

**SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CONSTITUTION
Adopted June 9, 2017**

PREAMBLE

We seek to faithfully and compassionately carry forth the work entrusted to us by Jesus the Christ, recognizing God's Spirit as guiding our every endeavor, we so seek in covenant to follow Jesus' teachings and example in the bond of God's shalom.

We work to be consistent, furthering cooperation and strengthening the bonds of covenant, we find it beneficial that the Constitution of our Conference follow the form and terminology as used in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of the Conference shall be the South Central Conference of the United Church of Christ (hereafter, "Conference").

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of this Conference shall be to

Section 1. Be the successor to and continue without break the work of the Texas Association of the Central South Conference of Congregational Christian Churches, that part of the Convention of the South of the Congregational Christian Churches within the boundaries of Texas and Louisiana otherwise known as the Plymouth Conference, and the Texas Synod of Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Section 2. Promote the life and strength of the local churches and Associations within its boundaries, and to relate them to the life and work of the United Church of Christ in all of its expressions. It shall seek to promote and interpret the work of the General Synod by all means consistent with the Spirit of Christ. It shall encourage local churches of the Conference to develop a spiritual life, practice

stewardship, and participate in Our Church's Wider Mission. It shall be primarily responsible for the relationship of the Conference's local churches to ecumenical and interfaith expressions congruent with our mission. It shall assist local churches in developing more meaningful programs, establish new local churches, and promote the general welfare of the local churches and authorized ministers through the services of Conference staff members.

Section 3. Organize as a corporation in order to exercise any, all, and every power of a non-profit corporation organized under the applicable statutes of the State of Texas relating to religious and charitable organizations.

Section 4. Own real property or hold title to such property for such religious, educational, philanthropic, and other related work as the Conference may undertake, and to purchase, own, receive, manage, and care for; transfer, lease, mortgage or otherwise encumber, sell and convey real property for investment and for other general purposes of the Conference; and

Section 5. Own, receive, hold, invest, collect, use, sue for and recover, reinvest, manage, administer, and disburse, as trustee or otherwise, for the use and purpose of the Conference, or any other religious, educational, or philanthropic object, or personal property of any kind.

ARTICLE III – AFFILIATIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS

Section 1 Affiliations. The Conference shall have relation to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ as is described in those portions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ adopted July 4, 1961, and as subsequently amended, which relate to Conferences of the United Church of Christ. The Conference is also related to Associations within its boundaries, and to local churches within the Associations.

Section 2 Relationships. The Conference may be related to such ecumenical and interfaith bodies as it may determine. Any such relationship, by vote of the Conference or of its Board of Directors,

may be terminated at any time in which deemed prudent or necessary.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The membership of the Conference shall be composed of: all local churches holding standing in an Association of the Conference and all authorized (ordained, commissioned and licensed) ministers holding standing in an Association of the Conference.

Section 2. The voting membership of the Conference shall consist of: all authorized ministers and of lay delegates selected by and representing local churches of the Conference, and of such other persons as the Bylaws shall provide. Each voting member shall be entitled to one vote on all matters. Cumulative, absentee, or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

The control of the Conference shall reside in its voting members and may be exercised directly at any Annual Meeting, or special meeting of the Conference; or through its Board of Directors elected by the Conference, which shall have such power and authority to perform all acts necessary to promote the interests and welfare of the Conference, taking full consideration of the will of the membership of the Conference as expressed at its Annual Meeting or special meeting.

ARTICLE V – ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The administration of the Conference shall be the responsibility of the voting members. It shall hold an Annual Meeting or special meetings as defined in the Bylaws. Special meetings may be called by the Board of Directors of the Conference, or by at least two of the Associations, or by twenty-five (25) percent of the Conference's local churches.

Section 2. A quorum for any Annual Meeting or special meeting of the Conference shall consist of lay delegates from at least one-third (1/3) of the local churches of the Conference and at least one-quarter (1/4)

of the authorized ministers holding standing in an Association of the Conference.

Section 3. The officers of the Conference shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, elected by the Conference at its Annual Meeting to terms of two (2) years, and these shall serve as officers of the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors shall include the four (4) officers of the Conference and the Conference Minister, who serves as an ex-officio member with voice but no vote. The Executive Committee shall perform such duties as assigned by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. There shall be a Board of Directors which shall administer the affairs of the Conference between its meetings and whose members shall be the trustees of all Conference properties. The Board of Directors shall be composed as set forth in the Bylaws.

Section 5. The work of the Conference shall be accomplished as specified in the Bylaws.

Section 6. There shall be a Conference Minister whose election and term of office shall be set forth in the Bylaws.

Section 7. There may be other Conference staff as the Conference, upon recommendation of the Board of Directors, deems necessary or instrumental to the further growth and welfare of the Conference. Conference staff shall be appointed or employed as set forth in Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI – ASSOCIATIONS

Section 1. The Conference recognizes the Associations within the geographical boundaries of the Conference. Changes in Association boundaries shall be made by negotiations between the Associations affected, in consultation with the local churches involved, and in conversation with the Conference. As many functions as deemed desirable or cost efficient may be shared among Associations.

Section 2. The Conference may exercise the functions of an Association, as described in the Constitution and Bylaws of the

United Church of Christ as adopted July 4, 1961, and as subsequently amended, when such functions are delegated to it by an Association or where no such Association exists.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

The Constitution of the Conference may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting at any Annual Meeting or special meeting of the Conference, provided that the proposed amendments have been submitted to each local church and authorized minister at least six (6) weeks prior to the meeting of the Conference.

ARTICLE VIII – INTERPRETATION

Nothing in the Constitution or Bylaws of the Conference shall destroy or limit the right of each local church to continue to operate in the way customary to it; nor shall be construed as giving to the Conference 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.

ARTICLE IX – DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution of the Conference, its property shall be distributed in accordance with the provisions contained in its Articles of Incorporation.