

CONSTITUTION

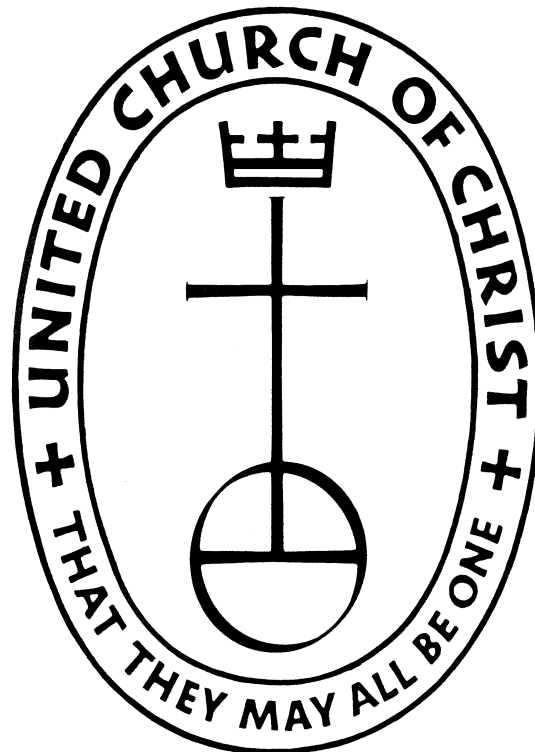
Of

Chicago Metropolitan Association Of the Illinois Conference Of the United Church of Christ

Revised Effective June 12, 2005

Amended May 3, 2008

Amended May 2, 2009



**Chicago Metropolitan Association
Of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ**

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Constitution
(Revised Effective June 12, 2005
as Amended May 3, 2008 and May 2, 2009)

Chicago Metropolitan Association
Illinois Conference
United Church of Christ

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**Chicago Metropolitan Association
Illinois Conference
United Church of Christ**

CONSTITUTION

(Revised Effective June 12, 2005; amended 5/3/08 and 5/2/09)

PREAMBLE:

The ministry of Jesus was extended toward all whom he touched. He walked with, taught, and loved the common people of the street. He showed compassion and healing toward those who suffered at the city gate. He wept over the plight of Jerusalem. He endured the injustice and torture of city magistrates. The focus of his compassion was the salvation of the metropolis – the whole people.

Through the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we believe that we are invited to bring the love, justice and peace of God to our metropolis, without counting the cost. We believe we are commissioned by God's Spirit to carry further the mandate of Christ; preach good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives, bring recovery of sight to the blind; set at liberty those who are oppressed and proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. For these purposes, in the hope of God's new realm to come and in our diversity, we are joined in holy covenant to be the Chicago Metropolitan Association of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ.

As an association of the United Church of Christ, the Chicago Metropolitan Association aspires to be a multi-racial, multi-cultural, open and affirming, peace with justice expression of the denomination, accessible to all.

MISSION GOALS:

Responding to the call of the Gospel, the Chicago Metropolitan Association seeks to:

Empower Congregations:

By nurturing, strengthening and resourcing congregations and ministries, enabling them to be faithful stewards in their mission to proclaim the Gospel as viable and responsive church bodies in their respective neighborhoods, towns and cities.

Support a Ministry of Clergy and Lay Persons:

By raising up and sustaining capable leaders of vision and integrity to serve the local and global church, including preparation for ordained ministry and serving as agents of mediation and reconciliation.

Sustain a Collective Voice for Social Witness:

By encouraging the study, proclamation and living of justice and peace in the Church and in the world.

In order to carry out its witness to the Gospel, the Association will provide direct consultations; participate in celebrations and healings; communicate information; provide liaison and linkage with congregations, the wider church, and with our ecumenical partners; foster mediation and reconciliation; support the ministerial search and call process; serve as a place for discussion, networking, and action; and maintain partnerships with historically-related United Church of Christ institutions in the Chicago metropolitan area.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this Association shall be the CHICAGO METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ. The Chicago Metropolitan Association is a part of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ. The Illinois Conference is incorporated under the Illinois Not-for-Profit Corporation Act.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES OF THE ASSOCIATION

A. General

The Association shall be comprised of United Church of Christ local congregations and ordained, licensed, and commissioned ministers with standing in the Chicago Metropolitan Association.

