

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
KANSAS-OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Revised October 29, 1977
Revised October 20, 1979
Revised October 25, 1980
Revised October 24, 1981
Revised October 15, 1983
Revised October 20, 1984
Revised October 17, 1992
Revised October 8, 1999
Revised September 28, 2001
Revised September 28, 2007

PREAMBLE

The Kansas-Oklahoma Conference of the United Church of Christ, formed by the union of the Kansas Congregational and Christian Conference, the Central-South Conference of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Kansas City Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, all within the territory of the states of Kansas and Oklahoma, and as these geographical boundaries may be increased or decreased from time to time, in order to express our Christian unity, to make a more effective witness in Christ, and to serve His Kingdom in society, hereby adopts this Constitution.

The Kansas-Oklahoma Conference of the United Church of Christ seeks to live in accord with and serve as a fellowship of the United Church of Christ. It affirms the Christian faith that Jesus Christ is the revealer of God and the Savior of Humanity. It acknowledges as kindred, all who share this faith, this willingness to serve the will of God and the needs of humanity. It celebrates the heritage of the Christian centuries and seeks to make the heritage relevant to the current world.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this corporation shall be the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference of the United Church of Christ.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

1. To continue without break the ecclesiastical and legal identity of the Kansas Congregational and Christian Conference, the Central-South Conference of the Congregational Christian Churches, and the Kansas City Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, within the territory of the states of Kansas and Oklahoma, and as these geographical boundaries may be increased or decreased from time to time, and to conduct their work and to have all their powers, duties, and obligations.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE (CONTINUED)

2. To be a Conference of the United Church of Christ composed of each of the local churches which are now a part of the Kansas Congregational and Christian Conference, the Central-South Conference of the Congregational Christian Churches or of the Kansas City Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, within the territory of the states of Kansas and Oklahoma, and as these geographical boundaries may be increased or decreased from time to time, and of all ministers who compose such Conference or Synod and of all local churches and ministers that are hereafter received into and granted standing by any association of the United Church of Christ within the boundaries of this Conference.

3. To promote the interests and general welfare of the churches and ministers of which this Conference is composed and of the General Synod, boards, institutions, agencies and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ or which are affiliated with such Church insofar as their interests are within the boundaries of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference.

4. To do each and every thing which a Conference of the United Church of Christ may do in the spirit of Christianity to extend the Gospel, to advance true religion, to promote education, and to encourage Christian charity.

5. 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 the Conference 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 purposes of the Conference; to receive, when requested to do so, and hold trust both real and personal property for churches, boards, institutions and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ or which are affiliated with the United Church of Christ and to invest or reinvest the same; and to make any contracts for promoting the objects and purposes of the Conference, which are not inconsistent with the laws of the State of Kansas and Oklahoma.

6. To maintain relations with other Christian fellowships and ecumenical bodies within the boundaries of the Conference to the end that community, mutual understanding and cooperation may be advanced.

7. To exercise the functions of an association of the United Church of Christ when they are delegated to it by such association of where no such association exists.

8. In general, to exercise any, all and every power which a non-profit corporation relating to religious and charitable organizations can be authorized to exercise but no other power. 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 set forth in Article II hereof.

ARTICLE III. AFFILIATIONS

This Conference shall have that relation to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ as it is described in those portions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the United Church of Christ adopted July 4, 1961, and as amended from time to time, which relate to Conferences of the United Church of Christ.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

All ordained, licensed and commissioned ministers of the United Church of Christ in good standing in an association of the Conference; ordained ministers holding standing in other denominations and granted dual standing while serving churches of the Conference; members of the Conference Council and all such other persons as the Bylaws shall provide shall each hold voting membership. Each local church having a standing in an association in the geographical boundaries of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference shall be entitled to two voting lay delegates and each such church having membership of more than 200 shall be entitled to an additional voting lay delegate for each additional 200 members or fraction thereof. No delegate or official representative at the meetings of the Conference shall be entitled to more than one vote. The control of the Conference shall reside in its voting members and may be exercised directly at any annual or other meeting of the Conference or Council elected by the Conference, between meetings of the Conference.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS AND QUORUM

1. The Conference shall hold an annual meeting and other meetings as may be necessary at such time and place as may be determined by the Conference Council and upon notice as may be provided in the By-Laws.

2. Seventy-five (75) delegates representing thirty-five (35) churches representing at least three (3) associations shall constitute a quorum for any regular or special meeting.

3. At any meeting of the Conference a majority vote of those present and voting shall be necessary for the transaction of any business except as otherwise provided in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI. MINISTERS AND OFFICERS

1. The spiritual leader and administrator of the Conference shall be the minister of the Conference whose term of office and mode of election and of determination of duties shall be prescribed in the Bylaws.

2. The officers of the Conference shall be: a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer, all of whom shall be in ecclesiastical relation with one of the local churches composing this Conference. The powers and duties of the officers of this Conference shall be set forth in the Bylaws. All such officers shall be elected in the manner and for the terms and shall perform such duties as shall be prescribed in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII. CONFERENCE COUNCIL

A Conference Council shall administer the affairs of the Conference between meetings of the Conference. It shall be vested with the usual powers given to directors of business corporations organized under the laws of the State of Kansas and as defined in the Bylaws. The Council shall consist of not less than ten (10) nor more than twenty-four (24) members, each of whom shall be in ecclesiastical relation with one of the local churches composing this Conference except one member may be a representative from a denomination in ecumenical partnership with the Conference. The Bylaws shall specify the exact number of members of the Conference Council and shall provide for a method of election, term of office, meetings, powers and duties of the Conference Council.

ARTICLE VIII. DURATION

The duration and number of years the Conference is to continue is perpetual.

ARTICLE IX. CORPORATE SEAL

The Conference shall have a corporate seal as described in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates present and voting at any annual or special meeting, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been published with the minutes of the preceding annual meeting or provided written or printed notice thereof has been sent to the Pastor and Clerk or Secretary of each local church composing the Conference at least six weeks prior to the meeting at which it is to be considered.

ARTICLE XI. INTERPRETATION

From the Constitution of the United Church of Christ: "The autonomy of the local church is inherent and modifiable only by its own action. Nothing in this Constitution and the

Bylaws of the United Church of Christ shall destroy or limit the right of each local church to continue to operate in the way customary to it; nor shall be construed as giving to the General Synod, or to any Conference or Association, now or at any future time, the power to abridge or impair the autonomy of any local church in the management of its own affairs, which affairs include, but are not limited to, the right to retain or adopt its own methods of organization, worship and education to retain or secure its own charter and name; to adopt its own constitution and bylaws; to formulate its own covenants and confessions of faith; to admit members in its own way and to provide for their discipline or dismissal; to call or dismiss its pastor or pastors by such procedure as it shall determine; to acquire, own manage and dispose of property and funds; to control its own benevolence; and to withdraw by own decision from the United Church of Christ at any time without forfeiture of ownership or control any real or personal property owned by it.”