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**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS  
OF THE YORK ASSOCIATION**  
Of The Penn Central Conference  
Of The United Church of Christ

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**CONSTITUTION**

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**Article I: Name**

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1. The name of this Association is the York Association of the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ. (Hereafter “the Association”)

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**Article II: Membership**

2. The membership of the Association shall be composed of all Local Churches (hereafter referred to as "member churches") in the geographical area constituting the York Association which are members of the United Church of Christ as defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ and all Ordained Ministers holding standing, all Ordained or Licensed Ministerial Partners with standing, all Ordained Ministers granted Dual Standing, all Commissioned Ministers and all Licensed Ministers of the Association (hereafter referred to as "authorized ministers").

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**Article III: Purpose**

3. The Association provides programs, resources and services which further the mission of Christ.
4. The Association strengthens and undergirds the mission and ministry of member churches and authorized ministers.
5. The Association assists member churches and authorized ministers in situations calling for help beyond their own resources.
6. The Association is that body which determines, confers, and certifies to the standing of the Local Churches of the United Church of Christ within its area. The Association grants, certifies to, transfers and terminates authorized ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ.
7. The Association has the responsibility to conduct the rite of ordination.
8. The Association has the responsibility to install authorized ministers in their ministry position within the Association.
9. The Association is to be in covenant with Penn Central Conference and through it with the General Synod, the national boards, affiliated, and associated ministries of the United Church of Christ.

**Article IV: Covenantal Relationship**

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10. In covenant with the United Church of Christ, the Association affirms the definition of the church as described within the preamble to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ:

The United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole Head, Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior. It acknowledges as kindred in Christ all who share in this confession. It 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 expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers. 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. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians, it recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper or Holy Communion.

11. As a body of the United Church of Christ, the Association will relate to the various expressions of the church in a covenantal manner. The Association will seek God’s will and be faithful to God’s mission, attending to its responsibilities in relation to all expressions of the church. Its decisions are made in consultation and collaboration with other parts of the structure including its member churches, Conference and the General Synod. As a member of the Body of Christ, the Association is called to honor and respect the work and ministry of each other part. The Association listens, hears, and carefully considers the advice, counsel, and requests of others in this covenant. The Association joins the various expressions of the United Church of Christ to seek to walk together in all God’s ways.

12. We value and affirm our covenantal relationship within the Association. This covenant is lived out in the relationships among member churches, and the members of the Association. This covenant calls us to honor and respect the work and ministry of the members of the Association. Within this covenant we share in fellowship and service, offer a united witness to the good news of Jesus Christ, and benefit from the gifts, graces and talents of all. Our covenantal relationship calls us into mutual mission and ministry to create and sustain our fellowship, to express a common witness of faith, to share resources and talents, and to hold each other accountable in keeping with the standards established by the Association.

**Article V: Ministry**

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- 13. The Association recognizes that God calls the whole Church and every member to participate in and extend the ministry of Jesus Christ by witnessing to the Gospel in church and society. The Association seeks to undergird the ministry of its members by nurturing faith, calling forth gifts, and equipping members for Christian service.
- 14. The Association recognizes that God calls certain of its members to various forms of ministry in and on behalf of the church for which ecclesiastical authorization is required. Recognizing God’s call, the ecclesiastical authorization is granted by the Association through the rite of ordination, through commissioning, licensing, granting either ordained ministerial standing or ordained ministerial partner standing and other acts of authorization.
- 15. Ordination is the rite whereby the Association, acting on behalf of the United Church of Christ, in cooperation with the person and a member church, recognizes and authorizes that member whom God has called to ordained ministry, and sets that person apart by prayer and the laying on of hands. By this rite ordained ministerial standing and status as an Ordained Ministerial Partner is conferred and authorization given to perform duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ.
- 16. An Ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ is one of its members who has been called by God and ordained to preach and teach the gospel, to administer the sacraments and rites of the Church, and to exercise pastoral care and leadership.
- 17. Ordained ministerial standing is an ongoing covenant of mutual accountability, as described in the following paragraph, which recognizes and continues the authorization of that person to perform the duties and exercise the prerogatives of ordained ministry. Ordained ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ is granted by and held in the Association in cooperation with a member church and confers voting membership in the Association.
- 18. The Call of an Ordained Minister or Ordained Ministerial Partner to a member church establishes a covenantal relationship among the Ordained Minister or Ordained Ministerial Partner, the member church, and the United Church of Christ as represented by the Association. The Call of an Ordained Minister or Ordained Ministerial Partner to other forms of ministry recognized by the Association establishes a covenantal relationship among the Ordained Minister or Ordained Ministerial Partner, the calling body, the United Church of Christ as represented by the Association and the member church where the Ordained Minister or Ordained Ministerial Partner is a member.
- 19. Commissioning is the act whereby the United Church of Christ through an Association, in cooperation with a person and a member church of the United Church of Christ, recognizes and authorizes that member whom God has called to a specific church-related ministry which is recognized by the Association, but not requiring ordination or licensing. By this act the status of Commissioned Minister is conferred and authorization granted to perform duties necessary to and for the specific ministry. Voting membership in the Association is granted.
- 20. A Commissioned Minister in the United Church of Christ is one of its lay members who has been called by God and commissioned for a specific church-related ministry.

