

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS
Of
THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) IN GEORGIA

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 God's 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.

From the Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52

The Regional Board moved the revised Constitution and Bylaws be submitted to the 1987 Regional Assembly for approval as a Provisional document for one (1) year. The existing Constitution and Bylaws Taskforce and a new committee met to receive and review revisions to the provisional document during the year, and reported to the Regional Board during 1988. The document was resubmitted to the Regional Assembly and approved on October 15, 1988.

Constitution & Bylaws Amended: June 19, 1999 at the Called Regional Assembly, FCC in Griffin

Bylaws Amended: September 15, 2012 Regional Board, Regional Church Office, Macon

Appendix to the Constitution Amended: September 15, 2012 Regional Board, Regional Church Office, Macon

Constitution Amended: November 10, 2012 Regional Assembly, FCC in Decatur

53 **CONSTITUTION**

54 **THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) IN GEORGIA**

55
56
57
58 **ARTICLE I**
59 **NAME**

60
61 The name of this body shall be The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia, Inc.,
62 incorporated under the laws of the state of Georgia. It shall be the legal successor to "The
63 Christian Churches of Georgia, Inc. (Disciples of Christ)" This body shall hereinafter be referred to
64 as the Christian Church in Georgia, Region, or the Regional Church. There shall be a corporate
65 seal bearing the name of this body.

66
67 **ARTICLE II**
68 **PURPOSE**

69
70 It shall be the purpose of this body as the Christian Church in Georgia:

- 71
72 A. To enable the congregations to fulfill their ministry of reconciling all persons to God and to
73 each other;
74
75 B. To sustain within the Regional Church a spirit of cooperation and fellowship among all
76 congregations;
77
78 C. To enlarge the vision of the congregations in ecumenical witness and service; and
79
80 D. To be a structure through which congregations can make a corporate witness in carrying
81 out the total mission of the church.
82

83 **ARTICLE III**
84 **RELATIONSHIPS**

85
86 The Christian Church in Georgia shall be related in its life, fellowship and ministry to the Christian
87 Church (Disciples of Christ) and shall join with other bodies in a united witness of faith and love
88 which binds us to God and to each other.
89

90 **ARTICLE IV**
91 **REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

92
93 The membership of this body shall include all congregations, individuals, groups and agencies
94 that support the purpose and participate in the life and ministry of the Christian Church in Georgia
95 who desire such membership. These may identify themselves by listings in the current *Year*
96 *Book and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*, or by Regional Board action.
97

98 A person who is or has been a member of a recognized congregation of the Christian Church
99 (Disciples of Christ), but currently does not have access to participation in such a congregation,
100 upon report to the Regional Board, may be granted the privilege of participation in Regional
101 Church activities.
102
103
104
105
106

107 **ARTICLE V**
108 **THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

109 **SECTION A. THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY PURPOSE**
110

111 The purpose of the Regional Assembly shall be to meet together for worship, education,
112 fellowship and the transaction of business.
113

114 **SECTION B. THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS**
115

116 The Christian Church in Georgia shall hold an annual Regional Assembly.
117

118 A quorum for the transaction of business by the Regional Assembly shall be a majority of the
119 voting representatives, as certified by the Credentials Committee, present at each regularly called
120 meeting of the Regional Assembly.
121

122 No person shall vote in absentia or by proxy.
123

124 The Moderator shall appoint a Parliamentarian to serve during the business sessions.
125

126 Special Regional Assemblies may be called when two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Regional
127 Board or when one-third (1/3) of the congregations in the Regional Church by official vote shall
128 declare that such a necessity exists. Notice of said special meeting must be published in the
129 official periodical of the Christian Church in Georgia at least thirty (30) days in advance of the
130 meeting and each congregation be notified by letter to the minister and/or correspondent at least
131 thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting.
132

133 **SECTION C. THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES**
134

135 Regional Assemblies of the Christian Church in Georgia shall be composed of voting and non-
136 voting representatives. The following provisions shall establish who shall be voting
137 representatives to the Regional Assembly:
138

