

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

IN

KENTUCKY

CONSTITUTION AND BY - LAWS

Adopted on April 25, 1970

HISTORICAL NOTE

This Constitution and these By-Laws of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In Kentucky were adopted during the 1970 Assembly of the Kentucky Association of Christian Churches which was held at First Christian Church, Louisville, Kentucky from April 23 to April 25, 1970.

This Constitution and these By-Laws of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In Kentucky were amended during the 1980 Assembly of the Christian Church In Kentucky which was held at the Drawbridge Inn and Convention Center, Fort Mitchell, Kentucky from April 17 to April 19, 1980.

This Constitution and these By-Laws of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In Kentucky were amended during the 1982 Assembly of the Christian Church In Kentucky at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Lexington, Kentucky from August 26, to August 28, 1982.

This Constitution and these By-Laws of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In Kentucky were amended during the 1992 Assembly of the Christian Church In Kentucky which was held at the Beargrass Christian Church, Louisville, Kentucky from September 17 to September 19, 1992.

This Constitution and these By-Laws of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In Kentucky were amended during the 2019 Called Assembly of the Christian Church In Kentucky which was held at First Christian Church, Glasgow, Kentucky on August 17, 2019.

Additional copies of this document may be obtained by writing to:
1125 Red Mile Road Lexington KY 40504

CONSTITUTION AND BY - LAWS

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN KENTUCKY

**A Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in
the United States and Canada**

**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 the 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 list of scripture.
In bonds of Christian faith
we yield ourselves to God
whose kingdom has no end.
Blessing, glory and honor
be to God forever. Amen**

CONSTITUTION

Article 1 - NAME

The name shall be Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In Kentucky, hereinafter referred to as the Region.

Article 2 - MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

As a member of the body of Christ, every person who is a member of a recognized congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In Kentucky, as listed in the current publication of the Year Book and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), holds membership in the Region and in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

All congregations of the Christian Church within Kentucky and all related institutions and units which project program or financial support among these congregations constitute the Region.

The Region shall determine procedures of recognition whereby other persons who support the purposes of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) but do not have access to membership in a recognized congregation may participate in regional and general work.

Article 3-NATURE AND MISSION

A. NATURE

Within the whole family of God on earth, the church appears wherever believers in Jesus Christ are gathered in his name. Transcending all barriers of race and culture, the church manifests itself in ordered communities of disciples bound together for worship, for fellowship and for service, and in varied structures for mission, witness and mutual discipline, and for the nurture and renewal of its members. The nature of the church, given by Christ, remains constant through the generations; yet, in faithfulness to its mission it continues to adapt its structures to the needs and pattern of a changing world.

Within the whole church, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is made visible in congregational, regional and general manifestations. When Disciples in Kentucky gather as the Region in districts, areas, cooperative parishes, fellowship groups or for the Assembly, to celebrate the Lord's Supper, teach and interpret the apostolic faith, strengthen the membership, make decisions for mission and ministry or give pastoral oversight to ministers and

congregations, the Region is one expression of the church. All dominion in the church belongs to Jesus Christ, its Lord and head, and any exercise of authority in the church on earth stands under his judgement.

B. MISSION

In response to God's call to be faithful to the gospel of Jesus Christ and the leading of the Holy spirit, the mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In Kentucky shall be to proclaim, teach, interpret and celebrate what God has done, is doing, and promises to do, in the light of Scripture, informed by apostolic tradition, reason, and experience. The Region shares in the mission of the whole church in calling persons to conversion and communities to transformation in response to the gospel.

To fulfill this mission the Region shall:

- Nurture and create congregations to participate in God's call to evangelism, education, stewardship, compassion, advocacy and outreach in the Region and throughout the world;
- Provide pastoral support and oversight to ministers, congregations, districts, areas, and cooperative parishes to strengthen the church, undergird its leadership, administer church policies and develop spiritual unity among all members;
- Relate the various manifestations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to each other in the functioning of the whole church;
- Represent the church in partnership with other manifestations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in enlisting persons for ministry and in administering policies that authorize recognition and standing for ordained and licensed ministers;
- Make visible God's gift of the unity of the baptized by joining with other denominations and religious associations in gathering around the Lord's table, coming together for mission and ministry, engaging in shared theological reflection, and expressing reconciliation within the whole family of God;
- Interpret, through the teachings of Scripture and the faith of the church, the social, political, economic, and environmental issues of our time; and
- Administer faithfully the shared life, ministry, and resources of the Region.