B. Purposes

Consistent with Article VIII of the Constitution and Article II of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, the purpose of the Association shall be to:

1. Provide for ecclesiastical standing of local churches and ordained, licensed and commissioned ministers.
2. Foster and fulfill within its sphere the life and mission of the United Church of Christ.
3. Provide for area groupings of local churches that shall be called Clusters of Churches.
4. Provide for the establishment and/or recognition of committees, task forces, networks, and other program units.
5. Enable local churches and Clusters of Churches to perform their functions.

6. Support the ministerial search and call process and promote positive relationships between local churches and ministers.
7. Ordain qualified individuals into the Christian ministry.
8. Review and evaluate those projects funded by the Association.
9. Provide a context for the Association's relationship with historically-related United Church of Christ institutions in the Chicago metropolitan area.

ARTICLE III – LOCAL CHURCH

A. General

The basic unit of the life and organization of the Association is the Local Church. The Association affirms the rights and responsibilities of the Local Church as outlined in the Constitution of the United Church of Christ.

B. Covenant

The Local Church of the United Christ of Christ has a covenant responsibility for the denomination, its labors and its extension, even as the United Church of Christ has a covenant responsibility for the well-being and needs and aspirations of the Local Church.

C. Autonomy

The autonomy of the Local Church is inherent and modifiable only by its own actions. Because of our covenantal nature, actions by, decisions of, or advice emanating from the General Synod, the Illinois Conference, the Association and Clusters of Churches should be held in highest regard by every Local Church.

D. Standing of the Local Church

1. Granting of Standing

A Local Church that desires standing in the Association shall present evidence of its vote that it intends to fulfill the obligations of a Local Church in the Association. The Church and Ministry Committee shall examine the request of the church. The Church and Ministry Committee shall make a recommendation to the Association Council. The Association Council shall present the request to the Association at a regular or special meeting. The Church shall be received into the Association upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members present and voting at such Association meeting.

2. Questions of Local Church Standing

When a question of the standing of a Local Church of this Association has been raised, the Church and Ministry Committee shall make inquiry. If the matter cannot be satisfactorily resolved, the Church and Ministry Committee or the Local Church may submit the concern to the Association Council for action. If the matter is still not satisfactorily resolved, the Church and Ministry Committee or the Local Church may submit the concern to the Association at a regular or special meeting.

3. Termination of Standing by the Association

This Association may initiate action to terminate the standing of a Local Church when that Local Church no longer supports the purposes and programs of the United Church of Christ or when that congregation ceases to continue as a church.

The Church and Ministry Committee of the Association shall be responsible for making recommendations regarding terminating the standing of the local church. Recommendations on these matters are made by the Church and Ministry Committee to the Association Council. The Association Council will consider these recommendations and recommend an action to be taken by the Association at a duly called meeting.

A Local Church shall be removed from the Association and the United Church of Christ upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those delegates present and voting at such Association meeting.

4. Termination of Standing by the Local Church

A Local Church desiring to terminate its standing in and break covenant with the Association shall present its request to the Association. On recommendation of the Church and Ministry Committee, the Association may acknowledge the Local Church's determination to end its standing with the Association by a majority vote of those present and voting at a regular or special meeting.

E. Governing Authority

Except where modified by this Constitution or by action of the Association Council, the most recent edition of the United Church of Christ *Manual on Church* shall serve as this Association's standards for its actions for all issues pertaining to the standing of the Local Church.

ARTICLE IV- MINISTERS

A. Standing of Ministers

An ordained minister of the United Church of Christ may hold standing in this Association only when serving ministries within the geographic areas of this Association with the following exceptions:

1. An ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, engaged in a ministry requiring a prolonged absence from the United States or one that does not permit a fixed residence, may hold standing in this Association.
2. An ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, who retires from active service, may hold standing in this Association, without being required to reside within the geographical area of this Association.

3. An ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, engaged in interim ministry, who retains active Church membership in a congregation of this Association.

B. Determination of Standing of Ministers

The Association's Church and Ministry Committee shall determine the standing of ministers of the Association consistent with the provisions of Article XI (C) of this Revised Constitution.

C. Governing Authority

Except where modified by this Constitution or by the actions of the Association Council, the most recent edition of the United Church of Christ *Manual on Ministry* shall serve as this Association's standards for its action in all issues pertaining to standing of ministers.

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSOCIATION

A. General

All Local Churches and all ordained, commissioned and licensed ministers with standing in the Association shall be members of the Association.