- 139
- 140 1. Each congregation listed as a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia
141 congregation in the latest *Year Book & Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of*
142 *Christ)* or who is eligible for such listing may choose voting representatives as follows:
 - 143 a. Three (3) lay voting representatives and alternates for each congregation of one hundred
144 (100) participating members* or fewer;
 - 145 b. One (1) additional lay voting representative and alternate for each one hundred (100)
146 additional participating members* or major fraction thereof.
 - 147 2. All ministers living in the Region who are listed in the current *Year Book and Directory of*
148 *the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)* or who are eligible for such listing shall be voting
149 representatives.
 - 150 3. All members of the Regional Board of the Christian Church in Georgia shall be voting
151 representatives and shall be in addition to the voting representatives of their local
152 congregations.
 - 153 4. The Regional Minister, any Associate Regional Ministers and any Regional Directors of
154 Special Activities of the Christian Church in Georgia shall be voting representatives.
 - 155 5. The Chief Executive Officer of the Christian College of Georgia shall be a voting
156 representative.
- 157
158
159
160
161

- 162 6. Each voting representative shall have one (1) vote.
163
164 7. All non-voting representatives registered for the Regional Assembly shall have all the rights
165 and privileges of the Regional Assembly except the right to vote.
166
167 * Participating membership shall be that listed in the latest *Year Book and*
168 *Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*, or as certified by the
169 board of the local congregation fifteen (15) days prior to the Regional
170 Assembly. Each congregation shall give to the office of the Christian Church in
171 Georgia the listing of its voting representatives and their alternates. Each
172 voting representative shall be certified in writing by the chair or minister of the
173 congregation represented.
174

175 SECTION D. REGIONAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

176 1. Nominating Committee

177 It shall be the responsibility of this committee to present nominations for all non-salaried
178 officers of the Christian Church in Georgia named in this Constitution, members-at-large of
179 the Regional Board, the Credentials Committee, and the next Nominating Committee. The
180 Nominating Committee shall also nominate the official voting representative to the General
181 Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This committee shall present for
182 ratification by the Assembly representatives to and for other organizations where directed
183 by the Regional Board.
184
185

186 This committee shall be broadly representative of the church and shall consist of six (6)
187 members, who shall be elected each biennium for a two (2) year term. No member of this
188 committee shall serve two (2) consecutive terms.
189

190 The Regional Church Moderator-Elect shall serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee.
191 The Regional Minister of the Christian Church in Georgia shall counsel with the Nominating
192 Committee.
193

194 2. Credentials Committee

195 It shall be the responsibility of this committee to certify that voting representatives have
196 been properly accredited at the Regional Assembly and shall declare if a quorum is present
197 at the business sessions during the Regional Assembly.
198

199 This committee shall consist of three (3) members, who shall be elected each biennium for
200 a two (2) year term. The Parliamentarian appointed by the Moderator shall chair the
201 Credentials Committee. The Moderator shall counsel with the Credentials Committee.
202
203

204 3. The Regional Assembly Planning Committee

205 It shall be the responsibility of this committee to plan and implement the program and
206 registration of the Regional Assembly.
207

208 This committee shall consist of the Regional Minister as counselor, the Vice-Moderator of
209 the Christian Church in Georgia as Chair and not fewer than six (6) other members, one-
210 half (1/2) of whom shall be appointed by the Regional Board each year for a two (2) year
211 term.
212
213

214
215
216
217

218 **SECTION E. RULES OF PROCEDURE**

219
220 The Regional Board shall receive resolutions and recommend to the Regional Assembly a motion
221 for approval, disapproval or referral for each business item. All resolutions must be submitted to
222 the Regional Board through the office of the Regional Minister at least sixty (60) days prior to the
223 Regional Assembly, except emergency resolutions as so declared by the Regional Board. (See
224 Appendix)
225

226 **SECTION F. REGIONAL ASSEMBLY TIME AND PLACE**

227
228 The Regional Executive Committee shall recommend the time and place of each Regional
229 Assembly for approval by the Regional Board and Regional Assembly two (2) years in advance of
230 said Regional Assembly.