Article 4 - RELATIONSHIPS

The Region shall maintain all relationships provided for in the structure of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

The Region is the legal successor to the Kentucky Christian Bible School Association, the Kentucky Christian Missionary Society, the Kentucky Christian Women's Fellowship, the Kentucky Convention of Christian Churches and the Kentucky Association of Christian Churches.

Article 5 - ORGANIZATION

A. ASSEMBLY

Ultimate responsibility for the Region shall be vested in the Regional Assembly which shall provide for worship, for the education of its members and for the transaction of business. In all of its worship and deliberation, the Regional Assembly shall seek to manifest the wholeness and unity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) within the one body of Christ. All members of the Christian Church who register for the Regional Assembly shall have all privileges of the Assembly except that voting privileges shall be limited to the following:

- (1) *Voting Representative from Congregations.* Each congregation shall elect three voting representatives. Congregations with a participating membership of more than 300 shall elect one additional representative for each 100 participating members, or major fraction thereof, in excess of 300. Representation shall be based upon reports submitted by congregations to the current (or immediately preceding) *Year Book and Directory* of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These voting representatives from congregations shall be in addition to persons having the privilege to vote as ministers.
- (2) *Ministers* who have ministerial standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Region.
- (3) Members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) not otherwise having voting privileges who are the chief administrative officers of related institutions and units within the Region.
- (4) Members of the Board of the Region not otherwise having voting privileges.

Regular meetings of the Regional Assembly shall be held every second year, alternating with the biennial General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. Meetings shall be held between July 1 and November 15, time and place to be determined by the Regional Assembly. Under extraordinary circumstances the Board may call special meetings of the Regional Assembly.

B. BOARD

- (1) *Purpose:* A duly-elected Board shall administer policies approved by the Assembly, assume creative responsibility for the program of the Region, implement the nature and purpose of the Region as described in Article 3-B and initiate and maintain relationships with affiliated institutions and units serving within the Region.
- (2) *Meetings:* The Board shall have at least three meetings each biennium, one of which shall be scheduled in the 30 day period following the announced deadline for business items to the Assembly. Other meetings may be held upon call by the moderators, or upon written request to the Region by five or more Board members.
- (3) *Quorum:* A minimum of 12 voting members is needed to have a quorum for a Board meeting.
- (4) *Composition:* The Board shall be composed of the three elected officers of the Region, 10 at-large members, one representative from the Kentucky Christian Missionary Convention (KCMC), and one ecumenical representative. There shall be no more than one Board member from a congregation at the time of their election. All regional ministers shall serve in an ex-officio capacity. Other ex-officio members of the Board shall be designated in the By-laws.

