

BYLAWS

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN INDIANA

PREAMBLE

Indiana Identity Statement

The Christian Church in Indiana is a diverse community of congregations called by God to act together in love.

We Value . . .

Christ's Table:	We extend Christ's welcome to all through worship and communion.
Connection and Care:	We are called to accompany one another.
Shared Wisdom:	We gain insight in community.
Mutual Ministry:	We do our ministry and mission more effectively together.
Spiritual Leadership:	We nurture each one's call as gifted by the Spirit.

We Imagine . . .

a region that engages in networks of diverse relationships which shape our shared mission and ministry. We envision collaborative efforts that assist individuals in expressing their spiritual gifts, equip congregations to serve in their context and give witness to God's hope for a new community. This compels us to allocate our energy and resources in fresh ways and to call forth leadership throughout the region to fulfill this vision.

SECTION I

BIENNIAL REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Biennial Regional Assembly Committee chairs are nominated by the Regional Nominating Committee.

A. Program Committee

1. Purpose is to plan and administer the program of the Biennial Regional Assembly.
2. Membership
 - a. Six to eight persons broadly representative of the members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana.
 - b. Appointed by the Regional Moderator and the Program Committee chair, and approved by the Regional Board.
3. Duties

- a. To establish a local arrangements committee and outline the Committee's responsibilities. To make arrangements for the hosting of the Assembly and its participants.
- b. To be responsible for the Biennial Assembly program and business meeting.
- c. To be responsible for the Worship Services.

B. Resolutions

1. Will be considered properly presented only when they come from any of the following sources:
 - a. A congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana
 - b. The Regional Board, Regional Commissions, or any auxiliary organization recognized by the Regional Board.
 - c. General Ministries or auxiliary organizations clearly identified with the General expression of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
2. Resolutions must be in the hands of the Regional Moderator not fewer than one hundred twenty days prior to the opening of the Regional Assembly.
3. Shall be submitted to all members of the Regional Board prior to the meeting(s) of the Board and made available to delegates at least forty days prior to the opening of the Regional Assembly.
4. Shall include an estimate of the cost implications of the resolution and the resolution must be reviewed by the Finance Committee prior to the Assembly.
5. Resources - In carrying out its duties, this proponent and Regional Board are encouraged to refer to all recent resolutions of the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and other ecumenical bodies.

C. Credentials Committee

1. Membership - Five persons.
2. Nomination and Election – Nominated by the Regional Moderator and the Credentials Committee Chair, and approved by the Regional Board. The Committee is to be appointed at least sixty days prior to the Regional Assembly and shall serve for that Assembly.
3. Meetings - No meeting prior to the Regional Assembly would normally be necessary. The Committee would need to be available during entire Assembly for any questions or problems that might arise related to voting status, requirements, regulations, etc.
4. Duties - To verify delegate status for persons registered for the Biennial Regional Assembly.

SECTION II

REGIONAL BOARD

- A. Agenda - At its meetings the Regional Board shall conduct the business as is necessary and appropriate to govern the life of the Regional Church including, but not restricted to the following actions:
1. Receive reports from the Commissions and Committees.
 2. Receive reports from the Regional Staff.
 3. Receive reports from the general expressions of the Church and higher education partners.
 4. Receive and act on recommendations from the Executive Committee.
 5. Approve, disapprove, or table motions which are duly made.
 6. Receive and act upon an annual budget.
 7. Receive, review, evaluate, edit for clarity, and present resolutions properly submitted, to the Regional Assembly for action with a recommendation to approve, disapprove, or refer. (A rationale statement may be attached to any such recommendation.)
- B. Meetings - Meetings of the Regional Board are open to all members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana except when the Regional Board votes to meet in closed session.

SECTION III

COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS OF THE REGIONAL BOARD

The Regional Constitution has established four Standing Committees of the Region (Nominating Committee, Personnel/Pastoral Relations, Finance and Constitution and Bylaws) and four Standing Commissions (Ministry, Faith Formation, Unity and Witness, and Resources and Structure). The Commissions shall have such teams as set forth in and Appendix to these Bylaws, which may be changed from time to time for the benefit of the Region's ministries.

