



**THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
*(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)*  
*of*  
**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA-NEVADA**

***REGIONAL BY-LAWS***

As of **April 18, 1980** and as amended at the Annual Assembly April 20, 1986; April 23, 1988; March 31, 1990; April 29, 1995; April 27, 1996, and **April 23, 2005**.

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**A Ministry Made Possible by Your Gifts to the Disciples Mission Fund**

## BY-LAWS BACKGROUND

- ◆ Current By-Laws written in 1980, amended 6 times, only once since 1996
- ◆ Membership in the Region down from 10,660 in 1980 to 4,559 today
- ◆ Number of churches with 150 or more members down from 30 to 8
- ◆ Number of churches down from 70 to 66, but with 10 ethnically oriented today, up from 1
- ◆ Convoluted nominating structure through 8 mostly non-functioning Geographic Areas
- ◆ 40 plus members on Board of Directors
- ◆ One whole page in By-Laws re Study & Concerns Committee which no longer functions
- ◆ ie, Current By-Laws just don't work very well
- ◆ By-Laws committee first meeting was in February 2007; last one July 20, 2009
- ◆ We reviewed the By-Laws of 6 other regions
- ◆ We met with Regional Staff
- ◆ We had input from former moderators
- ◆ We had a review by our Regional attorney
- ◆ We had 5 “outsiders” review draft 18
- ◆ The Board reviewed draft 19 and approved the concept of two Councils and Executive Cttee
- ◆ We believe we have produced By-Laws that that work today and for the foreseeable future

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BY-LAWS DRAFT 20 WITH GLOSSARY OF TERMS  
7/29/09

These are new By-Laws, not a revision. The intent is to have (to the extent possible in a legal document) a spiritual document that reflects the fact that we are church. The Vision and Mission is based on the February of 2007 Board document. Secondly it is a practical document with clear procedures and definitions and allowing day to day flexibility.

The current Board of 40 plus is replaced by two Councils, one for overseeing financial and property concerns, and the other for overseeing the ministry and mission concerns. Each Council has a moderator, vice-moderator and secretary. There are 12 elected officers, plus the Regional Minister who comprise the Executive Committee. Elected officers are: Two Moderators, two Vice-Moderators, two Secretaries, Steward, Vice-Steward, and four Members At Large, two for each council. Major attention will be given to geographical, ethnic, gender, age and other important aspects that enrich the diversity of our Region.

Congregations in formation and under care have standing.  
A path for issues to get to the Gathering is created.  
“President” removed from Regional Minister title to permit full time ministering.  
Regional Elders added, who provide spiritual support to pastors and resolve disputes.  
Nominating process completely revised.  
Half of the officers elected each year to assure continuity.  
Officers accountability section added.

GLOSSARY

**Mission Cluster** A group of churches, or groups among churches, related either by geography or common mission, where the basic communal work of the church is done.

**Ministry Mission Council** The body overseeing the ministry and mission of the Region. Oversees the Mission Clusters and fosters the Regional mission.

**Administrative Ministry Mission Council** The body overseeing all administrative, legal, property and monetary functions of the Region.

**Executive Committee** The body overseeing the two Councils and ensuring the smooth functioning of the Region. It serves as the Board of Directors (required by California law) and, except for the authority of the Gathering, has final authority in Regional Affairs.

**The Gathering** Any meeting of the entire Region where anything from fellowship to voting can occur.

**Steward** The biblical name for treasurer and who is the corporate Chief Financial Officer.

**Corporate officers** As required by California law a President, Secretary and Chief Financial Officer who are, respectively, the Moderator and Secretary of the Ad-Ministry Mission Council and the Steward.

PROPOSED BY-LAWS OF  
THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA-NEVADA  
Draft 20 – 7/29/09

PREAMBLE TO THE DESIGN FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

As members of the Christian Church,  
We confess that Jesus is the Christ,  
the Son of the living God,  
and proclaim him Lord and Savior of the World.

In Christ's name and by his grace  
we accept our mission of witness  
and service to all people.

We rejoice in God,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and in the covenant of love  
which binds us to God and one another.

Through baptism into Christ  
we enter into newness of life  
and are made one with the whole people of God.

In the communion of the Holy Spirit  
we are joined together in discipleship  
and in obedience to Christ.

At the table of the Lord  
we celebrate with thanksgiving  
the saving acts and presence of Christ.