- 123 21. Licensing is the act whereby the United Church of Christ through the Association, in  
124 cooperation with a person and a member church of the United Church of Christ,  
125 recognizes and authorizes that member whom God has called to perform specified duties  
126 in a designated member church or within the Association, mainly preaching and  
127 conducting services of worship, for a designated time within a covenant of mutual  
128 accountability that includes appropriate supervision and guidance of the Association.  
129 The license may be renewed. Voting membership in the Association is granted.
- 130 22. A Licensed Minister of the United Church of Christ is one of its members whom God has  
131 called and who has been recognized and authorized by the Association to perform  
132 specified duties in a designated member church or within the Association, mainly  
133 preaching and conducting services of worship, for a designated time within a covenant of  
134 mutual accountability that includes appropriate supervision and guidance of the  
135 Association.
- 136 23. A Member in Discernment is a member of the United Church of Christ who has been  
137 called by God and who is, in covenant with their member church and the Association,  
138 engaging in a time of discernment of that call and preparation for ministry in response to  
139 that call.

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141 **Article VI: Meetings**  
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- 143 24. The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held at such time and place as the  
144 Association may designate, or, lacking such designation, as may be determined by the  
145 Association Council.
- 146 25. An Ecclesiastical Council for a Member in Discernment seeking ordination is an official  
147 meeting of the Association and shall be called by the Association Council at the request of  
148 the Committee on Ministry.
- 149 26. Special Association meetings may be called by the Council of the Association, or upon the  
150 written request of five (5) member churches, or upon the written request of five (5)  
151 authorized ministers of the Association, specifying the particular business to be transacted.
- 152 27. Notice of the time and place of any Association meeting, and of items of business that will  
153 claim attention, shall be given to each member church and authorized minister and each  
154 member of the Association Council at least two (2) weeks before the time of such meetings.

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156 **Article VII: Officers**  
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- 158 28. The officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary/Registrar and  
159 Treasurer.
- 160 29. Other officers may be elected as the Association deems necessary.

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163 **Article VIII: Governance and Organization**

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- 165 30. The Association Council shall act on behalf of the Association between Annual Meetings.  
166 Its actions will be subject to approval by majority vote of the membership at the next Annual  
167 Meeting of the Association.
- 168 31. The work of the Association shall be delegated to standing committees and to other special  
169 committees as needed.
- 170 32. Staff members and members of the Board of Directors of Penn Central Conference,  
171 delegates to the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, members of the national  
172 boards, affiliated, and associated ministries of the United Church of Christ may serve as  
173 advisory members of the Association Council without vote.
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176 **Article IX: Rules to Govern Order**

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- 178 33. The rules in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern the Association in  
179 all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the rules of  
180 order or bylaws of the Association.
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182 **Article X: Interpretation of this Constitution**

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- 184 34. As a means of strengthening our covenantal partnerships, this Constitution is prepared  
185 with a view toward consistency with the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of  
186 Christ and the Penn Central Conference, and it shall be as long as it is the will of the  
187 Association.
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189 **Article XI: Amendments to the Constitution**