- (5) *Officers:* The moderator shall preside over meetings of the Board. The first and second vice-moderators, in that order, shall serve in the absence of the moderator.
- (6) *Election of Officers:* Moderators shall be nominated by the Commission on Nominations each biennium and elected by the Assembly. The moderator and second vice-moderator will serve a term of two years. The first vice-moderator will serve a term of two years, then serve as moderator for the next two years.
- (7) *Election of at-large members, KCMC representative, and ecumenical representative:* At-large members and an ecumenical representative shall be nominated by the Commission on Nominations each biennium and elected by the Assembly. KCMC representatives and ecumenical representatives will be elected to two-year terms. At-large members will be elected to three-year terms. Board members shall serve for a term of three years, the term beginning the first day of the month following the Assembly (for Assembly years) or the first day of November (for non-Assembly years). The timing of this process shall be staggered so that no more than four new at-large members are elected at one time. The filling of vacancies and other matters shall be addressed in the Commission on Nominations Procedures. Members of the Board shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.
- (8) *Criteria for At-large Members:* To ensure proper diversity and representation, the Commission on Nominations shall be responsible for nominating at-large members, striving to meet the following criteria as guidelines at the time of the at-large members' election:
- At least one person from each of the six geographic areas as defined in the Commission on Nominations Procedures.
 - No fewer than three people from under-represented populations as defined in the Commission on Nominations Procedures.
 - No fewer than four women or men.
 - No fewer than three lay people.
 - No fewer than two people from rural churches as defined in the Commission on Nominations Procedures.
 - No fewer than three people between the ages of 18 and 40.
- (9) *Standing Committees:* Under the leadership of the moderator, in consultation with the general minister, the Board shall be organized into the following standing committees: Assembly Program, Personnel, Budget and Funds, Commission on Assembly Business and Commission on Nominations. All members of the Board shall have at least one standing committee appointment. All standing committee appointments shall be made on a one-biennium basis, and reappointments may be made. Elected officers shall be voting members of all standing committees. Chairs of standing committees (except for Assembly Business) may add non-Board members (approved by the Board) to their committee at their discretion. Non-Board members cannot serve more than four consecutive years.
- Assembly Program:* A committee composed of the second vice-moderator serving as chairperson and at least three other members shall be responsible for the program and all arrangements for the Assembly.
 - Personnel:* A committee composed of at least four Board members shall interview and recommend ministerial staff personnel, review annually all contracts and suggest employment policies of the Region. In nominating and calling the general minister of the Region, the Personnel Committee shall seek counsel from the Office of the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. Procedures concerning the calling of the general minister of the Region shall be approved by the Board before any prospects are considered. In nominating and calling other regional staff, the Personnel Committee shall seek counsel from the general minister of the Region.
 - Budget and Funds:* A committee composed of at least four Board members shall be responsible for reviewing internal budgets and finances of the Region. The secretary-treasurer of the Region shall be a non-voting ex officio member of this committee. The committee shall approve an operational budget for the Region which shall be recommended to the Board at the meeting calendared prior to the biennial Assembly. After action by the Board, the budget shall be recommended to the Assembly. This committee shall also be responsible for capital needs and askings, and for the permanent funds of the Region.
 - Commission on Assembly Business:* In preparation for the biennial Assembly, a Commission on Assembly Business shall meet in the 30 day period following the announced called deadline for business items to be considered by the Assembly. Board members in their third year of service shall serve on the Commission on Assembly Business. This Commission shall receive and review all business items submitted for the Assembly and make recommendations to the Board regarding them and receive, initiate, evaluate and edit resolutions, combining similar resolutions, and submit them in proper form for consideration by the Assembly. The first vice-moderator of the Region shall serve as chairperson of this Commission and the secretary-treasurer shall serve this Commission as recorder, without vote. If additional meetings of the Commission are needed, they shall be held upon the call of the chairperson, in consultation with the General Minister, or upon written request to the Region by three Commission members.
 - Commission on Nominations:* The moderator, first vice-moderator, and three members of the Board shall constitute the Commission on Nominations. Nominees for all board positions shall be nominated by this Commission and submitted for consideration by the Board at least 90 days prior to the opening of the Assembly. The first vice-moderator shall serve as chairperson of this Commission and a member of the ministerial staff of the Region, designated by the general minister, shall serve as recorder, without vote.

Article 6 - OFFICERS

A. OFFICERS

The elected officers of the Region shall be moderator, first vice-moderator and second vice-moderator. An associate minister, designated by the general minister, shall serve as secretary-treasurer of the Region.

B. DUTIES

The moderator shall preside over all business sessions of the Assembly, meetings of the Board and Commission on Nominations, counsel regularly with the general minister, serve ex-officio on all committees of the Region and give leadership to the total program of the Region.

In the absence of the moderator, the first and second vice-moderators, in that order, shall perform duties of the moderator and also shall assume such other duties as the moderator may delegate. They both shall serve ex-officio on all standing committees of the Board. In addition, the first vice moderator shall be chairperson of the Commission on Assembly Business; and the second vice-moderator shall be chairperson of the Assembly Program Committee. The secretary-treasurer shall keep the official records of the Region.

C. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The officers shall be elected at an announced business session of the Assembly, at which time the Board shall make nominations for each elective office. Persons receiving a majority of votes cast for each office shall be elected.

When a vacancy occurs in an elective office between Assemblies, the Board may fill the vacancy until the next regular election.

D. TERM

The moderator and two vice-moderators shall serve for a term of two years, the term beginning the first day of the month following the Assembly.

