

**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION
of the
SOUTHERN CONFERENCE
of the
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, INC.**

CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS

October 29, 2005

**P. O. Box 4265
Salisbury, NC 28145-4265
(704) 633-3191**

**The Constitution and Bylaws of the
Western North Carolina Association of the
Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ, Inc.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - Name	5
ARTICLE II - Area	5
ARTICLE III - Place of Business	5
ARTICLE IV - Purpose.....	6
ARTICLE V - Membership	7
ARTICLE VI - Meetings.....	7
ARTICLE VII - Voting Membership.....	8
ARTICLE VIII - Board of Directors	8
ARTICLE IX - Officers.....	8
ARTICLE X - Duration	8
ARTICLE XI - Corporate Seal.....	8
ARTICLE XII - Amendments	9

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I - Membership.....	10
Section 1 - Membership	10
Section 2 - Voting Membership.....	10
Section 3 - Voting Delegates	11
Section 4 - Categories of Membership.....	11
A. Churches.....	11
B. Ministers.....	11

ARTICLE II - Privileges and Responsibilities of Member Churches	12
Section 1 - Covenant Responsibilities of Member Churches and the Association	12
Section 2 - Autonomy of Local Churches.....	12
Section 3 - Covenant Responsibilities of Members of Local Churches	13
Section 4 - Addition, Removal, or Withdrawal of Churches	13
ARTICLE III - Privileges and Responsibilities of Member Ministers	13
Section 1 - Covenant Responsibilities of Ministers.....	13
Section 2 - Ordination, Licensure, and Commissioning.....	13
Section 3 - Leave of Absence	14
Section 4 - Retirement and Ministerial Standing.....	14
Section 5 - Transfer of Ministerial Standing.....	14
Section 6 - Removal of Ministerial Standing.....	14
Section 7 - Standing for Pastors of Local Churches	14
Section 8 - Filling Pastoral Vacancies	14
ARTICLE IV - Meetings.....	15
Section 1 - Annual Meeting	15
Section 2 - Called Meetings.....	15
Section 3 - Notice of Meetings	15
Section 4 - Quorum.....	15
Section 5 - Visitor Privilege.....	15
Section 6 - Agenda.....	15
ARTICLE V - Officers and Elections	16
Section 1 - Officers	16
Section 2 - Committee on Nominations.....	16
Section 3 - Elections and Terms of Office.....	16
ARTICLE VI - Board of Directors.....	17
Section 1 - Composition.....	17
Section 2 - Meetings	17
Section 3 - Quorum.....	18
Section 4 - Attendance	18
Section 5 - Duties.....	18
Section 6 - Institutional Representatives.....	18
ARTICLE VII - Duties of Officers and the Associate Conference Minister	19
Section 1 - President	19
Section 2 - Vice-President	19
Section 3 - Secretary	19
Section 4 - Treasurer.....	19
Section 5 - Associate Conference Minister.....	20

ARTICLE VIII - Committees and Commission	20
Section 1 - Committees and Commission	20
Section 2 - Composition and Terms of Office	20
Section 3 - Meetings	21
Section 4 - Duties.....	21
A. Church Development and Evangelism Committee	21
B. Church Life and Education Committee.....	22
C. Stewardship and Mission Committee.....	22
D. Church and Ministry Commission	23
ARTICLE IX - Program Districts.....	24
Section 1 - Purpose	24
Section 2 - Geographical Boundaries	24
A. Guilford - Randolph.....	24
B. Davidson - Forsyth.....	24
C. Rowan.....	24
D. Catawba.....	25
ARTICLE X - Fiscal Year.....	25
Section 1 - Fiscal Year.....	25
Section 2 - Annual Budget.....	25
ARTICLE XI - Corporate Seal.....	25
ARTICLE XII - Affiliation	25
ARTICLE XIII - Order of Business.....	25
Section 1 - Parliamentary Authority	25
Section 2 - Parliamentarian	26
ARTICLE XIV - Audit.....	26
ARTICLE XV - Amendments	26
ADOPTED AND AMENDED DATES	27

**THE CONSTITUTION
of the
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION
of the
SOUTHERN CONFERENCE
of the
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, INC.**

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this corporation shall be the Western North Carolina Association of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ, Inc.