Within the universal church,  
we receive the gift of ministry  
and the light of scripture.

In the bonds of Christian faith  
we yield ourselves to God  
that we may serve the One  
whose kingdom has no end.

Blessing, glory and honor  
be to God forever. Amen

## HISTORICAL NOTE

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Northern California-Nevada is the legal successor of the first State Meeting held in Stockton, California, in 1855. As “messengers” from Northern California gathered, “they prayed, they sang and exhorted one another to good works; they began to plan for the organized work of planting churches and preaching the Gospel throughout the State of California.” Meeting in Woodland in 1865, they became the Christian Church Missionary Society. In 1880 in Sacramento with delegates from around California, the first constitution was adopted and the first official board was elected. The name was Christian Churches of Northern California. Their purpose was to hire a state evangelist, supporting churches, developing colleges, and doing mission work.

The latest Constitution that can be found was adopted in Santa Cruz, California, on July 17, 1937, titled Constitution of the Convention of the Christian Churches of California North. Both Christian Churches and Churches of Christ are named. The purposes of the Convention were to promote fellowship among churches, get as many as possible to attend the Convention, promote the welfare of local churches and to promote the extension of the Kingdom of God.

On March 13, 1967, our current name appears on a Certificate of Restatement of the Articles of Incorporation filed with the Secretary of State. We do not know when the name change occurred.

## ARTICLE I – WHO WE ARE

We are the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Northern California-Nevada (hereinafter referred to as CCNC-N), a California Corporation and a Region of the General Church, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

Members are those Congregations recognized by the Region as having either full standing in the Region or are in formation and officially under care.

## OUR VISION

Based on Micah 6:8, our vision is to be a faithful and growing church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice.

## OUR MISSION

In covenantal relationship with our General Church, the churches of our Region and with other bodies that share our vision, we invite everyone to discipleship - not mere church membership - calling out and nurturing the infinite variety of spiritual gifts bestowed by God in the lives of all. We will establish and receive new congregations. We will nurture all congregations by providing assistance, counsel and pastoral care. We accept the invitation of Jesus in Acts 1:8 to follow him by witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps “to the ends of the earth.”

## ARTICLE II – HOW WE ARE ORGANIZED

### A. The Region is governed by four bodies:

1. The Gathering, the time when all come together, has final authority over all Regional matters. For the day-to-day operation of the Region, the authority of the Gathering is delegated to the other three bodies.
2. The Executive Committee, which also acts as the Board of Directors. Other than matters reserved to the Gathering by Article III, Section 1, paragraph A.4. or any other matter accepted by the Gathering for decision, the Executive Committee has final authority in all Regional matters.
3. The Administrative Ministry Mission Council (hereinafter referred to as Ad-Ministry Mission Council) is responsible for the administrative, legal, property and fiscal concerns of the Region.
4. The Ministry Mission Council is responsible for facilitating and coordinating the Regional ministry programming and the spiritual and human concerns of the Region.

### B. The Vision and Mission of the Region will be the guiding principle of all four bodies.

## ARTICLE III – HOW WE WORK

### SECTION 1 – GOVERNING BODIES

#### A. THE GATHERING

1. No less often than annually, the churches of the Region will meet in a Gathering for worship, inspiration, learning, contemplation, fellowship, promoting the mission of the Region and conducting the business of the Corporation CCNC-N.
2. The Executive Committee will set the time and place of all Gatherings giving no less than thirty (30) days notice.
3. The business of the Corporation will be conducted at a meeting of the delegates to the Gathering. Delegates will be selected by churches having either full standing in the Region or are in formation and officially under care of the Region.
  - a. Each church will select two (2) delegates. In addition they will select delegates based on church membership. For 150 members, one (1) additional delegate; for each additional 100 members, one (1) delegate. Church membership is determined by the latest edition of the Year Book of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). To the extent possible, churches will select alternate delegates. As each congregation selects delegates, they will remember the inclusiveness of Jesus so that the Gathering represents a full range of the membership of the Region. Elected officers of CCNC-N may be delegates from their congregations.
  - b. Delegates, who represent their congregations, will vote on all business brought before the Gathering. Prior to the Gathering they will become familiar with the business issues and to the extent needed will confer with their congregations on those issues. Subsequent to the Gathering they will inform their congregations of the outcome and the reasoning for the decisions made.
  - c. A quorum for the transaction of business is a majority of the Members of the Corporation (Congregations), as well as a majority of the Delegates.

