

Accepted February 21, 2016

BYLAWS OF

THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEVADA CONFERENCE OF

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

I. NAME AND AFFILIATION

The name of this Association is The Southern Association of the Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ. It succeeds and continues without break portions of the former Orange Association, former San Bernardino Association, and former San Diego Association as determined by the Board of Directors, Southern California Nevada Conference.

II. PURPOSES AND POWERS

The purposes of this Association are:

1. To express the oneness in Christ of the churches composing the Association and to make more effective their Christian witness and service.
2. To stimulate the spiritual life and mission interests of the churches of the Association in cooperation with the Conference, and through the Conference with United Church of Christ and its Covenanted Ministries and Affiliated and Associated Ministries.
3. To provide avenues of Christian community and service among and between the members of the churches of the Association.
4. To enhance the effective ministry of the Association, the Conference and the United Church of Christ, and further the reign of God by choosing objectives and goals for Christian service and authorizing the proper organizations to accomplish these ends.
5. To determine, confer and certify the standing of local churches of the United Church of Christ within its boundaries.
6. To determine, confer, and certify the standing of authorized ministers of the United Church of Christ.
7. To exercise the power and perform the functions of an Ecclesiastical Council in such matters as ordination, installation, church recognition and adjudication of disputes.
8. Any adjustments of Association boundaries or transfer of membership of churches between Association shall be carried out by the Associations and churches involved, in consultation with the Conference Ministers and with the approval of the Board of Directors, of the Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ.

III. FAITH

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51 This Association claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds  
52 and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers, particularly as that faith is  
53 expressed in the Preamble of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and in the Statement  
54 of Faith of the United Church of Christ

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56 IV. MEMBERSHIP

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58 The following are eligible for membership in the Southern Association of Southern California  
59 Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ:

60  
61 1. Churches

62  
63 (a) The United Churches of Christ located within the boundaries of the Southern  
64 Association as of October 1, 1995.

65  
66 (b) Any local church within the boundaries of the Association whose articles or Statement  
67 of Faith are in essential agreement with that of this Association, and which, having  
68 covenanted with the Association to assume and fulfill faithfully the obligations of a member  
69 church as hereinafter set forth and having been recommended by the Church and Ministry  
70 Committee of the Association (as described in Article IX, Section 2), is received into  
71 membership by a majority vote of those present and voting at a duly called meeting of the  
72 Association.

73  
74 2. Ministers

75  
76 (a) Ordained United Church of Christ ministers, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
77 ministers with ordained ministerial partnership standing, commissioned ministers and  
78 licensed ministers of the United Church of Christ within this Association.

79  
80 (b) Any person upon whom full ordained ministerial standing is conferred through  
81 ordination by this Association in cooperation with a member church.

82  
83 Membership

84  
85 (c) Any ordained minister who presents to the Church and Ministry Committee evidence of  
86 membership in a church of the Association and a letter of transfer from an Association of the  
87 United Church of Christ or a Conference of that church exercising the function of an  
88 Association, has a call to a United Church of Christ setting or a four way covenant between  
89 the ordained minister, the calling body, the local church and the association, and is granted  
90 standing by a majority vote of the Church and Ministry Committee, subject to confirmation  
91 by the Association.

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93  
94 (d) Any ordained minister of a denomination other than the United Church of Christ, who,  
95 having been examined by the Church and Ministry Committee; having been found to be  
96 qualified by virtue of education and theological attainments, knowledge of the history,  
97 polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ, and Christian faith and experience;  
98 having presented evidence of membership in a member church of the Southern Association;  
99 and having a call to a United Church of Christ setting or a four way covenant, and is

received into the Association by a majority vote of the Church and Ministry Committee subject to confirmation by the Association.

(e) Any ordained minister of another denomination who wishes to retain ordained ministerial standing in that denomination and who has been called to a United Church of Christ ministry or responsibility recognized by this Association and requiring ministerial standing within the geographical boundaries of this Association; and having applied to the Church and Ministry Committee for dual ordained ministerial standing for the duration of that specific call or responsibility; and having been examined by the Church and Ministry Committee; and is received into the Association with dual standing by a majority vote of the Church and Ministry Committee subject to confirmation by the Association, with all the rights of ministerial membership.

(f) Any ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who holds ordained ministerial standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and who has been called to a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ministry within the geographical boundaries of this Association, is accepted as an ordained ministerial partner in the Southern Association of United Church of Christ with voice but not vote in the Southern Association.