ARTICLE II - AREA

The area of the Western North Carolina Association of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ, Inc., shall include all the churches in North Carolina west of a line following the county lines between Rockingham and Caswell, Guilford and Alamance, Randolph and Chatham, Montgomery and Moore, Richmond and Scotland, and all the churches in Carroll County, Virginia.

ARTICLE III - PLACE OF BUSINESS

A. The principal office or place of business of the Western North Carolina Association shall be at Salisbury, North Carolina.

B. The registered office of the corporation shall be at 204 Lantz Avenue, Salisbury, North Carolina, 28144-2351, and the registered agent of the corporation at said address shall be the Associate Conference Minister for the Western North Carolina Association.

ARTICLE IV - PURPOSE

A. To continue without break the ecclesiastical and legal identity of the Southern Synod, Lincoln, North Carolina Christian, North Carolina State, North Carolina and Virginia, and Western North Carolina Acting Association of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ, Inc., located in the above named area (Article II - Area), and to conduct their work and to have all their powers, duties, and obligations.

B. To be an Association of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ, Inc., composed of each of the local churches which are parts of the Acting Association named above and all ordained, licensed, and commissioned ministers, and directors of religious education certified by the Worship and Education Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ that are hereafter received into and granted standing by the Western North Carolina Association of the Southern Conference within the boundaries of this Association.

C. To promote the interest and general welfare of the churches and ministries of which this Association is composed, and of the General Synod, boards, institutions, agencies, covenanted ministries, and affiliated ministries of the United Church of Christ, and of the Southern Conference insofar as their interests are within the boundaries of this Association.

D. To do each and every thing which an Association of the United Church of Christ may do in the spirit of Christ to extend the gospel, to advance the Christian religion, to promote education, and to encourage Christian charity.

E. 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 this Association 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 purpose of this Association; to receive and hold in trust both real and personal property for churches, boards, institutions, covenanted ministries, and affiliated ministries of the United Church of Christ or the Southern Conference; and to invest or reinvest the same, and to make any contracts for promoting the objects and purposes of the Association which are not inconsistent with the laws of the State of North Carolina.

F. To exercise the functions of an Association of the United Church of Christ within the bounds of the Southern Conference.

G. To exercise any, all, and every power for which a non-profit corporation organized under Chapter 55-A of the General Statutes of the State of North Carolina relating to religious and charitable associations can be authorized to exercise, but no other power. No substantial part of the activities of this corporation shall include the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. 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 of its property shall be distributed at such time solely for the purposes set forth in this article.

H. To unite all of the churches within its boundaries in Christian fellowship, and with divine help and guidance, to develop an understanding of the work of the United Church in its spiritual life, stewardship, sacrificial giving, and promote Our Church's Wider Mission in the home, community, nation, and world.

I. To determine, confer, and certify ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ and the Association.

J. To determine, confer, and certify to the standing of the local churches of the United Church of Christ within its area.

ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP

A. The Western North Carolina Association is related to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ through the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ.

B. All local churches, as stated in Article II - Area, and all ministers who have standing in the Western North Carolina Association, and directors of religious education certified by the Worship and Education Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ shall be members of the Association.

C. Any local church, upon request and subject to such provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Western North Carolina Association, may become a part of the Association.

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS

The Western North Carolina Association shall hold meetings annually and at such other times as may be necessary for the discharge of its responsibilities.

ARTICLE VII - VOTING MEMBERSHIP

The voting membership of the Western North Carolina Association consists of: the ordained, licensed, and commissioned ministers, and directors of religious education certified by the Worship and Education Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ holding standing in the Association, and lay delegates selected by and representing the local churches of the Association, and such other persons as the Bylaws shall provide. The control of the Association shall reside in its voting members, and may be exercised directly at any annual or other meeting of the Association or through and by a Board of Directors elected by the Association.