- d. Bob's Rules (attached) will ordinarily govern procedure. Upon the joint decision of the Moderator and the Regional Minister, then parliamentary procedure, using Robert's Rules of Order will govern..
- 4. The following will be decided by a Gathering:
  - a. The Officers of the Region
  - b. The Regional Minister
  - c. Sale or purchase of real estate of the Region
  - d. Dissolution or merger of the Region
  - e. Any issue submitted to the Gathering by the Executive Committee

## B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Members: The Moderator of each Council, the Vice-Moderator of each Council, the Secretary of each Council, the Steward, the Vice-Steward, the two (2) Members at Large of the Ad- Ministry Mission Council, the two (2) Members at Large of the Ministry Mission Council and the Regional Minister. One of the Moderators, selected by the Executive Committee, will be the Convener and preside at all meetings.
2. The President and Secretary of the Corporation are the Moderator and Secretary of the Ad-Ministry Mission Council The Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation is the Steward. They and the Regional Minister are authorized to sign legal documents on behalf of the corporation.
3. Duties
  - a. Serve as the Board of Directors.
  - b. Facilitate all staff, the Councils and Mission Clusters in living out the Vision and Mission of the Region.
  - c. Prepare an annual budget with input from the Ad-Ministry Mission Council, the Ministry Mission Council and appropriate committees. Upon approval by the Executive Committee the budget will be presented to a Gathering for their information.
  - d. Be the final authority when:
    - (1) The two Councils cannot resolve an issue.
    - (2) An issue requires prompt action and the appropriate Council cannot act in a timely manner.
    - (3) A Council refers an issue to the Executive Committee.
    - (4) There is an issue or issues that are deemed by the Executive Committee to be of major importance to the Region and beyond the purview of either the Ad-Ministry Mission Council or the Ministry Mission Council or the Regional Minister.
    - (5) A large bequest is received by the Region.
  - e. Create, receive reports from and disband committees and task forces as needed.
  - f. Review the recommendation of the Ad-Ministry Mission Council for the sale or purchase of real property and make a recommendation to the Gathering.
  - g. Review and act on resolutions presented for submission to the Gathering.
  - h. In accordance with the process outlined in Article III, Section 4, Paragraph C, determine the need for calling a Regional Minister and effectuating that call. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Regional Minister provide for the administration of the Region.
  - i. Make recommendations to the Gathering in the event of possible dissolution or merger of the Region.

4. Meetings: The Executive Committee will meet as necessary but no less than twice a year at a time and place selected by the Convener and Regional Minister. Action on any item may be taken by telephonic, electronic or written means. An attempt must be made to contact every member and no action may be taken less than 72 hours after first contact. A quorum for taking action is a majority of members.

#### C. AD-MINISTRY MISSION COUNCIL

1. Members: Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary, Steward, Vice-Steward, two (2) Members at Large, the Regional Minister and, when deemed necessary by the Council, additional members appointed by the Council.
2. Duties
  - a. Oversee the administrative mission of the Region.
  - b. Oversee the buying, selling, leasing, renting and managing of all property, either real or personal. The sale or purchase of real property will be referred, with recommendation, to the Executive Committee.
  - c. Oversee the collection and disbursement of all monies.
  - d. Oversee the legal matters of the Region.
  - e. Work collaboratively with the Ministry Mission Council.
  - f. Create, receive reports from and disband committees and task forces as needed.
  - g. Replace elected and appointed members of the Council when vacancies occur.
3. Meetings: The Council will meet as necessary but no less than twice a year at a time and place selected by the Moderator. Action on any item may be taken by telephonic, electronic or written means. An attempt must be made to contact every member and no action may be taken less than 72 hours after first contact. A quorum for taking action is a majority of members.

#### D. MINISTRY MISSION COUNCIL

1. Members: Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary, Vice Steward, two (2) Members at Large, the Regional Minister, one (1) representative from each Mission Cluster, and when deemed necessary by the Council, additional members appointed by the Council.
2. Duties
  - a. Oversee the ministry mission of the Region.
  - b. Foster and support Mission Clusters within the Region.
  - c. Work with Mission Clusters and individual churches in carrying out the missions of each.
  - d. Create, receive reports from and disband committees and task forces as needed.
  - e. Work collaboratively with the Ad-Ministry Mission Council.
  - f. Replace elected and appointed members of the Council when vacancies occur.
3. Meetings: The Council will meet as necessary but no less than twice a year at a time and place selected by the Moderator. Action on any item may be taken by telephonic, electronic or written means. An attempt must be made to contact every member and no action may be taken less than 72 hours after first contact. A quorum for taking action is a majority of members.