(g) Any ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) who holds ordained ministerial standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); and who has been called to a United Church of Christ ministry or responsibility recognized by this Association and requiring ministerial standing within the geographical boundaries of this Association; and who, having applied to the Church and Ministry Committee for ordained ministerial partnership standing in the Southern Association of the United Church of Christ; and having been examined by the Church and Ministry Committee, having been found to be qualified by virtue of education and theological attainments, knowledge of the history, polity, and practices of the United Church of Christ, and Christian faith and experience; is received into the Association with ordained ministerial partnership standing in the Southern Association by a majority vote of the Church and Ministry Committee subject to confirmation by the Association, with authorization to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ including voice and vote in the Southern Association.

(h) Any retired United Church of Christ ordained ministers who wish to retain ministerial standing in the Southern Association or transfer ordained ministerial standing from a different association to the Southern Association and is received into membership by a majority vote of the Church and Ministry Committee subject to confirmation by the Association.

## V. PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBER CHURCHES

1. Since the member churches, ordained ministers, ordained ministerial partners with ordained ministerial partnership standing, commissioned ministers and licensed ministers of the United Church of Christ constitute the Association, the responsible participation of member churches, lay persons and authorized ministers is necessary to carry out the purposes of the Association.

2. The autonomy of the local church is inherent and modifiable only by its own action. Nothing in the Bylaws of the association shall nullify or limit the right of each local church to continue to

149 operate in the way customary to it; nor shall be construed as giving to the Association now, or at  
150 any future time, the power to abridge or impair the autonomy of any local church in the  
151 management of its own affairs or its right to withdraw from the Association at any time, but the  
152 Association will refer the matter to the Southern California Nevada Conference.

153  
154 3. A local church in this association shall have the responsibility of participating in meetings of the  
155 Association; faithfully supporting Our Church's Wider Mission; paying of the Southern California  
156 Nevada Conference per capita dues; paying the Southern Association per capita dues; supplying  
157 information requested by the Conference or the Association; holding actions, decisions or advice  
158 from General Synod, a Conference or Association in highest regard; recognizing the Association as  
159 an instrumentality of all the churches in their common life and service; and using the staff and  
160 facilities of the Association or Conference in order to strengthen the life and work of the churches  
161 and the Association.

162  
163 4. The standing and membership of a local church in this Association may be voluntarily terminated  
164 at any meeting of this Association by a majority vote of delegates present and voting, provided  
165 action to withdraw from the Association has been taken by the local church requesting voluntary  
166 termination pursuant to its constitution; and further provided there are no loans, agreements for  
167 disposition of property or other encumbrances between the local church and any conference, ~~board,~~  
168 covenanted ministry or agency of the United Church of Christ; and further provided the Conference  
169 Ministers and Conference Board of Directors have been consulted regarding such pending action;  
170 and further provided certification of such action is delivered to the Association Registrar at least 90  
171 days prior to the Association meeting at which such action is to be taken.

172  
173 5. The standing and membership of a local church in this Association may be involuntarily  
174 terminated at any meeting of this Association upon majority vote of the voting membership of this  
175 Association provided the Conference Ministers and Conference Board of directors have been  
176 consulted regarding such pending action; and further provided that notice of such proposed action is  
177 delivered to the local church at least ninety (90) days prior to the Association meeting at which such  
178 action is to be taken and is specified in the call to the meeting at which the action is taken.

179  
180 VI. PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBER MINISTERS

181  
182 1. Ministerial members of the Association are expected to attend its meetings and cooperate in its  
183 work to the extent of their ability, and to maintain their memberships in the churches of the  
184 Association. Each minister, as part of a periodic review, shall confirm to the Registrar of the  
185 Southern Association annually in writing, his or her address, church membership, and status in  
186 ministry or otherwise. Any ministerial member failing thus to report for two successive years, shall  
187 be notified of such default. Notice shall be sent to the last known address of such a minister, and if  
188 such notice remains unanswered for another year, the member shall be removed from membership  
189 in the Association. A minister so dropped may be restored to membership if the application is  
190 approved by majority vote of the Church and Ministry Committee subject to confirmation by the  
191 Association.

192  
193 2. A minister retiring from the active ministry by reason of age or sickness shall not thereby forfeit  
194 ministerial standing in this Association.

195  
196 3. Any ordained minister who is in good and regular standing in this Association may receive  
197 transfer to the ecclesiastical body of his or her choice upon written request to the Chairperson of the

198 Church and Ministry Committee, providing that no disciplinary action or charges are pending  
199 against the minister at the time of the request.

200  
201 4. The Southern Association of the Southern California Nevada Conference shall require Boundary  
202 Training for all active authorized ministers every five years. Each authorized minister must do this  
203 in order to maintain their standing within the Southern Association. Ministers granted new standing  
204 within the Association shall complete the training within 1 year.