Congregations of the Region shall be grouped into districts, the number and boundaries of which shall be determined by the Assembly. Districts are to provide structures for the Region's ministry and program. The framework for structure and function of districts is set forth in the By-Laws, Article 2.

Article 7 - DISTRICTS

Congregations of the Region shall be grouped into districts, the number and boundaries of which shall be determined by the Assembly.

Districts are to provide structures for the Region's ministry and program. Each district shall provide representation to the Board and for other programs and groups as directed by the Board.

Districts shall be organized as set forth in the By-Laws, Article 2.

Article 8 - MINISTRY

Within policies established by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada and in the Region, a Committee on the Ministry shall be established by the Board for certifying the standing of ministers and providing help, counsel and pastoral care to ministers and congregations in their mutual relationship, as set forth in the By-Laws, Article 3.

Article 9 - AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those voting at any Assembly, provided the proposed change has been presented at a previous Assembly; or provided the proposed change has been approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board and a copy circulated to the congregations, preferably through the state paper, at least 30 days prior to the vote of the Assembly.

BY-LAWS

Article 1 - STAFF

A. MINISTERIAL STAFF

As ordained ministers, Regional Ministers are personal representatives of the church's ministry. They are also colleagues with all Disciples ministers in Kentucky serving together in the mission of the Region and the whole church. The ministerial staff is to lead persons and congregations to be the church together in ways they cannot be alone. Therefore, oversight for the faith of the church is carried in the lives of the ministerial staff as well as the Board and Assembly.

A ministerial staff composed of the general minister and associate ministers shall:

- be employed by the Board, upon the recommendation of the Personnel Committee;
- be ex-officio, non-voting members of the Board;

- have regular meetings for worship, discussion, coordination and implementation of the Region's ministry;
- be covered by fidelity bond;
- be responsible for interpretation of the total program of the Region.

(1) *General Minister*

The general minister shall give oversight for the faith and unity of the Region; shall have administrative responsibility for the ministries of the Region; shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Board, commissions and all cabinets and committees; shall represent the Region in the general expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and in ecumenical interests, unless the general minister or the Board designates an alternate; shall serve as regional director of Mission Finance in cooperation with Church Finance Council, or its successor; and shall be responsible to the Board.

(2) *Associate Ministers*

Associate ministers shall serve under the direction of the general minister. Specific areas of ministry will be on the basis of a team decision taking into account the particular skills, understandings and schedule of each minister as well as the needs of the Region.

B. ADDITIONAL STAFF

Staff to direct special phases of the program may be employed by the Board upon recommendation of the general minister after consultation with the Personnel Committee.

Article 2 - DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

A. STRUCTURE

The organization in each district shall include any officers elected by the districts and ministers who have ministerial standing in the Region related to participating congregations within the district and representatives from each participating congregation within the district.

B. MEETINGS

Meetings of the district shall be held to celebrate the Lord's Supper, teach and interpret the apostolic faith, develop and nurture colleague relationships, give pastoral oversight, strengthen the congregations and make decisions for mission and ministry. One meeting shall be designated as the annual meeting and shall include the election of district officers, representatives to the Board and representatives to other programs and groups as directed by the Board.

District officers in consultation with the regional minister serving the district shall set the dates for meetings and plan the agenda.

C. MINISTRY TO DISTRICTS

Regional ministers shall be assigned by the general minister to have pastoral oversight for the faith, life and unity of specific districts and, along with other colleagues and lay leaders, serve together the nature and mission of the Region. Regional ministers shall insure implementation of an organizational structure of the districts in their care.

Article 3 - COMMITTEE ON THE MINISTRY

A. FUNCTION

A Committee on the Ministry shall be responsible, under the direction of the Board, to implement the policy decisions of the Region regarding enlistment and preparation of candidates for the ministry, achievement and maintenance of standing in the ministry, and support and nurture of those in the ministry. It shall report its actions to the Board, and it shall recommend proposals which affect either policy or budget to the Board for approval prior to taking any action of implementation on such proposals.

B. MEMBERSHIP

This committee shall be composed of 16 persons, both from the ministry and laity, appointed by the Board upon recommendation of the moderator. The committee may appoint task groups to help it achieve its purpose. The chairperson of this committee, if not already a Board member, shall become an ex-officio non-voting member of the Board.