## SECTION 2 – OTHER BODIES

### A. MISSION CLUSTERS

1. The purpose of Mission Clusters is to promote fellowship and mission. They will also embrace and respond to the Regional mission and are encouraged to suggest new mission areas to the Ministry Mission Council. The Region will assist them in carrying out their mission.
2. The first type of Mission Cluster is a group of churches based on geography. The geographical composition of these Clusters will be determined by the Ministry Mission Council in consultation with the churches. Every church is encouraged to be in a Geographic Cluster.
3. The second type of Mission Cluster is, ordinarily but not necessarily, several churches or groups within several churches, who may or may not be geographically related, and who have similar interests, or needs, or vision for a particular mission and wish to work together to live out their mission. A group wishing to be designated a Mission Cluster will request such from the Ministry Mission Council. Upon a finding by the Council that the purpose of the Cluster is in accord with the Vision and Mission of the Region, the designation will be granted. Churches may, and are encouraged to, participate in more than one Cluster. When a Cluster disbands it will inform the Council.
4. Each Cluster will form its internal structure and programs and will select one person as a Representative to the Ministry Mission Council.
5. Representatives will bring their knowledge, enthusiasm and insight to the Ministry Mission Council. They will bring the programs of the Ministry Mission Council to their respective clusters.

### B. ELDERS

1. In cooperation with Regional Staff, Regional Elders serve as spiritual support to pastors and church leaders in the Region.
2. They serve as the hearing body as outlined in Article III, Section 3, paragraph D.3. and in Article III, Section 4., paragraph A.4.
3. They are appointed by the Regional Minister and currently serving Elders and confirmed by the Executive Committee.
4. Their term of office is six years.

## SECTION 3 - OFFICERS

### A. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

1. The members of the nominating committee are the Moderator and Vice-Moderator of each Council, the two (2) Members at Large of the Ad-Ministry Mission Council, the two (2) Members at Large of the Ministry Mission Council and the Regional Minister.
2. They will nominate in accordance with Paragraph B of this Section the two Moderators, two Vice-Moderators, two Secretaries, Steward, Vice-Steward, two (2) Members at Large of the Ad-Ministry Mission Council, two (2) Members at Large of the Ministry Mission Council and a person to serve on the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) according to the election cycle of the General Board.
3. The committee will work assiduously at being inclusive in its selection of nominees.

## B. ELECTIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE

1. The nominated officers will be elected at a Gathering, taking office at the conclusion of the Gathering at which they were elected. The term of office is two (2) years except for the Steward and Vice-Steward whose term is three (3) years.
2. At the first election under these By-laws all officers will be elected with the two Moderators, the two Secretaries and the two (2) Ad-Ministry Mission Council Members at Large elected for three-year terms; the two Vice-Moderators and the two (2) Ministry Mission Council Members at Large elected for two-year terms; the Steward and Vice-Steward for three-year terms.
3. On the second year there will be no election. On the third year and yearly thereafter elections will be held.
4. An office may be shared with one other person but with only one vote in meetings.
5. No person may serve as an officer for more than three consecutive election cycles. After two years out of office, a person is again eligible for office.

## C. DUTIES

1. Moderators
  - a. Preside at all meetings of their respective Councils.
  - b. Set the time and place for meetings of their respective Councils.
  - c. Perform such other duties as assigned by their respective Councils.
  - d. The Executive Committee Convener will preside at the business portion of Gatherings.
2. Vice-Moderators
  - a. Preside at any meeting where the Moderator is absent.
  - b. Perform other duties as assigned by their respective Moderators or Councils.
3. Ad-Ministry Mission Council Secretary
  - a. Make a complete record of the business portion of any Gathering.
  - b. Make a complete record of the meetings of the Ad-Ministry Mission Council and the Executive Committee.
4. Ministry Mission Council Secretary: Make a complete record of the meetings of the Ministry Mission Council.
5. Steward: Working with the Regional Minister, oversee the financial well being of the Region.
6. Vice-Steward: Be a member of the Ministry Mission Council and assist the Steward.
7. Members at Large: Bring their whole selves to their respective Councils.