231 **ARTICLE VI**
232 **REGIONAL OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS**

233
234 The non-salaried officers of the Christian Church in Georgia shall be: Moderator, Moderator-Elect,
235 Vice-Moderator, Secretary and Treasurer. They shall serve as officers of the Regional Assembly,
236 the Regional Board and the Regional Executive Committee. The Moderator, Moderator-Elect and
237 Vice-Moderator shall include a minister, a layman and a laywoman.
238

239 **SECTION A. DUTIES OF REGIONAL OFFICERS**

- 240
- 241 1. The Moderator shall preside at business sessions of the Regional Assembly, and at
242 meetings of the Regional Board and Regional Executive Committee. The Moderator shall
243 appoint a Parliamentarian to serve at business sessions of Regional Assemblies and
244 Regional Board meetings during the Moderator's term of office. The Moderator shall be a
245 member of all Regional Church Committees and Commissions, ex-officio without vote.
246
 - 247 2. The Vice-Moderator shall serve in the place of the Moderator in the Moderator's absence
248 and shall assume such other duties as the Moderator may assign. The Vice-Moderator
249 shall serve as Chair of the Regional Assembly Program Committee during the Vice-
250 Moderator's term of office.
251
 - 252 3. The Moderator-Elect shall serve in the place of the Vice-Moderator in the absence of the
253 Vice-Moderator and shall assume such other duties as the Moderator may assign. The
254 Moderator-Elect shall serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee during the Moderator-
255 Elect's term of office.
256
 - 257 4. The Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes of the Regional Assembly, the
258 Regional Board and the Regional Executive Committee.
259
 - 260 5. The Treasurer shall perform the duties usually associated with this office and designated by
261 the Regional Board.
262

263 **SECTION B. ELECTION OF REGIONAL OFFICERS**

264
265 These officers shall be elected at an announced business session of the Regional Assembly.
266 They shall take office upon adjournment of the Regional Assembly in which they are elected.
267

268 **SECTION C. TERM OF OFFICE**

269
270 These officers shall be elected for a term of two (2) years. No officer except the Treasurer and/or
271 Secretary shall succeed himself/herself or serve more than one (1) successive term in the same
272 office.
273

274 **ARTICLE VII**
275 **THE REGIONAL BOARD**

276 **SECTION A. REGIONAL BOARD PURPOSE**

277
278
279 The Regional Board shall be elected by and responsible to the Regional Assembly. It shall
280 supervise the business, program and policies approved by the Regional Assembly.

281
282 The continuing work and witness of the Regional Church shall be governed by the Regional
283 Board, operating under policies and guidelines approved by the Regional Assembly.

284
285 Rules of procedure for conducting Regional Assembly business shall be approved by the
286 Regional Board. (See Appendix)

287 **SECTION B. REGIONAL BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

288
289
290 The Regional Board membership shall include:

- 291
292 1. The five (5) elected officers of the Christian Church in Georgia;
293
294 2. The twelve (12) elected members-at-large broadly representative of the concerns,
295 organizations and geographical areas of the Christian Church in Georgia;
296
297 3. The elected Presidents of Disciples Men, and Georgia Disciples Women's Ministries, and a
298 youth member of the Youth Activities Council; and
299
300 4. The Regional Minister, any Associate Regional Ministers, any Regional Directors of Special
301 Activities and the chief executive officer of regionally-based agencies (e.g. Christian
302 College of Georgia,) all of whom shall be ex-officio without vote.
303

304 **SECTION C. MEMBERS-AT-LARGE TERM OF OFFICE**

305
306 Members-at-large, one-half (1/2) of whom shall be elected each biennium, shall be elected for a
307 two (2) year term and may be elected for a second two (2) year term. After serving two (2) terms,
308 eligibility shall be regained after one (1) year's absence.
309

310 **SECTION D. VACANCIES**

311
312 Vacancies of elected officers of the Christian Church in Georgia and members-at-large of the
313 Regional Board shall be filled by the Regional Board.
314

315 **SECTION E. REGIONAL BOARD MEETINGS**

- 316
317 1. The Regional Board shall meet at regular intervals. Anyone may attend. Speakers must be
318 on the agenda or recognized by the Moderator.
319
320 2. A majority of the voting membership of the Regional Board shall constitute a quorum.
321
322 3. Special meetings of the Regional Board shall be convened at the call of the Moderator or
323 the Vice-Moderator in his/her absence.
324
325 4. For time sensitive matters, the Regional Board may vote by mail ballot, online form or other
326 appropriate means by which a reply can be verified. All such votes shall be ratified at the
327 next Regional Board meeting.
328

329 **ARTICLE VIII**
330 **REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
331