ARTICLE VIII - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A. There shall be a Board of Directors which shall administer the affairs of the Association between its meetings. Membership of the Board of Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Association and shall have such powers and duties as are usual and customary to a Board of Directors under the laws of the State of North Carolina, and as provided in the Bylaws of this Association.

B. There shall not be fewer than five members of the Board of Directors. Each voting member shall be in ecclesiastical relation with one of the local churches of which this Association is composed.

C. The Bylaws shall specify the exact number of members on the Board of Directors, and shall provide for the method of election, term of office, meetings, powers, and duties of the Board of Directors, and of the committees and commissions appointed by it.

ARTICLE IX - OFFICERS

The officers of the Association shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and other such officers as the Association may from time to time determine. The powers and duties of the officers of this Association shall be set forth in its Bylaws.

ARTICLE X - DURATION

The duration and number of years the Western North Carolina Association is to continue is perpetual.

ARTICLE XI - CORPORATE SEAL

The Western North Carolina Association shall have a corporate seal as described in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS

The Constitution of this Association may be amended at any annual or called meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, provided that such amendment shall have been:

A. Presented to the Association at the last annual or called meeting of the Association, signed by not less than twenty percent of the local churches composing the Association, or

B. Recommended to the Association by the Board of Directors and a copy thereof distributed to each church, minister, and director of religious education certified by the Worship and Education Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ of which the Association is composed not less than sixty days prior to the meeting at which action on the proposed amendment is to be taken.

**THE BYLAWS
of the
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION
of the
SOUTHERN CONFERENCE
of the
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, INC.**

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Membership

The membership of the Western North Carolina Association shall consist of all churches and ordained and licensed ministers composing the Southern Synod, Lincoln, North Carolina Christian, North Carolina State, North Carolina and Virginia, and Western North Carolina Acting Associations of the Southern Conference situated in the area defined in the Constitution (Article II - Area) at the time of the formation of the Association, and any churches and ministers and directors of religious education certified by the Worship and Education Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ thereafter received into and granted standing by the Association with the boundaries described in the Constitution (Article II - Area).

Section 2 - Voting Membership

A. The voting membership of the Association consists of the ordained, licensed, and commissioned ministers, and directors of religious education certified by the Worship and Education Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ holding standing in the Association and of lay delegates selected by and representing the local churches of the Association, and of such other persons as shall be provided for elsewhere in these Bylaws.

The control of the Association shall reside in its voting members and may be exercised directly at any annual or other meeting of the Association, or through and by a Board of Directors elected by the Association.

B. Members of the Board of Directors shall be voting members of the Association.

Section 3 - Voting Delegates

The voting delegates of the Association shall consist of: the ordained, licensed, and commissioned ministers, and directors of religious education certified by the Worship and Education Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ holding standing in the Association, and two lay delegates selected by and representing each local church within the Association. Local churches with more than 300 hundred members will be entitled to have one additional lay delegate for each additional 200 members or fraction thereof.

Therefore:

Churches with up to 300 members shall be entitled to have 2 lay delegates.

Churches with 301 to 500 members shall be entitled to have 3 lay delegates.

Churches with 501 to 700 members shall be entitled to have 4 lay delegates.

Churches with 701 to 900 members shall be entitled to have 5 lay delegates.

Churches over 900 members shall be entitled to one additional lay delegate per each additional 200 members or fraction thereof.

Section 4 - Categories of Membership

A. Churches

1. The local churches of the Evangelical and Reformed Church located within the boundaries of the Association.

2. The Congregational Christian Churches located within the boundaries of the Association, which were a part of an Acting Association at the time of the formation of the Southern Conference, and which have voted to be a part of the United Church of Christ.

3. Any local church whose articles or statement of faith are in essential agreement with that of this Association and which, having covenanted with the Association to assume and fulfill faithfully the obligations of a church as hereinafter set forth, and has been recommended by the Church and Ministry Commission and the Board of Directors of the Association, is received into membership by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at a duly called meeting of the Association.