## D. ACCOUNTABILITY

1. Each person accepting an office will do so with the intent of serving the full term of the office and with the intent of being accountable through spiritual, physical, financial and mental presence.
2. Any officer missing two meetings may be subject to dismissal from that office by the Executive Committee.
3. Any allegation of inappropriate conduct by an officer will be brought to the Executive Committee for informal discussion and resolution. If that does not resolve the issue, the Regional Minister will appoint a hearing body of five (5) Regional Elders who will devise its process and issue its decision, which will be final.

## SECTION 4 – RESOLUTION OF ISSUES

- A. It is the obligation of the Region, the Executive Committee, the Ad-Ministry Mission Council and the Ministry Mission Council to be sensitive to all concerns that come before them. In the event of an issue on which a minority believes it cannot get a hearing, the following applies:
1. For Committees and Clusters: Issues that cannot be resolved within the Committee or Cluster will be brought to their supervising Council for resolution.
  2. For the Executive Committee, the Ad-Ministry Mission Council and the Ministry Mission Council: After good-faith efforts to be heard fail, one-third (1/3) of the members, either orally or in writing, may request a hearing on an issue, which request will be granted.
  3. For the Region: After good-faith efforts to be heard fail, no fewer than seven (7) congregations may, by board action and in writing, request a hearing on an issue, which request will be granted.
  4. For issues in paragraphs 2 and 3 the Regional Minister will appoint a hearing body of five (5) Regional Elders who will devise its process and issue its decision, which will be final. The obligation of the hearing body is to fully hear the proponents of the issue so that the proponents believe they have been heard and understood.
- B. A group of seven (7) or more congregations or fifty (50) or more active members of Disciples churches from seven (7) or more congregations wishing to place an issue before the Gathering will submit their resolution to the Executive Committee for review and decision to grant, modify or deny their request. If their request is denied they may request a hearing before a hearing body formed pursuant to paragraph A.4. above.

## SECTION 5 – REGIONAL MINISTER

- A. The term of office is six (6) years with a limit of two terms. A second term may be served consecutively under paragraph D.1. below or at a later time under paragraph D.2. below.
- B. Duties: Be the watchful pastoral presence of the Region ensuring that regional ministry functions effectively. Foster the Vision and Mission of the Region as set forth in these By-Laws and as determined from time to time by the two Councils and the Executive Committee. Minister to congregations and their pastors. Serve as the Regional Representative to the General Church and other church bodies as needed from time to time. Administer the Regional Office with full authority over procedures, hiring, supervision and dismissal of staff and anything else necessary for an effective office.
- C. Discharge will be by policies outlined in the Personnel Procedure Manual.
- D. VACANCY
1. At the beginning of the sixth year of the first term, the Executive Committee, in consultation with the Ad-Ministry Mission Council and the Ministry Mission Council, will begin a process to determine if re-election is appropriate. If so, they will inform members of the Region and set a Gathering for the election. Upon a two-thirds (2/3) favorable vote,

- the Regional Minister will be called for a second term.
2. In all other situations, on the determination of the Executive Committee, in consultation with the Ad-Ministry Mission Council and the Ministry Mission Council, that a new Regional Minister needs to be called, they will appoint a Regional Minister Selection Committee of eight (8) members and three (3) alternates, representing a full range of the congregations and membership of the region. The Ad-Ministry Mission Council and the Ministry Mission Council will have no fewer than two (2) members each on the committee. In the event of the expiration of the term of office of a member of the committee prior to selection of a Regional Minister nominee, that person shall remain on the committee until the conclusion of its work. Six votes are necessary for the selection of a candidate.
    - a. On selection of a candidate, the Selection Committee will present the name to a joint meeting of Ad-Ministry Mission Council and Ministry Mission Council for approval. Both elected and appointed members of the two Councils are eligible to vote. On a favorable vote of three-quarters (3/4) of the total membership of both Councils, the name will be presented to the Executive Committee, who will present the name and qualifications to the Region and recommend a call.
    - b. The Executive Committee will set a Gathering for the purpose of calling the Regional Minister. On a favorable vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all delegates representing two-thirds (2/3) of all congregations, a call will be issued to the nominee.