- 332 A. The Regional Executive Committee shall be composed of the officers of the Regional
333 Church, the Presidents of Disciples Men and Georgia Disciples Women's Ministries, and
334 the Regional Minister, the latter of which shall serve without vote.
- 335 B. The Regional Executive Committee shall meet at regular intervals or on the call of the
336 Moderator, the Regional Minister, or any two (2) members of the Regional Executive
337 Committee. Four (4) voting-members shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business.
- 338 C. The Regional Executive Committee shall act on emergency matters when the Regional
339 Board is not in session, and shall report to the Regional Board any resulting actions for
340 ratification.
- 341 D. For time sensitive matters, the Regional Executive Committee may vote by mail ballot,
342 online form or other appropriate means by which a reply can be verified. All such votes
343 shall be ratified at the next Regional Board meeting.
- 344 E. The Regional Executive Committee shall serve as the Personnel Committee of the
345 Regional Board.
- 346 F. The Regional Executive Committee shall review and make recommendations to the
347 Regional Board on financial campaigns, regional debt, investments and matters of sale,
348 acquisition or capital improvements of all real property of the Christian Church in Georgia.
- 349 G. The Regional Executive Committee shall recommend the time and place of each Regional
350 Assembly for approval of the Regional Board and Regional Assembly two years in advance
351 of said Regional Assembly.

352 **ARTICLE IX**
353 **THE REGIONAL MINISTER**
354

355 The Regional Minister shall be the spiritual and administrative leader of the Regional Church and
356 shall exercise pastoral care and nurture of the congregations and ministers within the Regional
357 Church. He/she shall serve as its chief executive officer and as such:

- 358
- 359 A. Shall direct coordination and implementation of the Regional Church's mission and
360 ministry;
- 361
- 362 B. Shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of all Boards, Committees, Commissions
363 and other entities of the Regional Church;
- 364
- 365 C. Shall report on the state of the Regional Church to the Regional Assembly, the Regional
366 Board and the Regional Executive Committee;
- 367
- 368 D. Shall interpret the total program of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to and for its
369 Congregational, Regional and General expressions of the church;
- 370
- 371 E. Shall supervise the work of all professional and support staff;
- 372
- 373 F. Shall administer the Regional Church mission and ministry within the approved policies of
374 the Regional Assembly.
- 375

376 The Regional Executive Committee of the Regional Board shall establish guidelines for retirement
377 and provide procedures for termination.

378 In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Regional Minister, the Regional Executive Committee
379 shall serve as the Interim Search Committee and present an Interim Candidate to the Regional
380 Board for approval. Unless relieved of office the Interim Regional Minister shall serve until his/her
381 successor is called.

382
383 When the Regional Executive Committee determines the Regional Church is ready, the Regional
384 Executive Committee shall select a Regional Minister Search Committee for approval by the
385 Regional Board. The Regional Minister Search Committee shall present a candidate for Regional
386 Minister to the Regional Board. Upon nomination by the Regional Board, the Regional Minister
387 shall be called by the Regional Assembly and employed for an indefinite term. In the nomination
388 and call of the Regional Minister, a two-thirds (2/3) vote shall be required of those present and
389 voting in the Regional Board meeting and at the Regional Assembly.

390
391 **ARTICLE X**
392 **ASSOCIATE REGIONAL MINISTER**
393

394 Any Associate Regional Ministers shall be called by the Regional Board upon recommendation of
395 the Regional Minister. Candidates shall be recommended only after consultation with appropriate
396 General Church Ministries and Regional Church Constituency Groups and/or Commissions.
397 They shall be installed at the Regional Assembly following their call. The Regional Executive
398 Committee of the Regional Board shall establish the guidelines for retirement and provide
399 procedures for termination.

400
401 All Associate Regional Ministers shall cooperate with the Regional Minister and be responsible
402 with him/her for the pastoral care and nurture of the Christian Church in Georgia. They shall be
403 jointly responsible for administering the work approved by the Regional Assembly under the
404 supervision and in consultation with the Regional Minister and the Regional Board.

405
406 **ARTICLE XI**
407 **REAL PROPERTY-PERMANENT FUNDS**
408

409 It shall be the responsibility of the Christian Church in Georgia, through the Regional Board, to
410 collect, borrow, and disburse funds; and hold, purchase, receive, sell or convey property for the
411 best interest of its mission and ministry. All deeds of real estate shall be executed by the
412 Regional Minister and the Moderator, attested to by the Treasurer or Secretary and by a Notary
413 Public in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia. The Corporate seal of the Christian
414 Church in Georgia shall be affixed to all documents.

415
416 The management of Regional Church property shall be the responsibility of the Regional Minister
417 in consultation with the Regional Executive Committee.