B. Ministers

All ordained and licensed ministers of the Acting Association of the Southern Conference at the time of the formation of the Association shall be continued in ministerial standing in an Association of the Conference.

1. Ordained and licensed ministers of the Southern Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church located within the boundaries of this Association.

2. Ordained and licensed ministers who hold their ministerial standing in one of the Acting Congregational Christian Associations located within the boundaries of this Association at the time of the formation of the Southern Conference.

3. Any person upon whom ministerial standing is conferred through ordination, licensure, or commissioning by this Association in cooperation with the local church.

4. Any directors of religious education certified by the Worship and Education Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

ARTICLE II - PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBER CHURCHES

Section 1 - Covenant Responsibilities of Member Churches and the Association

A church holding membership in this Association has a God-given responsibility for the Association, its labor, and its witness, even as the Association has a God-given responsibility for the well-being and aspirations of each member church. In Christian concern and dedication to Jesus Christ, the one and the many share in common Christian experience and responsibility.

Section 2 - Autonomy of Local Churches

The autonomy of the local church is inherent and modifiable only by its own action. Nothing in this Constitution and the Bylaws of the Western North Carolina Association shall destroy or limit the right of each local church to continue to operate in the way customary to it; nor shall it be construed as giving to the Western North Carolina Association, the Southern Conference, or the General Synod, 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:

- A.** Retain or adopt its own methods of organization, worship, and education;
- B.** Retain or secure its own charter and name;
- C.** Adopt its own constitution and bylaws;
- D.** Formulate its own covenants and confessions of faith;
- E.** Admit members in its own way and provide for their discipline or dismissal;
- F.** Call or dismiss its pastor or pastors by such procedure as it shall determine;
- G.** Acquire, own, manage, and dispose of property and funds;
- H.** Control its own benevolences.

Section 3 - Covenant Responsibilities of Members of Local Churches

The privileges and responsibility of witnessing to the Gospel belong to every member of each local church. Members offer their prayers, their gifts, their presence, and their service for the ongoing ministries in the local church and the Association as opportunities are presented.

Section 4 - Addition, Removal, or Withdrawal of Churches

A. A church may be added to the roll of member churches upon recommendation of the Church and Ministry Commission and the Board of Directors and by a two-thirds vote of the Association, provided a sixty-day notice of the proposed action has been given to the parties concerned.

B. A church may be removed from the roll of member churches upon recommendation of the Church and Ministry Commission and the Board of Directors and by a two-thirds vote of the Association, provided a sixty-day notice of the proposed action has been given to the parties concerned.

C. A church seeking to withdraw from the Association shall notify the Association through the Church and Ministry Commission.

ARTICLE III - PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBER MINISTERS

Section 1 - Covenant Responsibilities of Ministers

All ministers holding membership in this Association are in a covenantal relationship with the Association and with other member ministers, and thus share in the responsibility for the well-being of the Association and its ministries. Each member minister is called upon to live out covenant faithfulness by attending Association meetings, participating in the Association's work, offering prayerful support for the Association's life and witness, and expressing collegial support to other member ministers.

Section 2 - Ordination, Licensure, and Commissioning

The Association recognizes that God calls certain persons to full-time service in various forms of ministry in the church. This calling is recognized by ordination, licensing, commissioning, or other appropriate services of dedication.

Section 3 - Leave of Absence

A minister who withdraws from active service in the ministry prior to retirement applies to the Church and Ministry Commission for a leave of absence. The Church and Ministry Commission may grant a leave of absence for one year at a time. Except in special cases, such leave of absence is not granted for more than five consecutive years.

Section 4 - Retirement and Ministerial Standing

A minister retiring from the active ministry by reason of age, disability, or health shall not forfeit his or her ministerial standing in this Association.

Section 5 - Transfer of Ministerial Standing

Any ordained minister who is in good and regular standing in this Association may receive a transfer to the ecclesiastical body of his or her choice upon written request to the Association.