B. Former Congregational Christian Churches

The Association will recognize the rights to participation in this Association, within the limits of this Constitution, of the churches and ministers who were members of former Congregational Christian Associations, and who have maintained historic ties with, but who have not become a part of the United Church of Christ.

C. Historically-Related UCC Institutions

Historically-related United Church of Christ institutions in the Chicago metropolitan area shall be members of the Association with voice and one (1) vote per institution. These institutions shall include but not be limited to Advocate Health Care, Chicago Theological Seminary, Community Renewal Society, Elmhurst College, Lifelink, St. Pauls' House, and the Uhlich Childrens' Advantage Network (UCAN).

D. Adjustment of Membership

Any adjustment of Association membership or transfer of membership of a Local Church between Associations shall be done by the Associations in consultation with the Local Church involved and with the approval of the Illinois Conference.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

A. General

The voting members shall control the affairs of this Association. The voting members of the Association shall consist of the ordained, commissioned and licensed ministers holding standing in this Association, the duly elected lay delegates from the Local Church, the duly appointed representatives of the historically-related United Church of Christ institutions in the Chicago metropolitan area, and members of the Association Council who are not otherwise ministers holding standing in the Association or duly-elected lay delegates.

B. Lay Delegates from the Local Church

Every Local Church that has standing shall be entitled to representation in the Association by two (2) voting lay delegates, and in addition thereto, each Local Church shall be entitled to representation by one (1) voting youth delegate (a person at least 14 years of age and not older than 22 at date of election). The Local Church shall choose its own lay and youth delegates.

C. Historically-Related UCC Institutions

Each historically-related United Church of Christ institution in the Chicago metropolitan area that wishes to do so shall appoint one individual to serve as a representative to the Association with voice and one (1) vote.

D. Elections at Association Meetings

1. The election of officers, at-large members of the Association Council and Association committees shall be held at the Annual Meeting of this Association except as otherwise provided. The Nominating Committee shall recommend candidates for all elected offices, although additional nominations may be made from the floor with the prior consent of the nominee.
2. Nominees for election by the Illinois Conference for delegates and alternates to General Synod shall be elected at the Annual Meeting in even numbered years.
3. Except by a contrary vote of the Association, all elections shall be by written ballot. A majority vote of those present and voting shall be necessary to elect. If one candidate does not receive a majority, another written ballot shall be cast between the two candidates having the highest number of votes.

E. Spring and Fall Meetings

The Annual Meeting of this Association shall be held in the Spring of the year prior to the Annual Meeting of the Illinois Conference, at a time and place to be determined by

the Association Council. In addition, there shall be a Fall meeting of the Association, usually of a programmatic nature, at a time and place to be determined by the Association Council.

F. Special Meetings

The Association Council may call a Special Meeting of the Association. A Special Meeting of the Association shall also be called by the Council upon petition of at least twenty-five Local Churches holding standing in this Association. The Association Council shall cause a call for a Special Meeting to be issued within fifteen (15) days of a petition being presented to the Secretary of the Association. Only matters specific in the call shall be acted upon at a Special Meeting.

G. Notice

The Association Secretary shall issue all notices of both regular and Special Meetings. Such notices shall be transmitted to the ministers and Local Churches of the Association at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting. In the case of a Special Meeting, the specific items to be considered shall be clearly stated in the call.

H. Quorum

A quorum at meetings of the Association shall consist of seventy-five (75) voting members.

I. Illinois Conference Staff Participation

The Illinois Conference Minister and other Conference staff persons in attendance at Association meetings shall have voice but not vote, unless they hold standing in this Association.

J. Association Council Member Participation.

Members of the Association Council in attendance at Association meetings who are not otherwise ministers holding standing in the Association or duly elected lay delegates shall have voice and vote.

ARTICLE VII – RESOLUTIONS

A. Definition

A Resolution shall be defined as the formal expression of opinion will or intent of the Association as determined by the vote of a majority of those delegates present and voting at a duly called Association Meeting.

B. Requirements

To be considered at an Association Meeting, a proposed Resolution must be received in the Association office no later than forty five (45) days prior to the date of the Association Meeting. A proposed Resolution must follow the following format: Title; Sponsor(s); whereas statements (including theological rationales; previous CMA, Illinois Conference or UCC positions); Resolved statements (actions to be voted on); and a Financial Note.

C. Notice

All proposed Resolutions to be considered for adoption by this Association shall be transmitted to the Local Church no later than thirty (30) days prior to the Association Meeting.