418
419 The Christian Church in Georgia affirms the right of local congregations to own, control and
420 encumber their property.

421
422 **ARTICLE XII**
423 **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**
424

425 This constitution may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of qualified representatives present
426 and voting at a Regional Assembly of the Christian Church in Georgia. A proposed amendment
427 shall be presented in writing to the Regional Board. If approved by the Regional Board, it shall be
428 presented to the Regional Assembly. The Regional Board shall direct the Regional Minister to
429 give at least a sixty (60) day written notice of the impending amendment through the official
430 publication of the Christian Church in Georgia and/or through a general mailing to the
431 congregations of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia.

432

433 **BYLAWS**

434 **CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) IN GEORGIA**

435 **ARTICLE I**
436 **REGIONAL MISSION AND MINISTRY**

437 The Regional Church mission and ministry shall be initiated jointly by the Regional Minister and
438 the Regional Board in consultation with the Commissions of the Region. This mission and
439 ministry and its supporting budget shall be approved annually by the Regional Assembly upon
440 recommendation of the Regional Board. The mission and ministry of the Regional Church shall
441 fulfill the purpose of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): (1) to extend the ministry of Christ
442 in mission, witness and service among the people and social structures of the Regional Church;
443 (2) to establish, receive and nurture congregations in the Region; (3) to provide help, counsel and
444 pastoral care to members, ministers and congregations in their mutual relationships and (4) to
445 relate them to the world-wide mission and witness of the whole church.
446
447
448
449

450 **ARTICLE II**
451 **REGIONAL MINISTER'S CABINET**

452 The Regional Minister's Cabinet shall meet annually for training of Regional Church leaders; for
453 the selection of members of Commissions, Committees and Taskforces; to vision for the future;
454 and to coordinate calendar.
455

456 The Regional Minister's Cabinet shall be composed of the Regional Minister, any Associate
457 Regional Ministers, any Regional Program Directors the Regional Board and the Commission
458 Chairs. Regional Support Staff may attend upon invitation of the Regional Minister.
459

460 **ARTICLE III**
461 **COMMISSIONS, STANDING COMMITTEES AND TASKFORCES**

462 The mission and ministry of the Regional Church shall be carried out by Commissions,
463 Committees and Taskforces. Commissions are ongoing groups charged with specific areas of
464 the Regional Church's mission and ministry. Standing Committees are those named in the
465 Constitution and Bylaws charged with particular work. Taskforces and their members may be
466 appointed from time to time for specific short-term tasks by the Regional Minister, Regional
467 Executive Committee or Regional Board.
468
469
470

471 Each Commission, Committee and Taskforce shall have responsibility for planning, implementing
472 and evaluating its area of mission and ministry. The Commissions, Committees and Taskforces
473 shall work under the oversight of the Regional Minister and the general direction of the Regional
474 Board within the regional budget.
475

476 Regional Commissions shall be designated by the Regional Minister in consultation with the
477 Moderator and any Associate Regional Ministers and approved by the Regional Board.
478

479 Chairs of each Commission shall be appointed by the Regional Minister in consultation with the
480 Regional Moderator and confirmed by the Regional Board. Ordinarily, Chairs will have served on
481 the Commission to which they are appointed Chair and may serve two (2) additional terms as
482 Chair. Chairs of each Commission shall provide written reports to the Regional Board and the
483 Regional Assembly.
484

485 These Commissions may meet as they deem necessary for the planning of their mission and
486 ministry and upon call of the Regional Minister for joint planning.

487
488
489
490
491
492
493
494
495
496
497
498
499
500
501
502
503
504
505
506
507
508
509
510
511
512
513
514
515
516
517
518
519
520
521
522
523
524
525
526
527
528
529
530
531
532
533
534
535
536
537
538
539
540
541

COMMISSION ON COMMUNICATION

The Regional Minister, in consultation with the Chair of the Commission on Communication, shall appoint one-half (1/2) of the six (6) member commission each year for a two (2) year term. Members may succeed themselves once and eligibility is regained after a one (1) year absence. The Editor of the official publication of the Christian Church in Georgia and the Regional WebMaster shall serve on the Commission on Communication ex-officio.

The Commission on Communication shall work to increase communication between the Regional Church, congregations, constituency groups, individuals and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The Commission on Communication shall research, implement and support the use of communication technology to enhance the mission and ministry of the Regional Church. The Commission on Communication shall be responsible for the promotion of Regional Church mission an ministry including the Christmas Offering and the marketing of Camp Christian Conference Center.