Section 6 - Removal of Ministerial Standing

A minister may be removed from the roll of ministers upon recommendation of the Church and Ministry Commission and the Board of Directors and by a two-thirds vote of the Association, provided a sixty-day notice of the proposed action has been given to the parties concerned.

Section 7 - Standing for Pastors of Local Churches

It is strongly recommended that pastors of churches of the Association shall have standing in the Association. Any exception shall be recommended by the Church and Ministry Commission and the Board of Directors and approved by the Association in session by a two-thirds vote.

Section 8 - Filling Pastoral Vacancies

It is strongly recommended that the churches of the Association in seeking a pastor work closely with the Associate Conference Minister and the Church and Ministry Commission of the Association. It is also strongly suggested that only those ministers who have been granted standing in the United Church of Christ be considered for pastoral vacancies.

ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS

Section 1 - Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Association shall be held during the month of October for worship, fellowship, and the transaction of business, including the adoption of a budget and the election of officers.

Section 2 - Called Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the Board of Directors or by a petition of one-third of the churches.

Section 3 - Notice of Meetings

Written notice of all meetings of the Association, stating the time, place, and purpose of such meetings shall be distributed to the local churches and ministers at least forty-five days prior to the meetings.

Section 4 - Quorum

A quorum at any meeting of the Association shall consist of one-fourth of those eligible to vote.

Section 5 - Visitor Privilege

During annual and called meetings, the Association may grant visitors the privilege of voice, but not vote.

Section 6 - Agenda

The Board of Directors shall act as the Business Committee for preparing the agenda and appointing committees for the meetings of the Association.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1 - Officers

The officers of this Association shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, with such other officers as the Association from time to time shall determine. All officers shall reside within the geographical bounds of the Association.

Section 2 - Committee on Nominations

A. At least six months prior to the annual meeting of the Association, the Board of Directors shall appoint a Committee on Nominations composed of eight members with one clergy and one lay member from each Program District. No officer or employee shall be eligible to serve on the committee.

B. The members of the Committee on Nominations shall serve in two classes of four members each with one member from each Program District. Each class shall be appointed in alternate years. The members shall serve for a term of two years and be eligible for reappointment for one additional term.

C. The Committee on Nominations shall submit nominations for officers, the Board of Directors, General Synod delegates, and committees and commissions to the annual meeting of the Association. It shall submit one name for each office, member-at-large of the Board of Directors, members of a committee or commission, and two or more names for delegates to General Synod. Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the annual meeting. All nominees shall have given prior consent.

D. Members of the Committee on Nominations may not be nominated by the Committee on Nominations to become an officer, a member-at-large of the Board of Directors, a General Synod delegate, or an Association committee or commission member.

Section 3 - Elections and Terms of Office

A. The President and the Vice-President shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Association for a term of two years beginning at the adjournment of the meeting in which they are elected and to continue until their successors are elected and installed. They shall not succeed themselves.

B. The Secretary and the Treasurer shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Association for a term of two years and shall continue in office until their successors are duly elected and installed. They are eligible for re-election for an additional full term. The Secretary shall take office at the adjournment of the meeting at which the election takes place. The Treasurer shall take office at the end of the fiscal year in which the election takes place.

C. The members-at-large of the Board of Directors shall be elected for a term of two years. They are eligible for re-election but shall not serve more than two consecutive full terms.

The members-at-large of the Board of Directors shall serve in two classes of six members. Each class of members-at-large shall be elected in alternate years. At least one representative from each Program District shall be elected in each class.

D. In the event that an elected officer, a member-at-large of the Board of Directors, a committee or commission coordinator, or a member of a committee or commission resigns, the Board of Directors shall have the authority to appoint a replacement until an election can be held at the next annual meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1 - Composition

A. The Board of Directors of the Association shall be composed of twenty-two voting members as follows:

- The President
- The Vice-President
- The Secretary
- The Treasurer
- Twelve members-at-large (three persons from each of the four Program Districts described in Bylaw Article IX, with at least one lay person and one clergy from each District.)
- The committee/commission coordinators
- The Presidents of the Women's Fellowship and Churchmen's Fellowship

B. The Associate Conference Minister and any other assistants or program associates shall be members of the Board of Directors with voice, but not vote.

