

ORGANIZATIONAL COVENANT OF THE NORTHWEST AREA

Of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma

I. MISSION STATEMENT

In the name of Jesus, the Christ, the mission of the Northwest Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma is to support, encourage and equip congregations in covenant with God and one another to carry out the church's mission to the world that surrounds us.

II. RELATIONSHIPS

The Northwest Area is a recognized organization of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma, Inc., an Oklahoma not-for-profit corporation. As such, it maintains identity as an integral part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

III. PURPOSES

- A. To unite Area congregations in fellowship, worship, leadership training and education, mission and ministry.
- B. To support, encourage and equip Area congregations to serve as voices of vision and mission as we, together, seek to fulfill God's call as the church in the world.
- C. To hear and respond to the specific needs for ministry, using regional church, general church and other resources as appropriate.
- D. To provide a means through which congregations can share resources with one another.
- E. To promote congregational giving to Disciples Mission Fund.

IV. AREA CLUSTERS

- A. The Area Cabinet may, from time to time, define Clusters of Area congregations through which Area congregations may relate to one another.
- B. The purposes of Area Clusters are:
 - 1. To support regional church and Area purposes, activities, ministries and events.
 - 2. To plan and conduct fellowship and worship events and mission activities for congregations in the Cluster.

V. AREA CABINET

A. The business and activities of the Area will be conducted by an Area Cabinet, composed of elected officers, appointed representatives of clusters and Area organizations and the Area Regional Church Pastoral Staff liaison.

B. Officers

1. The officers of the Area will be a Moderator, a Moderator-Elect and a Secretary/Treasurer.
2. Annually, on or before September 1, The Moderator will appoint a Nominating Committee composed of three (3) individuals from Area congregations to develop a slate of nominees (one candidate for each Cabinet office) for election. Mail ballots will be sent to all area congregations and a vote on election of officers will be held prior to the beginning of the term of office in January.
3. Officers will be elected by a simple majority of Area congregations returning ballots.
4. The term of office will be two years, beginning on January 1.
5. Officers may succeed themselves for a second consecutive term.

C. Appointed Representatives

1. Appointed representatives to the Cabinet will be:
 - a. one representative from each defined Area Cluster;
 - b. one representative of the Area Disciples Women;
 - c. one representative of the Area Disciples Men;
 - d. one representative of Area Youth;
 - e. two ministers from Area congregations.
2. Cluster, Area and Youth representatives will be appointed by the Moderator, following consultation with other Cabinet members.
3. Representatives of Area Disciples Women and Disciples Men will be appointed by those organizations.
4. The term of office for representatives will be two years, beginning on January 1.

D. Cabinet Responsibilities

1. Appoint persons to regional responsibilities:
 - a. One person from the Area to serve on the Regional Church Board (two- year term).
 - b. Two persons from the Area to serve on the Regional Church Nominating Committee (one-year term).

2. Enhance communications between Area congregations with the regional church.
3. Manage Area finances; procure Area funding; approve Area expenditures.
4. Supervise planning of Area assemblies and other Area events.
5. Guide the process of identifying the needs in the Area and planning appropriate ministries to address these needs.
6. Develop Clusters of Area congregations and provide oversight to the activities and ministries of these Clusters.

E. Meetings

- B. The Cabinet will meet at least three times a year as scheduled by the Moderator.
- C. The business of the Cabinet may be conducted through telephone conference calls or by electronic communication.
- D. Notice of scheduled and special meetings will be provided at least two weeks prior to the meeting date.
- E. A simple majority of officers and representatives will constitute a quorum for conducting business.

F. Vacancies

The Moderator shall, with the advice and consent of the cabinet, fill any vacancy occurring on the cabinet. The new officer or representation will complete the unexpired term of the office vacated.

a. RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS

A. Moderator

1. Represent the Area on the Regional Church Board and on the Regional Church Board Executive Committee.
2. Schedule Area Cabinet meetings.
3. Preside at Area Assemblies and Area Cabinet meetings.
4. Consult with Cabinet officers and representatives prior to appointing members of the Area Cabinet and representatives to regional church bodies and commissions.

B. Moderator-Elect

FINAL DRAFT (5/16/09)

1. Preside at Area and Cabinet meetings in the absence of the Moderator.
2. Chair a committee to plan and facilitate Area and Cluster assemblies and fellowship gatherings.
3. Fill the position of Moderator in the event the Moderator position is vacated.

C. Secretary/Treasurer

1. Keep and distribute minutes of all Area and Cabinet meetings.
2. Notify Cabinet members of all scheduled Cabinet meetings.
3. Provide notice and publicity to Area congregations of all scheduled Area and Cluster assemblies and fellowship gatherings.
4. Receive and deposit funds of the Area.
5. Disburse Area funds as approved by the Cabinet.
6. Prepare financial reports for Area and Cabinet meetings.

VII. RATIFICATION AND AMENDMENT

This Covenant will be adopted and may be amended from time to time when a majority of Area congregations returning mail ballots have voted in favor of its ratification or amendment.

This Covenant was adopted on: _____
(Date)