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- 191 35. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by the Association Council, a member  
192 church, or any group of ten (10) authorized ministers of the Association. Such proposed  
193 amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary/Registrar of the Association at  
194 least three (3) months prior to the meeting of the Association at which they are to be  
195 presented. At least two (2) months prior to the meeting, the Secretary/Registrar shall notify  
196 each member church and each member authorized minister in writing of the meeting,  
197 including a copy of the proposed amendment(s). Adoption of an amendment shall require a  
198 two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of those delegates present and voting. Amendments may be  
199 considered at an Annual Meeting or a Special Association Meeting called for that purpose.
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201 **BYLAWS**

202 **Preamble**

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- 205 100. These bylaws, consistent with the Constitution of the York Association, further define
- 206 and/or regulate the officers, committees, and membership. They also describe the
- 207 covenantal relationship with the Penn Central Conference and through it with the General
- 208 Synod, the national boards, affiliated, and associated ministries of the United Church of
- 209 Christ.
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212 **Article I: Membership Covenantal Responsibilities**

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- 214 101. In response to God's, call member churches and authorized ministers of the Association are
- 215 bound in covenant. Accordingly we recognize the need to fulfill covenantal responsibilities
- 216 that unite us in mutual mission and ministry. Failure to honor these responsibilities may
- 217 indicate a breach of covenant, and precipitate a review by the Association through its
- 218 Committee on Ministry, following current ministry guidelines established by the United
- 219 Church of Christ.
- 220 102. Member churches honor their covenantal responsibilities by:
- 221 a. sending delegates and representatives to officially called meetings (Annual Meeting,
- 222 Ecclesiastical Councils, and Special Meetings), Ordinations, Installations, and other
- 223 events of the Association;
- 224 b. supporting the Association by remitting the recommended annual contribution;
- 225 c. encouraging members to serve on Association Committees or Association Council;
- 226 d. considering any request for local action sent to them by the Association Council or
- 227 by the Association at Annual Meeting;
- 228 e. publicizing to their members all approved Association sponsored events;
- 229 f. offering use of their facilities as requested for Association meetings and events;
- 230 g. encouraging their authorized ministers to be connected and involved with the wider
- 231 church;
- 232 h. keeping the Association officers, Council and committees, member churches, and
- 233 authorized ministers in prayer;
- 234 i. completing and returning accurate annual Yearbook information and other reports
- 235 requested by the Penn Central Conference; and by making an annual contribution to
- 236 both Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and also at least two (2) all-church
- 237 offerings of the United Church of Christ.
- 238 103. Authorized ministers who are ordained honor their covenantal responsibilities by:
- 239 a. attending officially called meetings (Annual Meeting, Ecclesiastical Councils, and
- 240 Special Meetings), Ordinations, Installations, and other events of the Association;
- 241 b. maintaining their standing, following the guidelines of the Committee on Ministry,
- 242 and participating in periodic reviews and boundary training conducted by the
- 243 Committee on Ministry;

- 244 c. informing the Chairperson of the Committee on Ministry within one (1) month after  
245 they experience any change in their status with the member church of which they are  
246 a member;
- 247 d. encouraging the member church which they serve or of which they are a member to  
248 remit the recommended annual contribution and to fulfill the other covenantal  
249 responsibilities of member churches as described in paragraph #102;
- 250 e. serving on Association Council or committees;
- 251 f. attending Ministerium meetings and paying annual Ministerium dues;
- 252 g. keeping the Association officers and committees, member churches, and authorized  
253 ministers in prayer;
- 254 h. attending Annual Meeting of the Penn Central Conference or asking to be excused if  
255 they are unable to attend;
- 256 i. participating in the UCC Pension Fund.
- 257 104. Authorized ministers who are commissioned or licensed honor their covenantal  
258 responsibilities by:
- 259 a. attending officially called meetings (Annual Meeting, Ecclesiastical Councils, and  
260 Special Meetings), Ordinations, Installations, and other events of the Association;
- 261 b. contacting the Chairperson of the Committee on Ministry annually regarding  
262 renewal of commissioning or licensing;
- 263 c. maintaining their authorization for ministry following the guidelines of the  
264 Committee on Ministry and participating in periodic reviews and boundary training  
265 conducted by the Committee on Ministry;
- 266 d. informing the Chairperson of the Committee on Ministry within one (1) month after  
267 they experience any change in their status with the local calling body with which  
268 they serve;
- 269 e. encouraging the member church which they serve or of which they are a member to  
270 remit the annual recommended contribution and to fulfill the other covenantal  
271 responsibilities of member churches as described in paragraph #102;
- 272 f. serving on Association Council or committees;
- 273 g. attending Ministerium meetings and paying annual Ministerium dues;
- 274 h. keeping the Association officers, Council and committees, member churches, and  
275 authorized ministers in prayer;
- 276 i. attending Annual Meeting of the Penn Central Conference or asking to be excused if  
277 they are unable to attend.

