delegate, or an Association Committee member.

Section 3 - Elections and Terms of Office

A. The President and the Vice-President shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Association for a term of two years. Their official duties begin at the adjournment of the meeting in which they are elected and will continue until their successor is elected and installed. They shall not succeed themselves.

B. The Secretary and the Treasurer shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Association for a term of two years and shall continue in office until their successor is duly elected and installed. They are eligible for re-election. The Secretary shall take office at the adjournment of the meeting at which the election takes place. The Treasurer shall take office at the end of the fiscal year in which the election takes place.

C. The members-at-large of the Board of Directors shall be elected for a term of two years. They are eligible for re-election but shall not serve more than two consecutive full terms.

D. If an elected officer, a member-at-large of the Board of Directors, a committee convener or a member of a committee resigns, the Board of Directors shall have the authority to appoint a replacement until an election can be held at the next annual meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE VI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1 – Composition

A. The Board of Directors of the Association shall be composed of sixteen voting members as follows:

- The President
- The Vice-President
- The Secretary
- The Treasurer
- Twelve members-at-large (three persons from each of the four Program Districts described in Bylaw Article IX, with at least one lay person and one clergy from each District.)

B. The Associate Conference Minister, committee convener/chairpersons, and president of the WNCA women's fellowship shall be members of the Board of Directors with voice, but not vote.

C. Any chairperson of a current task force or ad hoc committee appointed by the Board of Directors shall be a member of the Board of Directors with voice, but not vote.

Section 2 – Meetings

The Board of Directors shall meet quarterly at a time and method determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 3 – Quorum

A quorum at any meeting of the Board of Directors shall be fifty percent of those eligible to vote.

Section 4 – Attendance

The Board of Directors may, at its discretion, remove and replace any member who misses three consecutive Board meetings. The person replacing that member will complete the term of office of the removed member and be eligible for election to two full terms.

Section 5 – Duties

The Board of Directors shall administer the affairs of the Association between its meetings and shall be responsible to the Association.

The Board of Directors shall have such duties, authorities, and responsibilities as are customary to a Board of Directors under the laws of the State of North Carolina.

Section 6 – Institutional Representatives

A representative from the following institutions located within the bounds of the Western North Carolina Association shall have a standing invitation to either send a written report or if the Board of Directors determines there is adequate time, appear personally before the meetings of the Board of Directors to share the concerns of the institution as it relates to the Western North Carolina Association. These individuals shall have a voice, but not vote.

The institutions are:

- Black Lake Retreat Center
- Blowing Rock Conference Center
- Catawba College
- Elon Homes and Schools for Children
- Johns River Valley Camp
- Nazareth Children's Home
- EveryAge

ARTICLE VII – DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND THE ASSOCIATE CONFERENCE MINISTER

Section 1 – President

The President of the Association shall preside at all meetings of the Association and serves as Chairperson of the Board of Directors.

The President shall perform other duties and responsibilities normally assumed by the President of an organization. These duties shall include, but shall not be limited to, appointing special committees or task forces, calling special meetings, monitoring, and facilitating the necessary processes and timeline of the work of the Association as outlined in this Constitution and Bylaws, etc.

Section 2 – Vice-President

The Vice-President shall perform all the duties and have all the authority of the President in the absence of the President and shall succeed the President in office in case of a vacancy. In the case of grave illness on the part of the President, the Board of Directors shall determine when and if the Vice-President shall become acting president.

Section 3 – Secretary

The Secretary shall keep a permanent, accurate, and legible record of all meetings and transactions of the Association, the Board of Directors, and other meetings at which the Secretary has an official function.

The Secretary shall be the custodian of the seal of the Association and shall affix the same to all written documents requiring the seal and attest the same by the Secretary's signature.

The Secretary shall perform such other duties as usually pertain to the office.

Section 4 – Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive and be the custodian of all funds, securities, and personal property belonging to and entrusted to, or in any way committed to, the care and custody of the Association. The Treasurer shall disburse, pay expenses, and perform other duties as ordered by the Board of Directors.

The Treasurer shall make an annual report to the Association. At the end of each two-year term for the Treasurer, and earlier if there shall be a change in the person occupying the Office of Treasurer before the completion of a two-year term, there shall be an annual financial review by a CPA not affiliated with the Board of Directors or its members. Such review will be at the expense of the Association. The Treasurer shall be bonded as the Board of Directors may require. The expense of the bond shall be paid by the Association.

Section 5 – Associate Conference Minister

The Associate Conference Minister shall be first and foremost a minister to the ministers and churches of the Association and shall cooperate with the Board of Directors in the work of the Association.

The Associate Conference Minister shall furnish the Association, the Board of Directors, churches, committees, and task forces with any information required by them relating to their office.

The Associate Conference Minister shall maintain close contact with the Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization team (MESA or its successor in the United Church of Christ), and work closely with local churches seeking ministers for vacant pulpits.

ARTICLE VIII - COMMITTEES

Section 1: Committees

-

There shall be a Committee on Ministry.

Other temporary committees or taskforces may be developed, organized, and created by the Board of Directors as needed.