The Committees and Commissions of the Christian Church in Indiana are functional programming, planning, and support groups that seek to respond to the actions, initiatives, and needs of the whole Church, of congregations, of the General Assembly and Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the Regional Assembly and Board of the Christian Church in Indiana. The Commissions respond in covenant with the whole Church, seeking to function holistically and responsibly, and in close coordination with each other and through the Regional Board. Each Commission, in its area of

responsibility, is charged to consider the fuller implications of the Gospel, the nature and state of the Church, and the larger mission in Christ including the sociology of American culture and the vision of a global community.

Continuing programming and initiatives and all new programs and initiatives, including coordination among the Committees and Commissions, is accomplished through the Region's Board.

Each Committee and Commission shall attempt to balance its membership representation, working through the Region's Nominating Committee for appropriate personnel. There should also be an effort to maintain reasonably balanced representation from different sections of the Indiana Region. The number of members will vary as determined by the nature and the tasks required.

The evaluation of each Committee and Commissions' effectiveness and the auditing of Regional programming and mission faithfulness will be done, with ultimate action and approval being taken by the Region's Board.

All new Commission groups or the elimination of Commission groups is decided by the Region's Board. The addition or elimination of the Region's Committees or Commissions shall be decided by the Regional Assembly.

In light of these general principles, procedures and goals, the purposes of the various standing Committees and Commissions of the Christian Church in Indiana are as follows:

- A. The **Commission on Ministry** shall develop and implement a program to recruit, nurture, train, evaluate and certify persons for the Order of Ministry and maintain procedures for standing. They also shall provide a comprehensive program of support services for clergy and their families.
- B. The **Commission on Faith Formation** will assist congregations in the faith development and leadership development of their members of every age. They will foster our work in outdoor ministries, and with men, women, and youth.
- C. The **Commission on Unity and Witness** will connect congregations and members of the Region in issues of reconciliation, community and global ministries, ecumenical relations, justice and peace, and environmental concerns. They will help congregations look beyond themselves and make connections with partners in their community and beyond.
- D. The **Commission on Resources and Structure** will seek to identify and allocate the people, property, and financial resources of the Region to undergird the ministries and mission of the church, to plan for the assembled life of the church, to update and create governing policies for the benefit of our shared life, to support and oversee the staff of the Region, and to assist local congregations in their stewardship and governance.

SECTION VII
BUSINESS PROCEDURES

- A. The rules contained in *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall govern the business meetings of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with:
 - 1. The Constitution, or
 - 2. Special rules of order of the Biennial Assembly, or
 - 3. These Bylaws.
- B. Election shall be by ballot when more than one nominee is presented for any office. A plurality vote shall constitute an election. When there is but one nominee for an office, it shall be in order for the secretary to cast the elective ballot for the Assembly.
- C. Only such resolutions as have been properly submitted to and considered by the Regional Board shall be presented to the Regional Assembly, and the Assembly shall deal with them in one of four ways:
 - 1. Approve the item.
 - 2. Disapprove the item.
 - 3. Refer the item to a designated group for further investigation and study as recommended.
 - 4. Commit the item to the Executive Committee for revision with instructions for it to report its findings at a subsequent meeting of the current Assembly.

SECTION VIII
AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Regional Board present and voting at a regular business session, provided such amendment has been considered as stated below:

- A. The proposed amendment has been reviewed and recommended favorably by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.
- B. The proposed amendment has been submitted to a prior Board meeting not less than thirty days before the final action.

C. The proposed amendment has been submitted in writing to members of the Regional Board at least ten days prior to final action by the Board.

Prior Amendments:

Adopted by Regional Board 6/16/86

Revised by Regional Board 2/15/88

Revised by Regional Board 6/15/92

Revised by Regional Board 11/21/94

Revised by Regional Board 12/12/96

Revised by Regional Board 11/17/14