#### SECTION 6 – PROPERTIES, ASSETS AND FISCAL YEAR

- A. The properties and assets of CCNC-N are irrevocably dedicated to religious or charitable purposes. The Region has the power to own or rent personal, mixed and real property; to hold, use, improve, sell, lease, pledge, mortgage, convey and dispose of the same: to accept gifts, devises and bequests; to solicit subscriptions for money; and to borrow money.
- B. None of the assets of the Region will inure to the benefit of any director, officer or employee of the Region or any private individual.
- C. The fiscal year of the corporation is January 1 through December 31.
- D. In the event of dissolution of the Region, all liabilities and obligations of the Region will be satisfied by payment or transfer, and discharged. Any assets remaining will be transferred or conveyed to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada or its corporate successor. Should the above entity be no longer in existence or not qualify for exempt status under Sec. 501(3)(c) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, all assets remaining will be transferred or conveyed to one or more domestic or foreign churches, societies or organizations engaged in activities substantially similar to those of the Region and who qualify under Sec. 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code pursuant to a plan of distribution approved by the Executive Committee and the Gathering and directed by the Ad-Ministry Mission Council.
- E. In the event of dissolution of the Region by merger with another body of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada or another ecumenical body, transfer of assets and liabilities from the Region to the new body will be pursuant to a plan approved by

the Executive Committee and the Gathering and directed by the Ad-Ministry Mission Council.

#### ARTICLE IV – HOW WE CHANGE

When the inevitable time arrives that these By-laws need changing, the Executive Committee, with the concurrence of the Ad-Ministry Mission Council and the Ministry Mission Council, will set in motion the process to amend or repeal these By-laws. Notice of changes will be given to all congregations no less than thirty (30) days prior to the Gathering that will consider them. Approval is by a two-thirds (2/3) favorable vote of delegates. A quorum for this purpose is two-thirds (2/3) of all congregations.

#### BOB'S RULES OF ORDER

For most organizations in which people share a sense of trust and a common vision, these simple rules are enough to run meetings in a friendly, yet efficient manner---without the need for using hundreds of specific and sometimes obscure rules of parliamentary procedure.