D. Emergency Resolutions

An Emergency Resolution may be presented at an Association Meeting, provided the signatures of twenty-five (25) percent of the voting members present and voting accompany such Emergency Resolution.

E. Implementation

The Association Council is responsible for ensuring the timely implementation of all Resolutions duly adopted by the Association.

ARTICLE VIII – OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

A. General

The Officers of this Association shall be Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary, and Treasurer. They shall be elected in even numbered years for a term of two (2) years by Association members at their Annual Meeting in the Spring of each even numbered year. Newly elected Officers shall take office immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Illinois Conference

B. Terms

The Moderator and Vice-Moderator shall serve one (1) full term. The Secretary and Treasurer are each eligible for no more than two (2) consecutive full terms. Serving a partial term shall not be considered a full term for purposes of these term limits.

The positions of Moderator and Vice-Moderator shall alternate in successive odd years between a minister and a layperson. If the Moderator is a minister, the Vice-Moderator

shall be a layperson. If the Moderator is a layperson, the Vice-Moderator shall be a minister.

C. Vacancies

The Association Council, upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, shall fill all vacancies in elected offices until the next Annual Meeting of the Association.

D. Moderator

1. The Moderator shall serve as member of and chair all meetings of the Association, the Association Council and the Association Executive Committee. The Moderator shall also be an *ex-officio* member of all Association Committees.
2. The Moderator shall be an *ex-officio* member of the Illinois Conference Council and the Illinois Conference Executive Committee, as defined by the Constitution of the Illinois Conference.

E. Vice-Moderator

1. The Vice-Moderator shall perform the duties of the Moderator in cases of the Moderator's absence or by request of the Moderator.
2. The Vice-Moderator shall serve on the Association Council and the Association Executive Committee.
3. The Vice-Moderator shall be responsible for planning the fall meeting of the Association
4. In the event the Vice-Moderator becomes the Moderator before the end of the Moderator's term or the Vice-Moderator's position otherwise becomes vacant, the Nominating Committee shall recommend a candidate for the Vice-Moderator position for election by the Association Council.

F. Secretary

The Secretary, with the Association Co-Ministers, shall handle the official correspondence of the Association. The Secretary shall serve as a member of the Association Council and Association Executive Committee, and record minutes of the meetings of the Association, the Association Council, and the Association Executive Committee.

G. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall oversee the finances of the Association and report regarding these finances to the Association, Association Council and the Association Executive

Committee. The Treasurer shall chair the Association Budget Committee and participate with staff in the preparation of the Association budget to be recommended to the Association Council. The Treasurer shall serve on the Association Council, the Association Executive Committee, and the Illinois Conference Administration and Finance Committee.

ARTICLE IX- ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

A. General

The Association Council shall serve as the policy-making body of the Association between meetings of the whole Association. The Council shall meet monthly, except in July and August. Special meetings of the Council may be called as needed by the Executive Committee. Members of the Council shall take office immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Illinois Conference.

B. Purpose

The purpose of the Association Council shall be to:

1. Administer the affairs of the Association between meetings of the Association.
2. Implement the Mission Goals of the Association, in cooperation with the Clusters of Churches, Committees, Task Forces, Networks and other program units.
3. Ensure the implementation of Resolutions adopted by the Association at duly called Association meetings.
4. Approve the CMA budget, as proposed by the Budget Committee.
5. Hear and decide appeals from decisions made by the Church and Ministry Committee, consistent with the Association-approved protocol [to be developed by the Church and Ministry Committee and approved by the CMA Association Council].
6. Present a report of its activities to the Annual Meeting of the Association.

C. Composition

Membership in the Council shall consist of the following 27 voting members:

1. Officers: Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary and Treasurer
2. Ten At-large Representatives, at least one of which shall be a Youth Representative (at least age 14 and not older than age 22 at date of election), elected for one (1) year terms

3. One Representative from each of the Six Clusters
4. Chair of the Congregational Life Committee
5. Chair of the Church and Ministry Committee
6. Chair of the Church in Society Committee
7. Chair of the Nominating Committee
8. One Chicago Metropolitan Association member of the Illinois Conference Personnel Committee, as determined by that group
9. Two Association Co-Ministers

D. Other Council Participants

Other groups and organizations are entitled to participation on the Council as the need arises. They shall have voice but not vote. Upon request, they may receive the minutes of the Council. These groups include:

1. Representatives of committees, Task Forces and Networks established or recognized by the Association.
2. Representatives from historically-related UCC institutions in the Chicago metropolitan area, that may include but are not limited to Advocate Health Care, Chicago Theological Seminary, Community Renewal Society, Elmhurst College, Lifelink, St. Pauls' House, and the Uhlich Childrens' Advantage Network (UCAN).
3. Representatives of UCC-recognized Historically Under-represented Groups (HUGs), that may include but are not limited to the Council for Hispanic Ministries, Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice (MRSEJ), United Black Christians (UBC), Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries (PAAM) and the CMA section of the Illinois Conference Chapter of the UCC Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns.
4. Illinois Conference Minister or Associate Conference Minister.