205  
206 VII. MEETINGS

207  
208 1. Regular meetings of the Association shall be held a minimum of two (2) times a year. The  
209 Annual Meeting shall ordinarily be the first meeting of the calendar year at which time elections  
210 shall be held. The term of all offices shall begin at the conclusion of the meeting at which they are  
211 elected. The budget shall be adopted at the last meeting of the calendar year. Notice of any  
212 Association meeting shall be given to each church and each ministerial member prior to the second  
213 Sunday preceding the date of the meeting.

214  
215 2. Special meetings, including Ecclesiastical Councils, shall be called by the Registrar upon request  
216 of the Executive Committee, or Church and Ministry Committee, or upon written request of the  
217 official boards of five member churches, which request shall contain a clear statement of the reason  
218 for the meeting. Any call for a special meeting shall also include a statement of the reasons for the  
219 call.

220  
221 3. Voting rights of members

222  
223 (a) Each member church is entitled to be represented at meetings of the Association by two  
224 lay delegates plus one additional delegate for each 50 members over 200 who are entitled to  
225 voice and vote.

226  
227 (b) Every ministerial member (as provided in Article IV, Section 2) of the Association is  
228 entitled to voice and vote.

229  
230 (c) Lay officers of the Association who are not delegates of their local churches are entitled  
231 to voice and vote.

232  
233 (d) The Conference Ministers, other members of the Conference Ministry Ordained Staff  
234 (when not ministerial members of the Association), delegates to General Synod, persons  
235 serving on national covenanted ministry boards, or affiliated or associated ministries of the  
236 United Church of Christ who are members of churches in the Association (when not lay  
237 delegates to or ministerial members of the Association) and professional staff persons of  
238 judicatories, covenanted ministries, or agencies of the United Church of Christ in attendance  
239 at an Association meeting shall have voice but not vote.

240  
241 4. Twenty (20) voting members, representing at least one third (1/3) of the churches of the  
242 Association shall constitute a quorum.

243  
244 5. The Association as Ecclesiastical Council:  
245

246 (a) An Ecclesiastical Council is a meeting of the Association for the purpose of considering  
247 the standing of local churches, authorizing ministry and acting on questions of discipline.  
248 The Executive Committee or Church and Ministry Committee shall invite all the churches  
249 and ministers of the Association, together with its officers, to act as an Ecclesiastical  
250 Council, whose findings shall become the findings of the Association. Twenty (20) voting  
251 members, representing at least one third (1/3) of the churches of the Association shall  
252 constitute a quorum at such a Council.

253  
254 (b) A church or an individual who wishes to invoke the services of the Association as  
255 Council shall request the Church and Ministry Committee to call an Ecclesiastical Council  
256 and shall confer with that committee. If the Church and Ministry Committee declines the  
257 request an appeal may be made to the Executive Committee. The Church and Ministry  
258 Committee or Executive Committee may instruct the Registrar to issue the call.

259  
260 6. The presiding officer at all association and/or committee meetings shall appoint a person to take  
261 minutes as needed.

## 262 VIII. OFFICERS

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264  
265 1. The offices of this Association shall be a Past Moderator, a Moderator, a Vice  
266 Moderator/Moderator Elect, a Treasurer, a Registrar, and such other officers as the Association may  
267 deem advisable. All officers shall be members of member churches in the Association.

268  
269 2. The duties of the Moderator, the Vice Moderator/Moderator Elect, the Past Moderator, and the  
270 Treasurer shall be as stated below.

### 271 (a) Moderator

272 1. To chair the Executive Committee meetings.

273  
274 2. To schedule all Association meetings and celebrations in coordination with the  
275 Association Administrator, the Executive Committee, and the Church and Ministry  
276 Committee,

277  
278 3. To officiate (or designate a substitute to officiate) at all Association meetings and  
279 celebrations

280  
281 4. To work collaboratively with the Chair of Church and Ministry Committee and be  
282 available for consult

283  
284 5. To attend the Church and Ministry Committee meetings.

285  
286 6. The Moderator shall serve one 1 year term as Moderator and one 1 year term as  
287 Past Moderator

### 288 (b) Vice Moderator/Moderator Elect

289 1. To be available to officiate at Association meetings and celebrations as needed.

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291  
292 2. To consult w/Past Moderator and Moderator to ensure a smooth transition from  
293 one year to the next.

294  
295 3. To attend the Church and Ministry Committee meetings.

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4. The Vice Moderator/Moderator Elect shall serve one 1 year term as Vice Moderator/Moderator-elect.