## 278 **Article II: Ministry**

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- 281 105. A member of the Association wishing to explore God's call to ministry, and the potential  
282 of that call leading to authorized ministry (ordained, commissioned or licensed), requests,  
283 along with their member church, to enter a Covenant of Discernment with the  
284 Association.
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- 286 106. The Association, through its Committee on Ministry, interviews the member to decide  
287 whether to join with the member and their member church in a covenant of discernment.  
288 The goal of discernment is to determine whether the member is called to authorized  
289 ministry, what the specific character of that ministry might be, and, if authorization is  
290 appropriate, what steps are to be taken toward authorization. Normally a covenant of  
291 discernment leading to authorization is expected to be for not less than two years.
- 292 107. Ordination by the Association is in cooperation with a member church and confers  
293 ordained ministerial standing as an Ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ and  
294 status as an Ordained Ministerial Partner of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
- 295 108. The Association grants ordained ministerial partner standing in the United Church of  
296 Christ only when a person is serving a calling body of the United Church of Christ.
- 297 109. An ordained minister of another denomination who resides within the bounds of the  
298 Association and desires to enter the ordained ministry of the United Church of Christ  
299 applies to the Association for Privilege of Call.
- 300 110. A Member in Discernment of the Association who is seeking initial recognition and  
301 authorization as a Commissioned Minister applies, with their member church, to the  
302 Association.
- 303 111. A Commissioned Minister is listed separately from Ordained Ministers and from  
304 Licensed Ministers on the rolls of the Association. A Commissioned Minister is eligible  
305 for service only in lay categories for all positions referred to in the Bylaws.
- 306 112. A Commissioned Minister who retires from service as a Commissioned Minister may be  
307 recognized by the Association as a Retired Commissioned Minister of the United Church  
308 of Christ. Voting membership in the Association is thereby granted. Such recognition is  
309 to be reviewed regularly.
- 310 113. A Member in Discernment of the Association who is seeking recognition and  
311 authorization as a Licensed Minister applies, with their member church, to the  
312 Association.
- 313 114. A Licensed Minister is listed separately from Ordained Ministers and from  
314 Commissioned Ministers on the rolls of the Association. A Licensed Minister is eligible  
315 for service only in lay categories for all positions referred to in the Bylaws.
- 316 115. A Licensed Minister who retires from service as a Licensed Minister may be recognized  
317 by the Association as a Retired Licensed Minister of the United Church of Christ. Voting  
318 membership in the Association is thereby granted. Such recognition is to be reviewed  
319 regularly.
- 320 116. The Association, through the Committee on Ministry, will follow the guidelines and  
321 policies regarding authorized ministry as outlined in the Article on Ministry in the United  
322 Church of Christ Bylaws.

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324 **Article III. The Association Council's Duties and Meetings**  
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- 326 117. The Association Council shall be composed of a President, Vice-President,  
327 Secretary/Registrar, Treasurer, four (4) At-Large Members and the Chairpersons of all  
328 committees.

- 329 118. A member who fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings without informing the  
330 President of the reason for the absence may be removed as a member of Council. A vacancy  
331 may be declared by the President (or the Vice-President in the case of the President's  
332 removal) who may ask the remaining Association Council members to fill the unexpired  
333 term.
- 334 119. At the Annual Meeting of the Association, the Association Council shall:  
335 a. report its activity for the preceding year;  
336 b. propose a budget for consideration;  
337 c. recommend an amount for per capita support by the member churches;  
338 d. present a slate of names to fill all vacant offices and committees for which election is  
339 necessary.
- 340 120. The Association Council shall:  
341 a. meet a minimum of five (5) times between Annual Meetings, such meeting times  
342 and places to be announced by the President;  
343 b. declare its quorum to be a majority of Association Council members;  
344 c. hear reports of committees, review financial reports, act upon requests for special or  
345 emergency funds;  
346 d. appoint persons to complete unexpired terms, and deal with other appropriate  
347 business referred to it by individuals, member churches, committees, the Penn  
348 Central Conference or the General Synod;  
349 e. work from a prepared agenda;  
350 f. convene meetings requested by a petition signed by at least five (5) members of the  
351 Association Council.