C. TERM

Members of this committee are appointed for four year terms, half to be appointed at the beginning of each biennium.

D. MEETINGS

This committee shall meet annually and at such other times as the committee or its chairperson shall deem necessary to carry out its work.

Article 4 - PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Regional programs shall be implemented by committees appointed by the Board. Chairpersons of these committees not already Board members shall become ex-officio non-voting members of the Board. Membership of these committees shall be composed of members of the congregations in the Region and such resource persons as needed.

For the purpose of coordination, all reports of commissions, committees and cabinets shall be presented in writing to the associate minister designated as program coordinator prior to the Board meeting which is to receive them.

Article 5 - ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

A. FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Fellowship groups shall relate the program of the Region to the congregations and also relate the congregations to the nature and mission of the Region as set forth in Article 3 of the Constitution.

B. CABINETS

A fellowship group may select a cabinet from its own constituency when such a structure helps fulfill its purpose and consistent with this Constitution and By-Laws. All such cabinets shall be responsible to the Board. The size of the cabinet shall be determined by its function and budget allocation. The president or chairperson of any cabinet, if not already a Board member, shall become an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Board.

Article 6 - RELATED INSTITUTIONS AND UNITS

All institutions and units of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) desiring to promote program or financial support within the congregations of the Region shall:

- recognize this Constitution and these By-Laws;
- finance own representation in all functions of the Region; and
- have access, upon request, to meetings of the Board.

Regarding financial support, institutions and units related to the Commission on Finance shall be under the discipline of the By-Laws, and appendices thereto, of the Church Finance Council, Inc., of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Institutions and units not related to the Commission on Finance shall establish written agreements with the Region regarding financial askings from the congregations and shall submit projected financial askings of the institution or unit to the general minister, at the time intervals requested, for consideration in regional negotiation conducted by the Commission on Finance.

Article 7 - FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Region shall be the calendar year, January 1 through December 31.

The term of Officers and Board members shall begin the first day of the month following the Assembly.

Article 8 - ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

A. ORIGIN

All items of business to be considered by the Assembly, except in cases of emergency resolutions, shall be received by or originate with the Board. Items of business may be submitted by a congregation, a district, a related institution or unit, or by the Board. Such items of business must be filed through the office of the general minister at least 120 days prior to the Assembly in order to allow sufficient time for the Board to review them and submit them in the proper form for consideration by the Assembly. All items of business shall be circulated among the congregations by the office of the general minister at least 60 days in advance of the Assembly.

B. CLASSIFICATION

The Regional Assembly may consider five classifications of business items: (1) Reports, (2) Operational, Policy and Organizational Items, (3) Items for Reflection and Research (4) Study Documents, and (5) Sense-of-the-Assembly Resolutions. The rules below prescribe the procedures to be followed with respect to such business items:

- (1) *Reports*
 - a. Related institutions and units within the Region desiring to promote program or financial support within congregations of the Region shall submit a biennial report to the Board at least 120 days prior to the Assembly. Reports shall include:
 - a summary of recent significant achievements
 - a statement concerning changes of policy or program
 - a combined audited financial report of the two previous fiscal years
 - b. Action of the Assembly shall be to receive the reports.
- (2) *Operational, Policy and Organizational Items*
 - a. Operational, Policy and Organizational Items are those which establish policy, institute or revise structures or procedures, authorize programs, approve directions or mandate actions.
 - b. They may originate from the Board or any other entity eligible to file business items for the Assembly. (8A)
 - c. The Board shall receive proposed Operational, Policy and Organizational Items, make whatever amendments or comments it deems appropriate, and refer the items to the Assembly with recommendations for action.
 - d. The Assembly may adopt, not adopt, or refer for revisions to the Board. Action of the Assembly shall be on the "main motion" (the item of business itself) and not on the recommendation of the Board, except in the case of the recommendation to refer, which shall be regarded as a

subsidiary motion, taking procedural preference.

