

DELEGATES ELECTED BY THE LOCAL CHURCH TO THE ASSOCIATION AND THE CONFERENCE

From the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ

ARTICLE III. COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIPS

6 Within the United Church of Christ, the various expressions of the church relate to each other in a covenantal manner. Each expression of the church has responsibilities and rights in relation to the others, to the end that the whole church will seek God's will and be faithful to God's mission. Decisions are made in consultation and collaboration among the various parts of the structure. As members of the Body of Christ, each expression of the church is called to honor and respect the work and ministry of each other part. Each expression of the church listens, hears, and carefully considers the advice, counsel, and requests of others. In this covenant, the various expressions of the United Church of Christ seek to walk together in all God's ways.

ARTICLE V. GENERAL SYNOD

15 Local Churches of the United Church of Christ are represented in the General Synod by the delegates from the Conferences to which they belong.

ARTICLE VIII. ASSOCIATIONS AND CONFERENCES

40 An Association is that body which determines, confers, and certifies to the standing of the Local Churches of the United Church of Christ within its area.

41 An Association is that body which grants, certifies to, transfers and terminates ordained ministerial standing or ordained ministerial partner standing in the United Church of Christ.

42 An Association may retain or secure its own charter, and adopt its own constitution, bylaws and other rules which it deems essential to its own welfare and not inconsistent with this Constitution and the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

43 An Association is related to the General Synod through its Conference.

44 When an Association meets, its voting membership includes the lay delegates selected by and representing the Local Churches of that Association, all Ordained Ministers holding standing or ordained ministerial partner standing therein, all Commissioned Ministers and Licensed Ministers of that Association.

45 Meetings of the Association are held annually and at such other times as may be necessary for the discharge of its responsibilities.

Among other duties and responsibilities are these:

The Association

- *elects officers and establishes committees necessary to transact its business*
- *determines its method of financial support*

- *is concerned with the welfare of the local churches within its bounds,*
- *seeks ways to assist churches*
- *receives and acts on business referred to it by local churches, the Conference, General Synod and other bodies*
- *petitioning and making overtures to its conference or the General Synod*

Delegates from the Local Church to the Association are responsible for attending meetings, participating in discussion and decision making, bringing back information to the local church, and encouraging local church members to participate in the programs and ministries of the Association.

48 A Conference may retain or secure its own charter, and adopt its own constitution, bylaws and other rules which it deems essential to its own welfare and not inconsistent with this Constitution and the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

49 A Conference is related to the General Synod as described in the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

50 When a Conference meets, its voting membership includes lay delegates selected by and representing the Local Churches of that Conference, all Ordained Ministers holding standing or ordained ministerial partner standing in its Associations or in the Conference itself when acting as an Association, all Commissioned Ministers and Licensed Ministers in its Associations.

51 Meetings of the Conference are held annually and at such other times as may be necessary for the discharge of its responsibilities.

Among other duties and responsibilities are these:

The Conference

- *elects officers and establishes committees necessary to transact its business*
- *employs such personnel as its program requires.*
- *is concerned with the welfare of the local churches within its bounds,*
- *seeks ways to assist churches*
- *receives and acts on business, requests, counsel and references from local churches, Associations, General Synod and other bodies*
- *petitions and makes overtures to the General Synod*
- *chooses delegates and alternate delegates to General Synod*
- *receives contributions for Our Church's Wider Mission from local churches*
- *determines the percentage of OCWM to be retained for the support of the Conference and what will be sent for the support of the national setting*
- *provides local church support during pastoral placement*
- *is concerned with the welfare of the local churches within its bounds*
- *seeks ways to assist churches*
- *maintains relations with other Christian communions within its bounds*

Delegates from the Local Church to the Conference are responsible for attending meetings, participating in discussion and decision making, bringing back information to the local church, and encouraging local church members to participate in the programs and ministries of the Conference.

The Responsibility of Delegates: A Checklist

BEFORE THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE

- _____ Read all advance materials that will be posted on the website (vtcucc.org).
- _____ Check with your Conference office about meeting and housing registration.
- _____ Attend the annual meetings of your Association.
- _____ Arrange for opportunities to report on the Annual Meeting after you get home.
- _____ Remember to print out all of the materials posted on the website and bring them with you.

UPON ARRIVAL AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

- _____ Upon arrival, check in and get settled.
- _____ Pick up materials in the registration area.
- _____ Examine the program.
- _____ Become acquainted with the facilities; discover the shortest distance between points; know location of the essentials—plenary sessions, worship, workshops, exhibits, dining facilities, rest rooms, fire exits, etc.
- _____ Attend the orientation for new delegates

DURING THE ANNUAL MEETING

- _____ Wear delegate' badge to all sessions.
- _____ Honor agenda times (be on time).
- _____ Honor instructions and assignments
- _____ Participate fully in the Annual Meeting (the microphones are available to all delegates)

AFTER THE ANNUAL MEETING

- _____ Follow-up on opportunities to report on the meeting in your local church,