COMMISSION OF REGIONAL ELDERS

The Regional Minister, in consultation with the Chair of the Commission of Regional Elders, shall appoint one-half (1/2) of the twelve (12) Regional Elders each year for a two (2) year term. Elders may succeed themselves once and eligibility is regained after a one (1) year absence.

The Regional Elders visit a short list of assigned congregations twice a year in the name of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia. The Regional Elders nurture congregations and attend installations, ordinations and celebrations. They promote Regional Church mission and ministry, Disciples Mission Fund giving and Camp Christian Conference Center. They connect congregations to each other and to the Regional Church and identify possible leaders for Regional Church positions for mission and ministry.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM)

The Regional Minister, in consultation with the Chair of the Commission on Ministry, shall appoint one-half (1/2) of the ten (10) member commission every four years for a four (4) year term. Members may succeed themselves once and eligibility is regained after a one (1) year absence. The executive of the Christian College of Georgia shall serve on the Commission on Ministry ex-officio without vote.

The Commission on Ministry shall counsel with those who are candidates for the ministry and those who seek a commission for ministry, ordination or ministerial standing within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) from other Christian bodies. The Commission on Ministry shall nurture and process ministerial candidates according to the "Policies and Criteria for the Order of Ministry of the Christian Church in Georgia" and the "Theological Foundations and Policies and Criteria for the Ordering of Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)". The Commission on Ministry shall administer available scholarship funds designated to help ministerial candidates and shall review ministerial standing annually. The Commission on Ministry shall serve as the Preliminary Hearing Board and Formal Hearing Board in cases of clergy misconduct and shall see that Boundary Training is made available as required by the "Policy and Procedures for Response to and Prevention of Clergy Sexual Misconduct by Persons Engaged in Ministry in The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia".

542 **COMMISSION ON NEW CHURCH**

543
544 The Regional Minister, in consultation with the Chair of the Commission on New Church, shall
545 appoint one-half (1/2) of the six (6) member commission each year for a two (2) year term.
546 Members may succeed themselves once and eligibility is regained after a one (1) year absence.
547 The Commission on New Church shall work with new church development; when established
548 criteria has been met, recommend to the Regional Board that a new church be recognized as a
549 "Congregation in Formation" and after further established criteria has been met, recommend to
550 the Regional Board that the new church be recognized as an established congregation. The
551 Commission on New Church after established criteria has been met, shall recommend to the
552 Regional Board that a non-Disciples congregation wishing to affiliate with the Christian Church
553 (Disciples of Christ) be received. The Commission on New Church shall work with potential
554 members, congregations, and ministers of new congregations and coordinate these activities with
555 other congregations. The Commission on New Church shall continue to nurture new
556 congregations under its care. New Church development shall be consistent with the goals and
557 capabilities of the Regional Church.

558 **COMMISSION OF OUTDOOR MINISTRY ADVISORY TEAM (OMAT)**

559
560
561 The Regional Minister, in consultation with the Director of Camping Programs and the Chair of
562 the Commission of Outdoor Ministry Advisory Team shall appoint one-half (1/2) of the six (6)
563 member commission mostly from camp and conference directors and counselors each year for a
564 two (2) year term. Members may succeed themselves once and eligibility is regained after a one
565 (1) year absence. The Director of Camping Programs shall serve on OMAT ex-officio without
566 vote.

567
568 OMAT shall give the Director of Camping Programs guidance in providing a comprehensive
569 program of camps and conferences. OMAT shall assist in planning special events to increase
570 usage of the camp; plan for use of facilities for retreats and meetings; and shall work with the
571 Camp Manager and Regional Minister to facilitate the maintenance and development of the camp
572 property. OMAT shall facilitate Camp Christian Conference Center in fulfilling its mission of being
573 a place of sanctuary for spirituality, education and development of whole persons.

574 **COMMISSION ON RECONCILIATION**

575
576
577 The Regional Minister, in consultation with the Chair of the Commission on Reconciliation shall
578 appoint one-half (1/2) of the six (6) member commission each year for a two (2) year term.
579 Members may succeed themselves once and eligibility is regained after a one (1) year absence.