(3) *Items for Reflection and Research*

a. Items for Reflection and Research are those that do not readily lend themselves to "yes-no" votes, and may not be addressed as reports, sense of the assembly resolutions, study documents, or operational policy and organizational items.

b. When the Commission on Assembly Business deems an item for Reflection and Research, the Board shall determine whether the item shall be carried forward to the Assembly and make amendments or comments it deems advisable. The Moderators of the Region, in consultation with the General Minister, shall report the action of the Board to the submitting entity.

c. On items carried forward to the Assembly, the action shall be to accept, not accept, or refer the item as submitted by the Board. The motion to refer shall be regarded as a subsidiary motion, taking procedural preference.

(4) *Study Documents*

a. A Study Document is a research and analysis of a subject which involves ethical, moral or religious elements and on which it is deemed important that members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In Kentucky be more thoroughly informed.

b. A Study Document should set forth various points of view, informed by scripture, the apostolic tradition, reason and experience.

c. Study Documents for Assembly consideration may be developed only after authorization by the Assembly or by the Board.

d. The Board shall review proposed Study Documents, determine whether they meet the criteria above, make whatever amendments or comments it deems advisable, and refer the Study Documents to the Assembly with recommendations as to whether they should be issued for study.

e. When a Study Document is issued by the Assembly for study, the following statement shall appear as a part of it: "This document is issued by the Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In Kentucky. It is a Study Document only. It is not to be construed as an official statement of attitudes or policies of the Assembly." The introduction of the document shall include the substance of the definition of a Study Document as set forth in item (3)a. above.

f. The action of the Assembly is to issue for study, not issue for study, or to commit to the Board for a report at the next biennial Assembly.

(5) *Sense of the Assembly Resolution*

a. A Sense-of-the-Assembly Resolution is a proposal that the Region, through its Assembly, addresses itself to given situations or issues, takes a certain action, makes recommendations to the congregations or expresses itself as

holding certain views. A sense of the Assembly Resolution shall lift a single principle or issue which merits action by the Assembly and shall be presented in as concise form as clarity will allow. The text of a proposed resolution should be so phrased as not to bring into question the Christian commitment of those who do not agree.

b. The Board shall review all Sense-of-the-Assembly Resolutions, make whatever amendments or comments it deems advisable, and refer the resolution to the Assembly with recommendations for appropriate action.

c. Actions of the Assembly shall be to adopt, not adopt or refer to the Board. Action shall be on the "main motion" (the item of business itself) and not on the recommendation of the Board, except in the case of the recommendation to refer which shall be regarded as a subsidiary motion, taking procedural preference.

C. PROCEDURE

(1) Upon recommendation of the general minister, after consultation with the submitting entity, the Commission on Assembly Business shall, determine the classification of each business item. If the classification is different from that under which it was filed, the general minister shall notify the submitting entity, giving reasons for the decision. The submitter may appeal to the Board for final decision.

(2) A resolution may be submitted for consideration by the Assembly after the date specified if it qualifies as an emergency resolution. Such a resolution may be submitted to the moderator or the general minister by a congregation, a district, a related institution or unit or Board and must meet the following conditions:

- deals with a situation which has arisen after the date specified for resolutions to be submitted;
- demands such immediate consideration that referral to the Board or deferment would make the resolution of no value; and is of sufficient importance to justify consideration by the Assembly.

The Moderators of the Region shall determine whether a late resolution meets these conditions and qualifies as an emergency matter. Emergency resolutions do not require referral to the Board.

(3) The introduction of a business item, properly presented, shall be regarded as a "main motion" before the Assembly, and having originated from a group, it will be assumed that it is duly seconded.

(4) Debate on all items is encouraged. Business items may not be amended on the floor of the Assembly, except for corrections that are editorial in nature. New business may not be initiated in the Assembly, except for emergency resolutions. Item C. (2).

(5) For convenience in handling the business of the Assembly, the sequence of business items will be determined by the Moderator in consultation with the General Minister, and published. All items of business which have not been completed at the close of the business sessions of the Assembly shall be automatically referred to the Board for consideration and action.

Article 9 - QUORUMS

A quorum for all meetings of the Region shall be those present in response to a written notice given at least 15 days prior to the date of the meeting.

Article 10 - PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Parliamentary procedure shall be governed by the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, except where otherwise defined or limited by the Constitution or these By-Laws. The moderator, in consultation with the general minister, shall appoint a parliamentarian to advise those presiding over the Assembly and the Council.

Article 11 - AMENDMENTS

By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those voting at any Assembly, provided the proposed change has been approved by the Board.