(c) Past Moderator

1. To mentor the Moderator and Vice Moderator/Moderator Elect.
2. To be available to officiate at Association meetings and celebrations as needed.
3. To attend the Church and Ministry Committee meetings.
4. To initiate the nomination process of officers and members of the Executive Committee and the Church and Ministry Committee by consulting with members of the Association committees and with member churches for suggested names for candidates. A slate of proposed candidates shall be available for discussion by the October meeting of the Executive Committee with a vote taken by the January meeting of the Executive Committee.
5. The Past Moderator shall serve one 1 year term as Past Moderator.

Effort will be made to alternate the position of Moderator between ordained minister and lay, and also between female and male persons.

(d) Treasurer

1. To oversee the finances of the Association.
2. To write checks as needed.
3. To do payroll and pay appropriate taxes for all Association employees and to ensure the disbursement of a W-2.
4. To prepare reports for quarterly Executive Committee meetings.
5. To prepare the budget for Association approval at the Fall meeting

3. The Registrar shall be responsible for preserving records of all proceedings of the Association, for issuing calls for all meetings, for making an annual report to the Association, for conducting correspondence, for effecting and maintaining the minutes of the Executive Committee, and the Church and Ministry Committee and shall be an ex-officio member with vote on the Church and Ministry Committee. A record of Association membership, church and ministerial, shall be maintained by the Registrar who shall submit reports to the Association and Conference regarding church and ministerial standing.

4. Terms of office for the Past Moderator, Moderator, and Vice Moderator/Moderator Elect shall be for one (1) year beginning at the conclusion of the meeting at which they were elected. After one (1) full term in their respective offices, the Past Moderator, Moderator and Vice Moderator/Moderator Elect shall be ineligible for reelection to the same office for a period of one (1) year. The Treasurer and Registrar shall be elected to a three (3) year term. After two (2) full

345 terms in their respective offices, the Treasurer and Registrar shall be ineligible for reelection to the  
346 same office for a period of one (1) year.

347  
348 IX. COMMITTEES

349 1. The Executive Committee

350  
351 (a) There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the Officers of the Association, the  
352 chairpersons of the Association committees, and such other representatives of United  
353 Church of Christ organizations at the Association level recognized by the Association and  
354 two (2) members-at-large elected by the Association, for a two (2) year term, so arranged  
355 that one (1) member-at-large shall be elected annually.  
356

357  
358 (b) The Executive Committee shall schedule, plan, convene, and a representative designated  
359 by the Moderator shall officiate at all Association Meetings and celebrations, i.e. The Fall  
360 and Spring Association Meetings, Ecclesiastical Councils, Ordinations, Installations, etc.  
361 The Executive Committee shall be responsible for implementing all programs voted by the  
362 Association. It shall be responsible for creating various programs designed to enable local  
363 churches and ministers to know and to discharge their mission more effectively.  
364

365 (c) The Committee shall meet every three (3) months. Special meetings of the Committee  
366 may be called by the Moderator or the Vice Moderator/Moderator Elect. A quorum shall  
367 consist of one half its members.  
368

369 (d) The Executive Committee shall present a budget to be voted on at the fall meeting of the  
370 Association and recommend procedures for securing funds. The fiscal year shall be the  
371 calendar year (January 1 – December 31).  
372

373 (e) The Executive Committee shall have power to fill all vacancies in elected offices until  
374 the next Association Annual Meeting.  
375

376 (f) The Executive Committee shall select an internal audit committee to audit the financial  
377 procedures and records of the Association at least every three (3) years at the end of each  
378 term of the Treasurer.  
379

380 2. Church and Ministry Committee

381  
382 (a) There shall be a Church and Ministry Committee consisting of eighteen (18) persons  
383 elected for a term of three (3) years and so arranged that six (6) shall be elected annually;  
384 three (3) of whom shall be ordained ministers and three (3) of whom shall be lay persons;  
385 and further, three (3) of whom shall be men and three (3) of whom shall be women. The  
386 term of office shall begin at the conclusion of the meeting at which they were elected. The  
387 Registrar shall convene the first meeting at which the Committee of the Whole shall elect its  
388 chairperson from among its elected members. The Committee shall divide itself into three  
389 subcommittees, Section A and Section B, and Section C; and each Section shall elect a  
390 Section chairperson from among its elected members. Having served one full three (3) year  
391 term, a member of this Committee may be eligible for one (1) additional three (3) year term  
392 after which that member shall not be eligible for re-election for one (1) year. No one may  
393 serve more than six consecutive years.



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(b) The Registrar shall be an ex-officio member of the Committee of the Whole with voice and vote and be the secretary to the Committee of the Whole.