580
581 The Commission on Reconciliation shall work to advance the Regional Church's journey toward
582 wholeness by empowering the Regional Church and congregations to implement structural
583 change to address historic fractures caused by racism and the systems that perpetuate it. It is
584 the goal of this ministry to foster life-giving community within The Christian Church (Disciples of
585 Christ) in Georgia in relationship with the whole family of God. Tools to accomplish this mission
586 include intentional dialogue, inclusive worship, shared experiences of mission and ministry and
587 experiential education.

588 **ARTICLE IV**
589 **CONSTITUENCY GROUPS**

590 **SECTION 1. DESCRIPTION**

591
592
593
594 Constituency groups recognized by the Christian Church in Georgia shall act as planning bodies
595 in the areas of church life for which they exist. They shall propose program and dates and shall
596 submit any proposals for budget to the Regional Minister. Constituency groups recognized by the

597 Region are: Disciples Men, Georgia Disciples Women's Ministries, Young Adult Disciples
598 Association (YADA) and Youth Activities Council (YAC).

599
600
601

SECTION 2. DISCIPLES MEN

602 Disciples Men shall promote among congregations programs of fellowship, mutual spiritual
603 enrichment, and joint action involving all of the men of the Regional Church. It shall promote and
604 coordinate within congregations such organizations as may be appropriate to a specific
605 congregation to make the most efficient use of its manpower potential.

606
607
608

SECTION 3. GEORGIA DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

609 Georgia Disciples Women's Ministries shall conduct and promote at the congregational, district,
610 regional and general expressions of the church the purposes of this constituency as set forth in its
611 Rules of Procedure.

612
613
614

SECTION 4. YOUNG ADULT DISCIPLES ASSOCIATION (YADA)

615 The Young Adult Disciples Association shall foster collegiality, study and worship among young
616 adults throughout the Regional Church.

617
618
619

SECTION 5. YOUTH ACTIVITIES COUNCIL (YAC)

620 The Youth Activities Council shall create and implement youth ministries, including an annual
621 youth assembly, and shall foster and support programs to develop the full potential of youth as
622 they participate in the congregational, district, regional and general expressions of the church.

623
624
625

ARTICLE V DISTRICTS AND CLUSTERS

626
627
628

Congregations of the Region shall be grouped into six (6) districts. Changes in the number and
boundaries shall be approved by the Regional Assembly.

629
630
631

The Districts shall so organize themselves that the purposes, mission and ministry of the
Regional Church and the District may be conducted in an efficient and effective manner.

632
633
634

Congregations of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia may be requested by the
Regional Minister and the Moderator, to gather occasionally in clusters to better communicate the
mission and ministry of the Regional Church.

635
636
637

ARTICLE VI OTHER REPRESENTATION

638
639
640

The Regional Board shall appoint lay voting representatives to the General Assembly of the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

641
642
643

ARTICLE VII OTHER STAFF PERSONNEL

644
645
646

The Regional Minister shall be granted authority to employ Directors of Special Activities and
functions as budgeted, on approval by the Regional Board.

647
648
649

The Regional Minister shall employ and terminate such personnel as budgeted for the operation
of the office and, in consultation with any Associate Regional Ministers, shall employ and
terminate such personnel as required for other facilities of the Christian Church in Georgia.

650
651

652
653
654
655
656
657
658
659
660
661
662
663
664
665
666
667
668
669
670
671
672
673
674
675
676
677
678
679
680
681
682
683
684
685
686
687
688
689
690
691
692
693
694
695
696
697
698
699
700
701
702
703
704
705
706

**ARTICLE VIII
TERMINATION**

The Regional Minister may be dismissed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Regional Board upon sixty (60) days notice. The Regional Minister may resign upon sixty (60) days written notice to the Regional Board.

Upon recommendation of the Regional Minister, an Associate Regional Minister may be dismissed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Regional Board upon sixty (60) days written notice. When the assignment is one involving special relationships, the termination shall be recommended only after consultation with the appropriate General Church Ministries and Regional Church Constituencies and/or Commissions. An Associate Regional Minister may resign upon sixty (60) days written notice to the Regional Board.

In the event of resignation or dismissal of the Regional Minister or Associate Regional Minister(s), compensation shall be a sixty (60) day payment of base salary, housing, pension and healthcare except in incidents of dismissal for cause.

**ARTICLE IX
PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

Parliamentary procedure shall be governed by *Robert's Rules of Order, Revised* except as otherwise defined in this Constitution and Bylaws. A Parliamentarian may be appointed by the Moderator to serve at all official meetings of the Christian Church in Georgia and his/her tenure of office shall coincide with the office of the Moderator.