E. Quorum

Except as otherwise provided, a quorum at meetings of the Association Council shall consist of one-third of the voting members. [9 voting members] For matters involving appeals of the termination of standing for ministry, a quorum of the Association Council

shall consist of one-half of the voting members [14 voting members]

F. Executive Sessions

The Association Council may meet in executive session, which means only voting members of the Council may participate and matters discussed shall be treated as confidential. No formal actions may be taken during executive session. Executive sessions of the Association Council may be called upon a motion duly made and seconded with the two-thirds vote of the Association Council members present and voting. If an executive session matter pertains to a particular individual serving on the Council, such individual will be excluded from the executive session.

ARTICLE X - CLUSTERS OF CHURCHES

A. General

The Association shall be divided into six (6) geographic Clusters of Churches.

B. Purpose

The purpose of the Clusters of Churches shall be to:

1. Convene the Association in the form of an ecclesiastical council to examine and approve candidates for ordination within the Cluster, consistent with the Association-approved protocol. [Attachment A]
2. Initiate programs and services for their own churches and for churches throughout the Association.
3. Promote fellowship among the churches.
4. Be a vehicle of communication between the local church and the larger church so that local churches may be more effective both in their local and wider witness.

C. Representatives

1. Deans and Vice-Deans

Clusters shall elect Deans and Vice Deans to serve a two (2) year term. Clusters 1, 3 and 5 shall elect Deans and Vice Deans in odd numbered years. Cluster 2, 4 and 6 shall elect Deans and Vice Deans in even numbered years. Clusters may elect other officers for such terms as they may decide. One representative from each Cluster, usually the Dean, shall serve on the Association Council.

Newly elected Cluster officers shall take office immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Illinois Conference.

2. Representatives to the Church in Society Committee

Each Cluster shall elect one (1) representative to the Church in Society Committee for an undesignated term. Newly elected Cluster representatives to the Church in Society Committee shall take office immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Illinois Conference.

ARTICLE XI – ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES

A. General

1. The Association shall establish standing Committees, accountable to the Association. Each Committee, except the Executive Committee and Budget Committee, shall submit a report to the Annual Meeting of the Association.
2. The Association shall attempt to insure there is a balanced representation of members of the Clusters of Churches, ordained ministers and lay members, men and women, and individuals from UCC-recognized historically under-represented groups (HUGs) on the committees.
3. Each Committee shall elect its own officers each year.
4. The Committees will meet as necessary for the timely and considered exercise of their responsibilities.
5. The Chairs of the Congregational Life, Church and Ministry, Church in Society and Nominating Committees shall serve on the Association Council and the Association Executive Committee.

B. Executive Committee

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Executive Committee shall be to:

- a. Monitor Association affairs between meetings of the Association Council.
- b. Be responsible for ensuring the implementation of the decisions of the Association and the Association Council.
- c. Serve as a consultative sounding board to the Moderator.

2. Composition

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer, the Chairs of the Congregational Life, Church and Ministry,

Church in Society and Nominating Committees, and the two Association Co-Ministers. Members shall serve for the length of time they are elected to their particular positions.

3. Meeting frequency

The Executive Committee will meet as needed, at a time and place determined by the Moderator. Meetings may be also called by any member of the Committee.

C. Congregational Life Committee

1. Purpose

The Congregational Life Committee shall be responsible for providing opportunities for congregations within the Association to become aware of resources within the UCC at the national and conference level, within our related Institutions, and within other sources so that these congregations are able to be faithful stewards in their mission to proclaim the Gospel as viable and responsive church bodies in their respective neighborhoods, towns, and cities.

2. Composition

The Congregational Life Committee will be composed of nine at-large members recommended by the Nominating Committee, and, as elected by the Clusters, one representative from each Cluster. At large members shall serve three-year terms, with one-third of the at-large members elected each year. Members shall be eligible for a second three-year term.