(c) The Moderator, Past Moderator and Vice Moderator/Moderator Elect shall be Ex-officio members of the Committee of the Whole with voice and vote.

(d) The Committee of the Whole shall be responsible for matters pertaining to policy and matters other than those specifically designated to Sections A, B, and C (Article 2d, 2e, and 2f). The Committee shall be responsible for implementing and interpreting the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ relating to the Ministry (Article I, 101 through 156 inclusive) and shall be guided by the Manual on Ministry of the United Church of Christ.

(e) Section A shall be responsible for persons seeking standing in the Association while having active membership in a church that has standing within the Association. This shall include the nurture, support and examination of Candidates/Members in Discernment, Commissioning, Licensing, granting of scholarships, and review of letters of call of authorized ministers in the United Church of Christ. This Section shall be empowered to take provisional action on behalf of the Association with regard to these matters subject to confirmation by the Committee of the Whole.

(f) Section B shall be responsible for persons who have ordained ministerial standing and the churches holding standing in the Association. This shall include periodic review of authorized ministers and local churches, continuing education, facilitation of collegiality, transfers of standing out of the Association, financial aid and continual up-dating of criteria for evaluation. Section B shall be responsible for the discipline of ministers through Special or Disciplinary Review as stated in the Manual on Ministry, except that any member who is a complainant shall be excluded from participation in the Committee until the Review is adjudicated. As guidelines the Committee shall use the Manual on Ministry, Section 8, "The Oversight of Ministries Authorized by the United Church of Christ, Nurture and Accountability for Authorized Ministry" and "Guidelines for Resourcing Committees on the Ministry: A Resource for Response Teams, Conference Staff Persons, and Others Assisting Association Committees on the Ministry in the United Church of Christ during Fitness Reviews". The Section shall be empowered to take provisional action on behalf of the Association on matters dealing with ministerial standing subject to confirmation by the Committee of the Whole on matters dealing with local church standing. The process of any action or discipline may be appealed to an Ecclesiastical Council.

(g) Section C shall be responsible for persons who hold or seek partnership, dual standing or Privilege of Call within the Association and those desiring to transfer standing from another Association of the United Church of Christ; they shall be responsible for churches seeking membership within the Association. This Section shall be empowered to take provisional action on behalf of the Association on matters dealing with ministerial standing subject to confirmation by the Committee of the Whole. They shall provide nurture, support, examination and discipline of those persons who hold dual or partnership standing, subject to the approval of the Committee of the Whole. The process of any action or discipline may be appealed to Ecclesiastical Council.

(h) Sections may reassign the above responsibilities to accommodate the needs of the Association.

444  
445 (i) The Committee of the Whole or any Sections will consult with the staff of the Southern  
446 California Nevada Conference on credentialing matters relating to those who have or had  
447 ministerial authorization from another judicatory or ministerial standing in the United  
448 Church of Christ beyond the jurisdiction of the Southern Association.  
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450 3. Special committees may be appointed as needed by the Moderator or the Executive Committee.  
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456 X. DISSOLUTION  
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458 If the Southern Association of the Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of  
459 Christ elects to dissolve, a two-thirds (2/3) vote is required plus the approval of the Southern  
460 California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ or their successors. If dissolution  
461 shall occur, after payment or provision for payment of all debts and liabilities, all property which it  
462 shall then possess, including any devise, bequest, gift or grant contained in any will or other  
463 instrument, in trust or otherwise, made before or after dissolution, shall be distributed to the  
464 Southern California Nevada Conference. This Article (X) may be amended only with the approval  
465 of the Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ or their successors.  
466

467 XI. AMENDMENTS  
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469 These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at any regular  
470 meeting of the Association, or at a special meeting called for that purpose, provided that notice  
471 thereof and a copy of such proposed amendment or amendments is sent in writing to the member  
472 churches and ministers at least thirty (30) days before the proposed amendment or amendments are  
473 acted upon.  
474

475 XII. PROCEDURES  
476

477 1. Business shall be transacted by a majority of those present and voting at any duly called meeting,  
478 except as otherwise provided in the Bylaws.  
479

480 2. The Constitution of the United Church of Christ and the Manual on Ministry of the United  
481 Church of Christ shall provide standards for all ecclesiastical procedures. The most recent edition  
482 of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all parliamentary procedures unless otherwise provided for  
483 in this document.  
484

485 3. These Bylaws shall be in force when adopted by two-thirds vote of those lay delegates and  
486 ministerial members present and voting at a meeting of Southern Association called for that  
487 purpose.  
488

489 End