**ARTICLE X
ENACTMENT AND AMENDMENTS**

These Bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Regional Board by a three-quarters (3/4) vote of the members present, provided written notice, together with a copy of the proposed change, shall have been put into the hands of the members thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which the proposed change shall be voted upon.

707 **APPENDIX TO THE CONSTITUTION**

708
709 **SPECIAL RULES OF PROCEDURE**
710 **FOR THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**
711 **OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) IN GEORGIA**
712

713 The following Special Rules of Procedure for the Regional Assembly defines procedures for
714 conduct of its business.

715
716 *Robert's Rules of Order, Revised* shall govern the Regional Assembly in all cases to which they
717 are applicable unless they are inconsistent with these Special Rules of Procedure approved by
718 the Regional Board.

719
720 All items of business to be considered by the Regional Assembly shall be received by or originate
721 with the Regional Board through the Office of the Regional Minister at least sixty (60) days prior
722 to the Regional Assembly except emergency resolutions as so declared by the Regional Board.

723
724 The Regional Assembly may consider four kinds of business items: (1) Reports, (2)
725 Recommendations, including Resolutions, (3) Definitions of Policy, and (4) Study Documents.

726
727 A. The Regional Board may recommend to the Regional Assembly that an item of business be
728 approved, disapproved or referred to an appropriate group which it shall designate for
729 further investigation and study. The Regional Board may present an amended item for
730 business provided the original item is presented for consideration by the Regional
731 Assembly.

732
733 B. The Regional Assembly shall receive all items of business submitted to it, consider the
734 comments and recommendations of the Regional Board, and after appropriate discussion,
735 take one of the following actions:
736 1. Approve the business item;
737 2. Disapprove the business item;
738 3. Refer the business item to a designated group for further investigation and study; or
739 4. Commit the business item to the Regional Board for revision and report to a
740 subsequent business session of the current Assembly.

741
742 C. The introduction of a business item properly presented shall be regarded as a "main
743 motion" before the Regional Assembly and having originated from a group rather than an
744 individual, it shall be assumed it has been duly seconded. Action by the Regional
745 Assembly shall be on the "main motion" (the item of business itself) and not on the
746 recommendation of the Regional Board, except in the case of the recommendation to refer
747 to a designated group for further investigation and study," which shall be regarded as a
748 "motion to refer." If the motion to refer fails, the business item shall automatically be
749 committed to the Regional Board for a recommendation to approve or disapprove.

750
751 D. Amendments to business items may not be initiated in the Regional Assembly, except for
752 an emergency item, and no item of business may be introduced by a member of the
753 Regional Assembly from the floor.

754
755 E. New business may not be initiated in the Regional Assembly, except for an emergency
756 item. No item of business may be introduced by a member of the Regional Assembly from
757 the floor.

758
759 F. To expedite handling of any business item a time limit may be set by the presiding officer or
760 by Regional Assembly vote.

761

762 G. In general, the basic rules of parliamentary procedure as described in *Robert's Rules of*
763 *Order, Revised* will be followed. The following motions for instance, are in order, the first
764 taking precedence over the second, the second over the third, etc.
765

- 766 1. To adjourn
- 767 2. To take a recess
- 768 3. To raise a question of privilege
- 769 4. To call for the orders of the day
- 770 5. To rise to a point of order
- 771 6. To withdraw a motion
- 772 7. To close debate (move the previous question)
- 773 8. To limit or extend time for discussion and debate
- 774 9. To postpone discussion to a certain time
- 775 10. To commit or refer
- 776 11. To amend
- 777 12. The main motion

778
779 "Privileged" or "incidental" motions are 1-6

780 Motions subsidiary to main motion are 7-11

781 Debatable motions are 9-12

782 The following cannot be amended 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

783 The following do not require a second 3, 4, 5 and 6

784 The following may interrupt a speaker 3, 4 and 5

785 Simple majority votes carry, except for a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote required for 7 and 8.

786

787

788

789

790 This Appendix to the Constitution may be amended at any meeting of the Regional Board by a
791 three-quarters (3/4) vote of the members present, provided written notice, together with a copy of
792 the proposed change, shall have been put into the hands of the members thirty (30) days prior to
793 the meeting at which the proposed change shall be voted upon.
794