D. Church and Ministry Committee

1. Purpose: Ministerial Standing

Except as otherwise provided in this Revised Constitution, the Church and Ministry Committee shall be responsible for granting, reviewing, transferring and terminating the standing of ordained, licensed and commissioned ministers of the Association. These decisions are made by the Church and Ministry Committee and shall be reported to the Association Council. The decisions of the Church and Ministry Committee are final and are not subject to appeal, except that the process and procedure of the Committee's decision to revoke a person's authorized standing may be appealed to the Association Council pursuant to the Association-approved protocol [to be developed by the Church and Ministry Committee and approved by the CMA Association Council].

The decision of the Association Council regarding appeals of the process and procedure of the Church and Ministry Committee's decision to revoke a person's authorized standing shall be considered final and not subject to additional appeals.

The Association Council may either affirm that the Church and Ministry Committee properly followed its process and procedure, in which case the original decision will be affirmed and the appeal will end, or if the Association Council finds errors of process or procedure, it will send the case back to the Church and Ministry Committee for reconsideration. No member of the Association Council who participated in the deliberations of the Church and Ministry Committee regarding the revocation of a person's authorized standing shall vote in any appeal of the Church and Ministry Committee's decision to revoke such standing.

The Association delegates all questions of authorization except authorization for ordination to the Church and Ministry Committee. The Association will convene Ecclesiastical Councils to examine candidates for ordination to the Christian ministry.

Specifically, the purpose of the Church and Ministry Committee shall be to:

- a. Grant or terminate the authorized standing of ordained, licensed, and commissioned ministers.
- b. Grant Privilege of Call in the United Church of Christ to authorized ministers of other denominations.
- c. Exercise oversight of authorized ministers.
- d. Request that the appropriate Cluster convene an Ecclesiastical Council, on behalf of the Association, for the purpose of examining candidates for ordination and authorizing those whose examinations have been sustained to be ordained.
- e. Request ecclesiastical endorsement from the United Church of Christ for chaplains and certifications for professional organizations.
- f. Grant, continue or terminate In-Care status.

2. Purpose: Local Church Standing

The Church and Ministry Committee shall be responsible for making recommendations regarding the granting, reviewing, transferring and terminating the standing of the Local Church. Recommendations on these matters are made by the Church and Ministry Committee to the Association Council. The Association Council will consider these recommendations and recommend an action to be taken by the Association at a duly called meeting.

3. Composition

This Committee shall be composed of twenty-seven (27) members and the two Association Co-Ministers. Members shall serve three-year terms, with one third of

the members elected each year. Members shall be eligible for a second three-year term.

E. Church in Society Committee

1. Purpose

The Church in Society Committee shall be responsible, in cooperation with other groups within the Association, to sustain a collective voice of social witness. The Committee shall encourage the study, proclamation, and living of justice and peace in the Church and in the world.

2. Composition

The Church in Society Committee shall be composed of twelve (12) at-large members recommended by the Nominating Committee, and, as elected by the Cluster, one representative from each Cluster. At-large members shall serve three (3) year terms, with one third (1/3) of the members elected each year. Members shall be eligible for a second three (3) year term. Representatives of the historically under-represented groups (HUGs) will be invited to participate in the meeting of the Committee as appropriate.

F. Nominating Committee

1. Purpose

The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for presenting nominees for positions to be elected by the Association at the Annual Meeting.

- a. The Nominating Committee shall present nominees for the offices of Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary and Treasurer of the Association.
- b. The Nominating Committee shall present nominees for members-at-large of the Association Council, and Congregational Life and Church in Society Committees. It shall also present nominees for members of the Church and Ministry and the Nominating Committees.
- c. The Nominating Committee shall recommend nominees to serve as representatives from the Chicago Metropolitan Association to the Illinois Conference Council, Illinois Conference Personnel Committee, Illinois Conference Budget Committee and other Conference Committees as requested by the Illinois Conference.
- d. In even numbered years, the Nominating Committee shall recommend a slate from the Chicago Metropolitan Association to serve as Delegates and Alternates to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ. Upon

adoption at the Annual Meeting of the Association, this slate will be recommended for adoption at the Annual Meeting of the Illinois Conference.