#### 352 **Article IV. The Association's Officers and Council Members**

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- 355 121. The President of the Association shall:  
356 a. be a layperson of a member church or an authorized ordained minister (the President  
357 shall be a layperson when the Vice-President is an authorized ordained minister, and  
358 the President shall be an authorized ordained minister when the Vice-President is a  
359 layperson);  
360 b. be elected in a year ending in an even number;  
361 c. serve a term as President for two (2) years, and may not be re-elected to a  
362 consecutive term in office;  
363 d. preside over meetings of the Association and Association Council;  
364 e. shall be responsible for preparing meeting agendas;  
365 f. provide for representation by Association Council at Installations and Ordinations;  
366 g. convene meetings requested by a petition signed by at least five (5) members of the  
367 Association Council.  
368 h. be an ex-officio member of each Association committee, with voice without vote.
- 369 122. In the case of a vacancy in the Presidency, the Vice-President shall be installed as President.  
370 The Secretary/Registrar shall officiate at this installation at the next meeting of the  
371 Association Council, and the new President shall complete the unexpired term.  
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- 373 123. The Vice-President of the Association shall:  
374 a. be a layperson of a member church or an authorized ordained minister (the Vice-  
375 President shall be a layperson when the President is an authorized ordained minister,  
376 and the Vice-President shall be an authorized ordained minister when the President  
377 is a layperson);  
378 b. be elected with the President in a year ending in an even number;  
379 c. serve a term of two (2) years as Vice-President, and then be available for election as  
380 President;  
381 d. not be re-elected to a consecutive term to this office;  
382 e. serve in the place of the President when asked to do so;  
383 f. be installed as President in case of a vacancy in that office (In this case, a person  
384 could serve longer than a two (2) year term if they had become President because of  
385 a vacancy in the previous Presidency.);  
386 g. serve as Chairperson of the Communications Committee.
- 387 124. In the case of a vacancy in the Vice-Presidency, the Association Council shall appoint a  
388 person to complete the unexpired term.
- 389 125. The Secretary/Registrar of the Association shall:  
390 a. be a layperson of a member church or an authorized ordained minister;  
391 b. be elected to a two (2) year term in a year ending in an odd number, and may serve  
392 for a maximum of three (3) consecutive terms;  
393 c. keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the Association and Association Council;  
394 d. sign all official documents and reports to the Penn Central Conference and the  
395 United Church of Christ denominational offices;  
396 e. maintain the official roll of member churches and authorized ministers who hold  
397 standing in the Association;  
398 f. keep attendance records at official meetings;  
399 g. issue calls to official meetings of the Association;  
400 h. keep such other records, write such other correspondence and complete such other  
401 business as may be requested by the President and/or Association Council, and  
402 i. serve as President Pro-Tempore in case of concurrent vacancies in the Presidency  
403 and Vice-Presidency, taking immediate steps to recommend names of persons to fill  
404 these positions by the next Association Council meeting.
- 405 126. In case of a vacancy in the office of Secretary/Registrar, the Association Council shall  
406 appoint a person to complete the unexpired term.
- 407 127. The Treasurer of the Association shall:  
408 a. be a layperson of a member church or an authorized ordained minister;  
409 b. be elected to a two year term in a year ending in an odd number, and may serve for a  
410 maximum of three consecutive terms;  
411 c. receive, hold and disburse funds of the Association under the direction of the  
412 Association or the Association Council;  
413 d. keep accurate records of all monies, funds and properties of the Association, and  
414 make regular reports to the Council and Association Annual Meeting;  
415 e. keep accurate records of per capita support of member churches, and report same to  
416 the Annual Meeting;

- 417 f. cooperate in an annual fiscal review or audit;  
418 g. be bonded.
- 419 128. In case of a vacancy in the office of Treasurer, the Association Council shall appoint a  
420 person to complete the unexpired term.
- 421 129. The At-Large Members shall:
- 422 a. be four (4) in number, two (2) being laypersons of member churches and two (2)  
423 being authorized ordained ministers;
- 424 b. be elected to two year terms (2 per year), and may serve for a maximum of three (3)  
425 consecutive terms;
- 426 c. not be a member of any church already represented by an At-Large Member.
- 427 130. In case of a vacancy of an At-Large Member, the Association Council shall appoint a person  
428 to complete the unexpired term.