C. Any current task force coordinators shall be members of the Board of Directors with voice, but not vote.

Section 2 - Meetings

The Board of Directors shall meet at least semi-annually at a time and place determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 3 - Quorum

A quorum at any meeting of the Board of Directors shall be fifty percent of those eligible to vote.

Section 4 - Attendance

The Board of Directors may, at its discretion, remove and replace any member who misses three consecutive Board meetings. The person replacing that member will complete the term of office of the removed member and be eligible for election to two full terms.

Section 5 - Duties

The Board of Directors shall administer the affairs of the Association between its meetings and shall be responsible to the Association.

The Board of Directors shall have such duties, authorities, and responsibilities as are customary to a Board of Directors under the laws of the State of North Carolina.

Section 6 - Institutional Representatives

A representative from the following institutions located within the bounds of the Western North Carolina Association shall be invited to either send a written report or appear personally before the meetings of the Board of Directors to share the concerns of the institution as it relates to the Western North Carolina Association. These individuals shall have voice, but not vote.

The institutions are:

- Black Lake Retreat Center
- Blowing Rock Conference Center
- Catawba College
- Elon Homes for Children
- Johns River Valley Camp
- Nazareth Children's Home
- United Church Homes and Services.

ARTICLE VII - DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND THE ASSOCIATE CONFERENCE MINISTER

Section 1 - President

The President of the Association shall preside at all meetings of the Association. He or she shall be Chairperson of the Board of Directors.

He or she shall perform other duties and responsibilities normally assumed by the President of an organization. These duties shall include, but shall not be limited to, appointing special committees or task forces, calling special meetings, monitoring and facilitating the necessary processes and timeline of the work of the Association as set forth in this Constitution and Bylaws, etc.

Section 2 - Vice-President

The Vice-President shall perform all the duties and have all the authority of the President in the absence of the President, and shall succeed him or her in office in case of a vacancy. In the case of grave illness on the part of the President, the Board of Directors shall determine when and if the Vice-President shall become acting president.

Section 3 - Secretary

The Secretary shall keep a permanent, accurate, and legible record of all meetings and transactions of the Association, the Board of Directors, and other meetings at which he or she has official function.

He or she shall be the custodian of the seal of the Association and shall affix the same to all written documents requiring the seal and attest the same by his or her signature.

He or she shall perform such other duties as usually pertain to his or her office.

Section 4 - Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive and be the custodian of all funds, securities, and personal property belonging to and entrusted to, or in any way committed to, the care and custody of the Association. The Treasurer shall disburse, pay over, and deliver same as he or she shall from time to time be ordered by the Board of Directors.

He or she shall make an annual report to the Association. At the end of each two-year term for the Treasurer, and earlier if there shall be a change in the person occupying the Office of Treasurer prior to the completion of a two-year term, there shall be an audit of the Association's financial records for the full period since the last preceding audit.

A bond shall be posted for the faithful discharge of said duties in such sum as the Board of Directors may require. The expense of the bond shall be paid by the Association.

Section 5 - Associate Conference Minister

The Associate Conference Minister shall be first and foremost a minister to the ministers and churches of the Association. He or she shall cooperate with the Board of Directors in the work of the Association.

He or she shall be a member with voice, but not vote, of the Board of Directors and all committees, commissions, and task forces of the Association. He or she shall be the liaison between the Association and the Southern Conference.

He or she shall furnish the Association, the Board of Directors, churches, committees, commissions, and task forces any information required by them relating to his or her office.

He or she shall maintain a close contact with the Parish Life and Leadership Ministry Team (Profiles Office) of the United Church of Christ, and work closely with local churches seeking ministers for vacant pulpits.