2. Vacancies

Between Annual Meetings of the Association, the Nominating Committee should be notified if an elected position within the CMA committee structure becomes vacant. The Nominating Committee will recommend an individual to serve in such position until another can be elected at the next Annual Meeting. The Association Council shall vote on the recommendations of the Nominating Committee.

3. Composition

The Nominating Committee shall be composed of one layperson and one ordained minister from each Cluster. Members shall serve three (3) year terms, with one third (1/3) of the members elected each year. Members shall be eligible for a second three (3) year term.

G. Budget Committee

1. Purpose

The Budget Committee shall be responsible for developing and monitoring a budget based on the Association's allocation of the Illinois Conference budget. Within the parameters set by this budget, the Budget Committee will develop a proposed CMA budget for approval of the Association Council.

2. Composition

The Budget Committee shall be composed of the Treasurer, the Moderator, the CMA representative to the Illinois Conference Budget Committee, the Co-Association Ministers, and the Association's Administrative Assistant. The Treasurer shall serve as Chair of the Budget Committee.

ARTICLE XII - OTHER ASSOCIATION GROUPS

A. Task Forces

A Task Force is a group formed and/or authorized by the Association to facilitate and monitor the implementation of General Synod priorities, to implement Conference and/or Association resolutions or programs or to accept other short-term assignments. A Task Force shall cease to exist when the Association Council determines the task is complete. A Task Force shall be given one (1) representative with voice, but without vote, on the Association Council. A Task Force reports to the Association Council.

B. Networks

A Network is a group, recognized by the Association, brought together around a common interest, concern or ministry. A recognized Network shall have one (1) representative with voice, but without vote, on the Association Council. Networks shall report regularly to the Association Council.

C. Other Program Units

Any program unit or mission within the Association which is not accountable through a standing committee, task force, or network may petition the Association for recognition and representation with voice, but without vote, on the Association Council.

ARTICLE XIII – CO-MINISTERS

A. General

The Illinois Conference and Association shall call two Association Co-Ministers who are ordained ministers of the United Church of Christ in accordance the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Illinois Conference and Revised Constitution of the Association. The Association Co-Ministers shall be accountable to the Council and Personnel Committee of the Illinois Conference and to the Association, through the Illinois Conference Minister.

B. Responsibilities

The Association Co-Ministers will be responsible for Association pastoral care, search and call, and program support. The Association Co-Ministers shall model a partnership in ministry for the Association. In consultation with the Illinois Conference Minister, the Association Co-Ministers shall determine their respective areas of administrative responsibilities. The Association Co-Ministers shall foster a sense of ministry and community among the local churches and ministers.

Consistent with the position description of an Association Minister adopted by the Illinois Conference, each Association Co-Minister shall:

1. Be a theologian and spiritual leader by articulating a vision for the life and work of the church, and proclaim the theology of the United Church of Christ.
2. Foster covenantal relationships among local churches and authorized ministries, the Associations, the Illinois Conference and Illinois Conference staff.
3. Serve as a primary resource for search and call.
4. Provide services to local churches as needed and facilitate conflict management.

5. Provide pastoral care to ministers, spouses and their families.
6. Serve as staff in the development and coordination of human resources and ministries of the Association.
7. Serve as staff to the Church and Ministry Committee and act as registrar in all matters pertaining to ministerial and local church standing.
8. Serve as interpreter of the ministries of the Conference, the Association and the covenanted ministries of the United Church of Christ.
9. Carry out Conference-wide responsibilities assigned by the Conference Minister.
10. Participate in developing a budget and overseeing the financial operations of the Association.
11. Maintain the official correspondence and provide a repository for the official documents of the Association.
12. Supervise staff in the Association office, including performing annual reviews and making recommendations regarding staffing needs.
13. Carry out other responsibilities as assigned by the Association Council.
14. Serve on the Association Council and staff other Association Committees.
15. Report to the Annual Meeting of the Association.
16. Assist in the function of the Clusters of Churches.

In addition, one Co-Association Minister shall be designated to serve as Registrar at Association Meetings.

C. Election or Dismissal

The Constitution and Bylaws of the Illinois Conference shall govern the election and dismissal of the Association Co-Minister.

D. Staff Relations Committee

The elected representatives of the Chicago Metropolitan Association to the Illinois Conference Personnel Committee shall constitute a Staff Relations Committee. The Staff Relations Committee shall:

1. Shall elect its own chair from among members serving at least one (1) year on the Committee.
2. Meet with professional and support staff to discuss and seek solutions for their concerns.
3. Provide, in consultation with the Illinois Conference Personnel Committee, input to the Illinois Conference Minister for an annual review of the performance of professional staff.