### 429 **Article V. Committees**

- 430
- 431 131. Rules for All Standing Committees:
- 432 a. Committee members and Chairpersons shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the  
433 Association for a two (2) year term, and shall serve no more than three (3)  
434 consecutive terms (6 years) without the lapse of at least one (1) year before re-  
435 election to that committee.
- 436 b. Vacancies will be filled by Association Council appointment for the length of the  
437 unexpired term. An unexpired term of one year or more will constitute a full term.
- 438 c. A member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings without informing the  
439 Chairperson of the reason for the absence may be removed as a member of that  
440 committee. A vacancy may be declared by the committee Chairperson, who may ask  
441 the Association Council to fill the vacancy.
- 442 d. Each committee will organize no later than ninety (90) days after Annual Meeting.  
443 The committee will elect or appoint its own Secretary.
- 444 e. Each committee is responsible to and will report on its work to the Association  
445 Council and the Association.
- 446 f. Each committee will elect or appoint its own liaison to Penn Central Conference  
447 Commissions as needed.
- 448 132. There shall be a Community Outreach Committee consisting of eight (8) persons, of whom  
449 at least three (3) shall be lay persons, elected for a term of two (2) years and so arranged that  
450 four (4) shall be elected annually. This committee shall:
- 451 a. interpret to member churches and take or recommend action on relevant priorities  
452 established by the General Synod;
- 453 b. interpret to York County communities items of concern to the United Church of  
454 Christ and the York Association;
- 455 c. be interpreters of Community Ministry Grants in our area;
- 456 d. be advocates in such areas as health and welfare issues, multi-cultural and multi-  
457 racial issues, peace and justice issues, hunger issues, environmental issues, and other  
458 social concerns, as the committee sees fit;

- 459 e. plan and develop workshops, worship experiences or other Association-wide events  
460 as it desires;
- 461 f. complete other relevant work as requested by the Association Council.
- 462 133. There shall be a Committee on Ministry consisting of eight (8) persons, of whom at least  
463 three (3) shall be lay persons, elected for a term of two (2) years and so arranged that four  
464 (4) shall be elected annually. This committee shall:
- 465 a. be guided in all its work by the current ministry guidelines of the United Church of  
466 Christ;
- 467 b. act as credentials committee for all persons and churches seeking standing;
- 468 c. shepherd those seeking authorized ministries through the process of education,  
469 member in discernment process, examination or Ecclesiastical Council, and  
470 placement and service of recognition of authorized ministry;
- 471 d. conduct periodic, special and disciplinary reviews;
- 472 e. participate in Ordinations, Installations, services recognizing other authorized  
473 ministries, and other services of the Association, along with an Officer of the  
474 Association;
- 475 f. interpret to member churches and member authorized ministers the rules and  
476 regulations applicable to those holding standing;
- 477 g. understand that it acts as representative of the entire United Church of Christ when  
478 making decisions, and that its priority must be what is best for the United Church of  
479 Christ rather than what is best for a particular individual;
- 480 h. complete other relevant work as requested by the Association Council.
- 481 134. There shall be a Communications Committee consisting of six (6) persons, of whom at least  
482 two (2) shall be lay persons, elected for a term of two (2) years and so arranged that three (3)  
483 shall be elected annually. This committee of six (6) shall:
- 484 a. communicate the mission and ministry of the Association to the covenanted  
485 members of the Association and to the wider community by utilizing various forms  
486 of media;
- 487 b. encourage and support the work of other Association committees;
- 488 c. use current United Church of Christ identity material in publicity and promotion.
- 489 135. There shall be a Nominations Committee consisting of six (6) persons, of whom at least two  
490 (2) shall be lay persons, elected for a term of two (2) years and so arranged that three (3)  
491 shall be elected annually. This committee shall:
- 492 a. place in nomination the names of persons to fill all offices, committees and  
493 vacancies of the Association and all Conference positions for which the Association  
494 is responsible at the annual meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor  
495 at the meeting with previous consent of the nominee;
- 496 b. ascertain that all nominees have consented to serve if elected;
- 497 c. keep a list of interested individuals in order to help fill any vacancy that may occur  
498 between elections;
- 499 d. present to Council for approval the names of individuals to fill vacancies on  
500 Association Committees or Council and Penn Central Conference representative  
501 positions as needed between Annual Meetings;
- 502 e. complete other relevant work as requested by the Association Council.