ARTICLE VIII - COMMITTEES AND COMMISSION

Section 1 - Committees and Commission

There shall be three standing Association committees and one standing Association commission, namely:

- The Church Development and Evangelism Committee
- The Church Life and Education Committee
- The Stewardship and Mission Committee
- The Church and Ministry Commission.

Section 2 - Composition and Terms of Office

The committees shall be composed of eight members, four of whom are elected by the Association for a term of two years, and four of whom are current members of the Board of Directors appointed by the President.

The committee members shall serve in two classes of four members each with one member from each Program District. Each class shall be composed of two members elected by the Association and two current members of the Board of Directors appointed by the President.

The Church and Ministry Commission shall be composed of twelve members (six lay persons and six clergy), elected by the Association for a term of two years. They shall be divided into two classes of six members each. Each class shall be elected in alternate years.

The members of the committees and commission may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

The Association Committee on Nominations shall nominate a coordinator for each committee and commission. The coordinator shall be a member of the committee or commission, shall serve for a term of one year, and may be nominated to succeed himself or herself.

A committee or commission may organize all or part of its membership into subcommittees or task forces to deal with specific program areas. It may also co-opt additional persons to assist the committee or commission.

Section 3 - Meetings

All of the committees and commission shall meet at least semi-annually. The meetings shall take place at the discretion of the coordinator of the committees or commission, the Board of Directors, or the Associate Conference Minister of the Association.

Section 4 - Duties

A. Church Development and Evangelism Committee

The Church Development and Evangelism Committee shall be the committee that:

1. Assists local congregations to:
 - a. Create more effective evangelism programs to reach the unchurched;
 - b. Develop programs of church growth designed to help the local church grow both spiritually and numerically;
 - c. Assist with the development issues associated with new church starts and church revitalizations;
 - d. Develop programs and opportunities for local congregations to participate across racial and cultural lines in experiences of mutual service and reconciliation;
 - e. Recruit persons for ministry;
 - f. Promote United Church of Christ resource materials.

2. Works in conjunction with the appropriate committees or commissions from the other Associations and the Conference to plan, promote, and implement Conference-wide programs and events.

3. Implements additional standards and policies as established by the Association.

B. Church Life and Education Committee

The Church Life and Education Committee shall be the committee that:

1. Assists local congregations to create more effective Christian Education ministries and leadership development opportunities. As such, this committee will involve itself with:

- a. Curriculum development;
- b. Teacher training;
- c. Age group ministries;
- d. Youth work;
- e. The promotion of United Church of Christ resource materials.

2. Works in conjunction with the appropriate committees or commissions from the other Associations and the Conference to plan, promote, and implement Conference-wide programs and events. As such, this committee will be involved with the coordination of:

- a. The Conference outdoor ministry programs;
- b. Annual events such as Conference confirmation retreats and college youth days;
- c. Periodic events such as youth exchanges and the National Youth Event;
- d. Any other appropriate event or program.

3. Implements additional standards and policies as established by the Association.

C. Stewardship and Mission Committee

The Stewardship and Mission Committee shall be the committee that:

1. Assists local congregations with:
 - a. Stewardship education and development;
 - b. Mission interpretation;
 - c. Local church financial management procedures;
 - d. Local church capital funds campaigns;
 - e. The promotion of United Church of Christ resource materials.

2. Works in conjunction with the appropriate committees or commissions from the other Associations and the Conference to plan, promote, and implement Conference-wide programs and events. As such, this committee will be involved with:

- a. The annual promotion of Our Church's Wider Mission;
- b. The annual budget of the Conference;
- c. The annual budget of the Association;
- d. The setting of suggested local church goals for the support of Our Church's Wider Mission;
- e. The promotion of any other national or Conference mission offerings or capital funds campaigns.

3. Implements additional standards and policies as established by the Association.

D. Church and Ministry Commission

The Church and Ministry Commission shall be the commission that:

1. Implements the standards for ministry as stated in the United Church of Christ Manual on Ministry and develops the additional standards and policies as may be needed.