Section 2 - Composition and Terms of Office

The Committee on Ministry shall be composed of twelve members (six lay persons and six clergy—and at least two from each district and reflecting the diversity of the Association), elected by the Association for a term of two years.

The members of the committees may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

The composition and the terms of non-standing committees shall be decided by the Board of Directors. A committee may organize all or part of its membership into subcommittees or task forces to deal with specific program areas. It may also engage additional persons to assist the committee or commission.

Section 3 – Meetings

All the committees shall meet regularly but at least semi-annually. The meetings shall take place at the discretion of the conveners of the committees, the Board of Directors, or the Associate Conference Minister of the Association. Each committee or task force reports to the Board of Directors as directed by the Board and to the Association through the Board.

Section 4 – Duties of the Committee on Ministry

A. Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry shall be the committee that:

1. Implements the standards for ministry as stated in the United Church of Christ Manual on Ministry, and further articulated in the Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers. They shall also develop additional standards and policies as may be needed.

2. Interviews candidates for ministerial standing based on the United Church of Christ Manual on Ministry.

3. Recommends the approval of candidates for ordination. The Association, upon approval and recommendation of the Board of Directors, authorizes candidates for ordination by an affirmative vote of a duly called Ecclesiastical Council of the Association.

4. Authorizes ministerial standing, except for ordination, and reports such authorization to the Board of Directors.

5. Receives members in discernment according to the United Church of Christ Manual on Ministry, or its successors, and if possible, provides scholarship aid to students at college and seminary levels.

6. Recommends ongoing educational programs for persons seeking authorization for ministry in the United Church of Christ.

7. Reviews the current standing of non-parish clergy.

8. Promotes the welfare of parish clergy and local congregations by encouraging the establishment, development, and continuation of healthy pastor-parish relationships.

9. Reviews the request of any congregation desiring to unite with, or withdraw from, the United Church of Christ through the Western North Carolina Association and recommends appropriate action to the Board of Directors.

10. Implements additional standards and policies as established by the Association.

ARTICLE IX – PROGRAM DISTRICTS

Section 1 – Purpose

There shall be Program Districts for education, collaboration, and fostering ministerial relationships.

Section 2 – Geographical Boundaries

The Program Districts for the Association shall include the following and other such Districts as the Association may determine.

A. Guilford – Randolph

This Program District shall be composed of all churches, ministers, and directors of religious education certified by the United Church of Christ in the general area of western North Carolina, including the counties of Guilford, Montgomery, Randolph, Richmond, and Rockingham in North Carolina.

B. Davidson – Forsyth

This Program District shall be composed of all the churches, ministers, and directors of religious education certified by the United Church of Christ in the general area of western North Carolina, including the counties of Davidson, Forsyth, and Yadkin in North Carolina, and Carroll in Virginia.

C. Rowan

This Program District shall be composed of all the churches, ministers, and directors of religious education certified by the United Church of Christ in the general area of western North Carolina, including the counties of Cabarrus, Gaston, Mecklenburg, Monroe, Rowan, and Stanley in North Carolina.

D. Catawba

This Program District shall be composed of all the churches, ministers, and directors of religious education certified by the United Church of Christ in the general area of western North Carolina, including the counties of Buncombe, Caldwell, Catawba, Henderson, Iredell, Lincoln, Polk, and Watauga in North Carolina.

ARTICLE X – FISCAL YEAR

Section 1 – Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Association shall be the calendar year.

Section 2 – Annual Budget

The annual budget of the Association shall be funded by contributions from member churches based upon a per capita amount recommended by the Board of Directors obtained from the membership reported annually by the church to the UCC DataHub. The accuracy of contributions is based upon a timely update of the UCC DataHub. Per capita covenant dues will be adjusted at the discretion of the Associate Conference Minister, or the amount recommended by the Board of Directors and approved by vote at a duly called meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE XI – CORPORATE SEAL

The Association shall have a corporate seal consisting of a circle and containing the words “Western North Carolina Association, Inc.” and such other words or emblems as determined by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XII – AFFILIATION

The Western North Carolina Association is related to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ through the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ, Inc.

ARTICLE XIII – ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1 – Parliamentary Authority

The current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be the parliamentary authority of the WNCA and govern the WNCA in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order of the WNCA.

Section 2 – Parliamentarian

The Parliamentarian for Association meetings shall be selected by the President.

ARTICLE XIV – AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended at any annual or called meeting of the Association by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, provided that such amendment shall have been distributed to the churches, ministers, directors of religious education certified by the United Church of Christ, and members of the Board of Directors at least forty-five days before the meeting at which the vote is to be taken.

ADOPTED AND AMENDED DATES:

- 1.** Adopted: October 24, 1967.
- 2.** Amended: October 22, 1968.
- 3.** Amended: October 5, 1974.
- 4.** Amended: October 18, 1997.
- 5.** Amended: April 9, 2005.
- 6.** Amended: October 29, 2005.
- 7.** Amended: October 6, 2012.
- 8.** Amended: October 3, 2015
- 9.** Amended: October 16, 2020
- 10.** Amended: October 22, 2022