ARTICLE XIV – RULES OF ORDER

Unless otherwise provided, the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all proceedings of the Association.

ARTICLE XV – AMENDMENTS

A. Requirements

Amendments to this Revised Constitution may be proposed by the Association Council or by at least twenty-five (25) Local Churches holding standing in the Association. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Association at least forty five (45) days prior to the Association Meeting at which they will be considered. All proposed amendments to this Revised Constitution to be considered for adoption by this Association shall be transmitted to the Local Church no later than thirty (30) days prior to the Association Meeting.

B. Adoption

Adoption of amendments to the Association Constitution shall require a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of those members present and voting.

C. Effective Date

Amendments to the Association Constitution shall take effect immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Conference.

ATTACHMENT A

ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCILS

The United Church of Christ provides that Associations ordain candidates for ministry. Persons prepare themselves for ordination through study (including Master of Divinity) and prayer (including membership in a local church which sponsors the candidate).

The official context for ascertaining a candidate's fitness for ministry is the Ecclesiastical Council which is convened by the Cluster of the candidate's home church on behalf of the entire Chicago Metropolitan Association. Voting Delegates to the Ecclesiastical Council include all Chicago Metropolitan Association ordained clergy and licensed ministers plus delegates selected by each local church in CMA.

Process

1. **Setting the Date:** The ordination process begins after a candidate is approved for ordination by the CMA Committee on Church and Ministry. The candidate then notifies his or her local church pastor, and the pastor and candidate then contact the Dean of their Cluster and the CMA Association Co-Minister for that Cluster. Together they all coordinate a date for an Ecclesiastical Council.
2. **Preparation:** Once the date has been established, the candidate, with the help of his or her church, must inform all the other churches and non parish clergy in that Cluster. A copy of the candidate's ordination paper is sent to each church and to all non-parish clergy in the cluster. Each local church in the Cluster is responsible in turn for making copies of the ordination paper for its own lay delegates. The Cluster Dean should have extra copies of the ordination paper available at the Ecclesiastical Council for others that may attend. The candidate and his or her church should also inform the Deans of the other CMA clusters. It is the responsibility of the other Deans to inform their churches and non-parish clergy about the Ecclesiastical Council.
3. **Quorum:** The Ecclesiastical Council truly represents an attempt to have Association-wide support for a candidate considering ordination. As in other Association meetings, all clergy with standing in CMA and lay delegates from each church with standing in CMA are eligible to vote. A quorum requires that at least one lay delegate from each of at least one-third of the churches within the host Cluster be present, or that at least one lay delegate from each of 12 churches in other Clusters and one clergy from each of 12 churches in other clusters be present. It is the responsibility of the candidate's church to secure a quorum.
4. **The Ecclesiastical Council meeting:** All clergy and lay delegates should register and receive voting cards. The Cluster Dean or a representative from the Committee on Church and Ministry should introduce the candidate. The Cluster Dean

moderates the meeting. After the candidate is introduced, he or she should be invited to summarize his or her faith journey and statement on theology to the Council.

A period of questioning follows regarding the theology presented the submitted ordination paper, and the candidate's readiness for ministry. Some areas usually highlighted for candidate response are:

- a. The Bible- What is it for you? the church? the Christian community? What is "God's Word"? Is there "universal truth" in the Bible?
- b. Knowledge of the wider church.
- c. The candidate's understanding of her or his ministry's impact on the local church.
- d. What challenges does the United Church of Christ present?
- e. What opportunities for celebration does the United Church of Christ present?
- f. Understanding of the sacraments. (The United Church of Christ recognizes baptism and the Lord's supper)
- g. Reflection on the UCC Statement of Faith
- h. Self care
- i. Reflection on the role of preaching in the ministry

A reasonable amount of time for questioning is one hour. Further time should be negotiated by the entire group.

5. **The Decision:** Following the period of questioning, the candidate and family are excused. In case there is no family present, the candidate should not be alone during the deliberation. A formal vote is then taken by the official delegates present. A three-fifths vote is required for approval. The candidate is invited back into the meeting to hear the results, and the meeting is closed in a circle of prayer.
6. **Ordination Service Plans:** The Cluster Dean or a designated person reports the decision to the CMA Association office. Plans for an ordination service must be worked out between the ordained, the Local Church, and the Association Co-Minister.