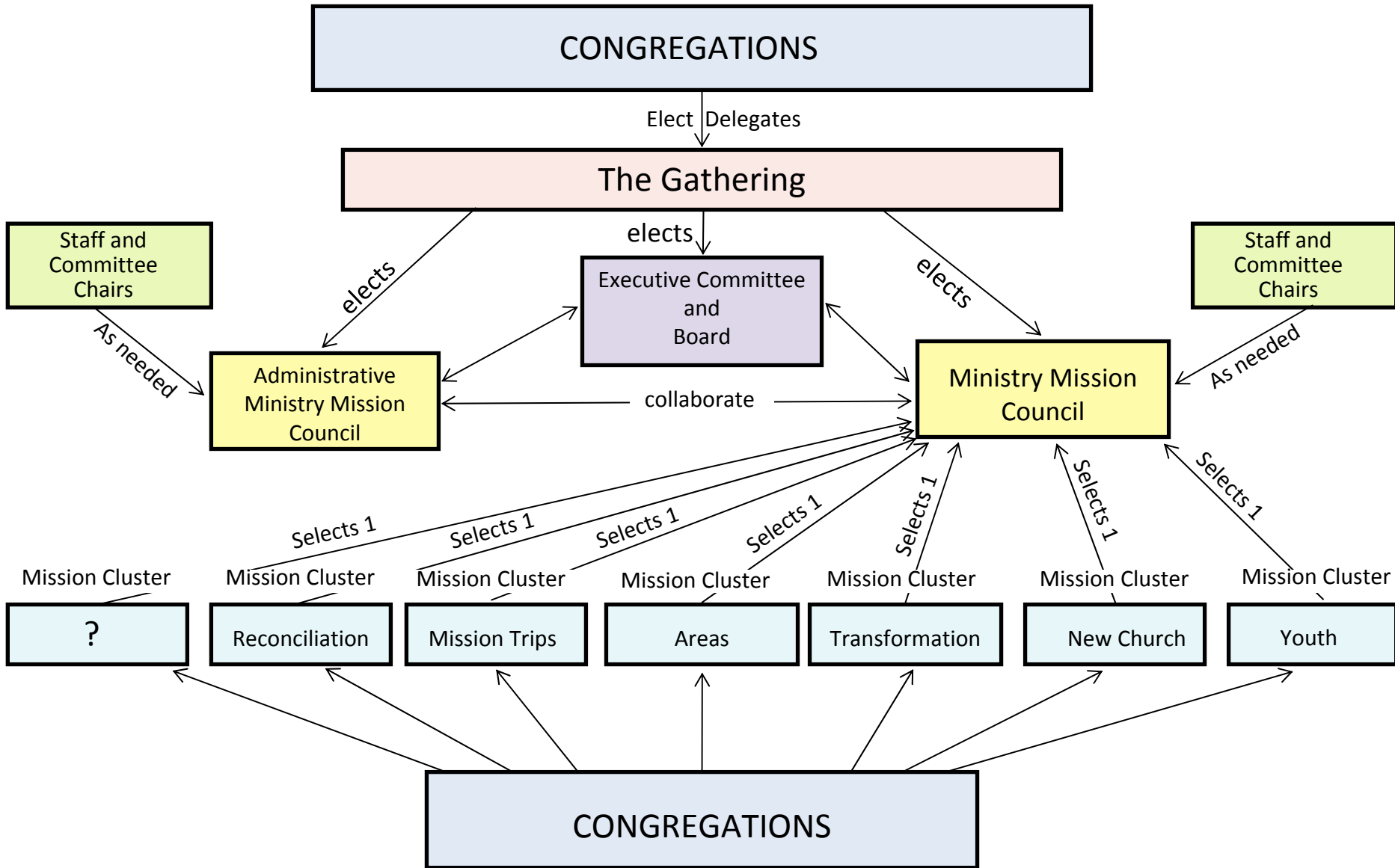
- A. To speak at the meeting, a person must be recognized by the chair. Only one person can be recognized at a time.
- B. A main motion must be made and seconded before discussion can begin on any proposal for action.
- C. Only three things can happen to a main motion: it may be amended, tabled, adopted or rejected.
  - 1. An amendment can be debated, amended itself, and finally adopted or rejected by a majority vote of those voting. If it is adopted, it becomes part of the main motion. If it is rejected, the debate returns to the main motion.
  - 2. A motion to table requires a majority vote of those voting. A main motion may be tabled to a subsequent meeting or to a later time in the current meeting. If tabled, it cannot be brought up again until the date or time specified in the motion.
  - 3. The main motion (as amended) can be adopted or rejected by a majority of those voting. Once the main motion has been voted upon, there can be no further discussion of it.
- D. After sufficient debate has taken place on an amendment or a main motion, anyone can “call the question”--i.e., move to end debate and proceed immediately to a vote. This can be done either “informally” or “formally”.
  - 1. If the question is called “informally”, the chair asks if everyone is ready to vote. If there is no objection, an immediate vote is taken, with no more debate allowed.
  - 2. If someone objects to ending the debate, an immediate vote with no discussion allowed is taken. If two-thirds of those voting wish to end debate, then no more discussion is allowed. If less than two-thirds vote to end debate, then discussion continues until someone else “calls the question”.
- E. A motion to adjourn a meeting can be made at any time. There is an immediate vote with no debate allowed. If a majority of those voting wish to adjourn, then the meeting is adjourned. If less than a majority wish to adjourn, then the meeting continues.

Under “Bob's Rules of Order”, all other question regarding the running of a meeting should be decided by the chair on the basis of...common sense! If someone tries to speak out of turn or disrupt the meeting in any way, the chair can rule that person “out of order”. If anyone objects to any decision by the chair, that person can “challenge the ruling of the chair”. When this occurs, each voting participant---including the chairperson---can speak to the challenge once and for only one minute. The debate is ended and a vote is taken immediately to either uphold or reject the decision of the chair. If the majority of those voting uphold the ruling of the chair, then the meeting proceeds. If the majority votes to reject the ruling of the chair, then the chair must announce a different decision, which can also be challenged if it is not acceptable.

## ELECTION SCHEDULE

2010	2 Mods	2 Vice-mods	2 Secretaries	2 Ad-MinMAL	2 MinistryMAL	Steward	Vice-Steward
2011	N o E l e c t i o n s						
2012		2 Vice-mods		2 Ad-MinMAL			
2013	2 Mods		2 Secretaries		2 MinistryMAL	Steward	Vice-Steward
2014		2 Vice-mods		2 Ad-MinMAL			
2015	2 Mods		2 Secretaries		2 MinistryMAL		
2016		2 Vice-mods		2 Ad-MinMAL		Steward	Vice-Steward
2017	2 Mods		2 Secretaries		2 MinistryMAL		

# REGIONAL STRUCTURE – Proposed By-Laws



Proposed By-Laws  
July 29, 2009