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Organization of the Conference

Annual Meeting affirms (rather than elects) leaders

Board of Directors renamed to *Conference Council*

The organization of the Conference becomes more agile with only three groups named explicitly in the Bylaws (*Committee on the Ministry, Committee for Recruitment of Conference Leaders, and Audit Committee*). The Conference Council is charged with establishing committees as necessary “to remain faithful to its responsibilities while organizing for action, focusing its energies, and continually developing the Conference’s sense of vocation while making effective use of the gifts of all the members of the Conference for the good of all.”

Reconceptualizing the Ministries

Nominating Commission changed to *Committee for Recruitment of Conference Leaders*, which is named in the Proposed Bylaws
Church and Mission Commission continues through *Overview Board for Justice and Witness* established by *Conference Council*

Parish Life and Work Commission continues through *Overview Board for Faith Enhancement and Leadership Development* established by *Conference Council*

Stewardship and Interpretation Commission continues through the work of the *Associate Conference Minister for Stewardship and Finance* and the *Communications and Constituencies Working Group* of the *Conference Council*

Youth and Young Adult Commission continues as the *Outdoors Ministries Committee* established by *Conference Council* as well as through the *Youth Leaders Ministry Network*

Administration and Finance Committee continues through the *Asset Management and Development Working Group of the Conference Council*
Conference Meeting planning Committee continues as a committee established by the *Conference Council*

Committee on the Ministry continues in the Proposed Bylaws
Ecumenical Concerns Committee may continue as *Ecumenical and Interfaith Concerns Ministry Network*

History Committee continues as a committee established by the *Conference Council*

New Church Development Committee continues through *Committee on the Ministry Section C* as well as the *Church Formation and Transformation* sustaining ministry

Things from the current Bylaws that have been omitted

- Fall Meeting (Article IV. Section 1. B. & Section 4. B)
- Fifty percent of delegates must be lay delegates (Article IV. Section 3. 2)
- Communion at Annual Gathering (Article IV. Section 4. A. 3)
- Moderator chairs Annual Meeting Planning Committee (Article V. Section 4. A. 3)
- Vice-Moderator is a member of Personnel Committee (Article V. Section 4. B. 6)
- Effect of reducing size of Conference Council (Article VI. Section 2. B)
- Authorize officers or agents to act on behalf of Corporation (Article VI. Section 3. B. 3)
- Select a depository for Corporation funds (Article VI. Section 3. B. 6)
- Ecumenical representatives (Article VI. Section 3. B. 12)
- Conference Council acts as Association where none exists (Article VI. Section 3. B. 16)
- Conference Council performs all other duties of Bylaws and ensure others perform respective responsibilities (Article VI. Section 3. B. 17)
- Associate members will regularly attend Conference Council meetings (Article VI. Section 5. E)
- Internal organization and workings of Board of Directors (Article VI. Sections 7 & 8)
- Conference Minister provides coordination, staff support, and services to the Conference Council and Committees (Article VII. B)
- Conference Minister enables fulfillment of Conference objectives (Article VII. B)
- Committee Membership must include 25% who are age 25 or younger when appointed (Article VIII. Section 2. C)
- Committees are accountable to the Conference Council (Article VIII. Section 3 & Article IX. Section 3)
- Details about organization of the Conference (Articles VIII and IX)
- Bonding of employees and others selected by Conference Council (Article X. Section 2)
- Fellowship Dues (Article X. Section 4)
- Validity of mailed notices (Article X. Section 6)

PROPOSED BYLAWS OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NEVADA CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Article I. Identity

Section 1. Ecclesiastical Body

The Northern California Nevada Conference (hereafter “Conference”) is a manifestation of the church of Jesus Christ and a constituting body of the United Church of Christ (UCC), which “acknowledges as its sole Head, Jesus Christ... and looks to the Word of God in the Scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic Church... It affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God.” [UCC Constitution, Preamble]

Section 2. Not for Profit Corporation

The Northern California Nevada Conference United Church of Christ, Inc. (hereafter “Corporation”) is a not for profit corporation of the state of California.

Article II. Mission and Purpose

As the Northern California Nevada Conference we are called by God to support, unite, and nurture our local churches and authorized ministers, so that their ministries and the ministries of the whole United Church of Christ will be enhanced and strengthened.

To carry out this mission, we:

- authorize ministers, in cooperation with the Associations, and maintain ministerial standards and standing;
- assist local churches in searching for pastoral leadership;
- render counsel to Associations, local churches, and ministers in situations calling for help beyond their own resources;
- foster church formation, transformation, and vitality within the Conference;
- undertake programs that will enhance faith commitment, develop leadership, and build up Christian community among our members;

- endeavor to keep our members in close communication with one another;
- offer focus and vision for our witness to the Gospel in an ever-changing world;
- promote opportunities to develop and extend ministries of compassion, justice, liberation, education, development, and relief throughout the world through the actions of our local churches, our authorized ministers, the Associations, the Conference, and the national and international agencies of the UCC;
- connect resources from the national setting of the UCC to the ministries of our members;
- maintain contact with and provide representation to the UCC General Synod and its related bodies;
- contribute financially to the national and international ministries of the UCC;
- encourage ecumenical and interfaith efforts in common cause; and