2. Interviews candidates for ministerial standing based on the United Church of Christ Manual on Ministry.

3. Recommends the approval of candidates for ordination. The Association, upon approval and recommendation of the Board of Directors, authorizes candidates for ordination in one of the following ways:

- a. an affirmative vote of the Association at its annual meeting, or a special meeting, or
- b. an affirmative vote of a duly called Ecclesiastical Council of the Association.

4. Authorizes ministerial standing, with the exception of ordination, and reports such authorization to the Board of Directors.

5. Receives students in care according to the United Church of Christ Manual on Ministry and provides scholarship aid to students at college and seminary levels.

6. Facilitates an ongoing education program for persons seeking to qualify for ministry in the United Church of Christ.

7. Reviews current standing of non-parish clergy.

8. Promotes the welfare of parish clergy and local congregations by encouraging the establishment, development, and continuation of healthy pastor-parish relationships.

9. Reviews the request of any congregation desiring to unite with, or withdraw from, the United Church of Christ through the Western North Carolina Association, and recommends appropriate action to the Board of Directors.

10. Implements additional standards and policies as established by the Association.

ARTICLE IX - PROGRAM DISTRICTS

Section 1 - Purpose

There shall be Program Districts for the purpose of fellowship, area meetings, and ministerial fellowship.

Section 2 - Geographical Boundaries

The Program Districts for the Association shall include the following and other such Districts as the Association may determine.

A. Guilford - Randolph

This Program District shall be composed of all churches, ministers, and directors of religious education certified by the Worship and Education Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ in the general area of western North Carolina, including the counties of Guilford, Montgomery, Randolph, Richmond, and Rockingham in North Carolina.

B. Davidson - Forsyth

This Program District shall be composed of all the churches, ministers, and directors of religious education certified by the Worship and Education Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ in the general area of western North Carolina, including the counties of Davidson, Forsyth, and Yadkin in North Carolina, and Carroll in Virginia.

C. Rowan

This Program District shall be composed of all the churches, ministers, and directors of religious education certified by the Worship and Education Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ in the general area of western North Carolina, including the counties of Cabarrus, Gaston, Mecklenburg, Monroe, Rowan, and Stanley in North Carolina.

D. Catawba

This Program District shall be composed of all the churches, ministers, and directors of religious education certified by the Worship and Education Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries of the United Church Christ in the general area of western North Carolina, including the counties of Buncombe, Caldwell, Catawba, Henderson, Iredell, Lincoln, Polk, and Watauga in North Carolina.

ARTICLE X - FISCAL YEAR

Section 1 - Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Association shall be the calendar year.

Section 2 - Annual Budget

The annual budget of the Association shall be funded by contributions from member churches based upon a per capita amount recommended by the Board of Directors and approved by vote at a duly called meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE XI - CORPORATE SEAL

The Association shall have a corporate seal consisting of a circle and containing the words "Western North Carolina Association, Inc." and such other words or emblems as determined by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XII - AFFILIATION

The Western North Carolina Association is related to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ through the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ, Inc.

ARTICLE XIII - ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1 - Parliamentary Authority

The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall be followed unless otherwise ordered by the Association by a two-thirds vote.

Section 2 - Parliamentarian

The Parliamentarian for Association meetings shall be selected by the President.

ARTICLE XIV - AUDIT

There shall be an audit at least once every two years of the Association books and records by an accountant having no official connection with the Association. Said accountant shall be appointed by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XV - AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended at any annual or called meeting of the Association by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, provided that such amendment shall have been distributed to the churches, ministers, directors of religious education certified by the Worship and Education Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ, and members of the Board of Directors at least sixty days prior to the meeting at which the vote is to be taken.

ADOPTED AND AMENDED DATES

- 1.** Adopted: October 24, 1967.
- 2.** Amended: October 22, 1968.
- 3.** Amended: October 5, 1974.
- 4.** Amended: October 18, 1997.
- 5.** Amended: April 9, 2005.
- 6.** Amended: October 29, 2005.