- 503 136. There shall be a Parish Life Committee consisting of eight (8) persons, of whom at least  
504 three (3) shall be lay persons, elected for a term of two (2) years and so arranged that four  
505 (4) shall be elected annually. This committee shall:
- 506 a. interpret to member churches and take or recommend action on relevant priorities  
507 established by the General Synod, Conference or Association Annual Meetings;
  - 508 b. introduce and encourage member churches to use the resources of the United Church  
509 of Christ in such areas as worship and the arts, Christian education, church growth,  
510 evangelism, family life issues, healing ministries, men's ministries, spiritual  
511 formation, stewardship education, women's ministries, young adult ministries and  
512 youth ministries;
  - 513 c. plan and develop workshops, worship experiences or other Association wide events  
514 as it desires;
  - 515 d. complete other relevant work as requested by the Association Council.
- 516 137. There shall be such other committees as the Association may from time to time determine.  
517 Special committees are appointed by the Association or its Council to carry out a specified  
518 task, at the completion of which it automatically ceases to exist. A special committee may  
519 not be appointed to perform a task that falls within the assigned function of an existing  
520 standing committee.

#### 521 **Article VI. Meetings**

- 522
- 523
- 524 138. When the Association meets, its voting membership shall be composed of lay delegates  
525 selected by and representing the member churches holding standing in the Association, and  
526 authorized ministers holding standing in the Association.
- 527 a. Each member church shall be entitled to two (2) lay delegates, elected or appointed  
528 by the member church. Member churches having membership exceeding 750 are  
529 entitled to one (1) additional delegate for each increment of 500 members  
530 [membership of 751-1250 receives one (1) additional delegate; 1251-1750 receives a  
531 total of two (2) additional delegates]. Delegates are entitled to one (1) vote. They  
532 must vote in person and no delegate may cast a vote by proxy.
  - 533 b. Authorized Ministers with standing in the Association are entitled to one (1) vote.  
534 They must vote in person and no one may cast a vote by proxy.
- 535 139. A quorum shall consist of forty (40) per cent of the voting membership. The voting  
536 membership is the combined total of eligible delegates from member churches plus the total  
537 number of authorized ministers holding standing in the Association at the time of the  
538 meeting.
- 539 140. The following persons are granted the privilege of voice at Association meetings:
- 540 a. Council members and visitors from member churches who are not delegates;
  - 541 b. Penn Central Conference Staff;
  - 542 c. members of the Board of Directors of Penn Central Conference;
  - 543 d. official delegates to General Synod;
  - 544 e. board members of the national bodies of the United Church of Christ;
  - 545 f. United Church of Christ National Staff;
  - 546 g. representatives of ecumenical agencies;

- 547 h. representatives of other denominations.  
548 141. Other persons in attendance may be granted the privilege of voice by majority vote of the  
549 body.  
550 142. At the Annual Meeting the membership:  
551 a. receives reports from the Council, officers and committees of the Association;  
552 b. adopts a budget;  
553 c. establishes the per capita support paid by its member churches;  
554 d. elects persons to fill all offices, committees and vacancies of the Association;  
555 e. receives and acts upon all appropriate business of the Association.  
556

#### 557 **Article VII. Interpretation of the Bylaws**

558

- 559 143. Should these Bylaws, at any time, be found to be inconsistent with the Constitution and  
560 Bylaws of the United Church of Christ, or of the Penn Central Conference, the matter shall  
561 be referred to the Judicial Commission of the Penn Central Conference for its advice and  
562 counsel. Action to correct the inconsistency shall be taken by the Association.  
563

#### 564 **Article VIII. Dissolution**

565

- 566 144. Upon dissolution of the Association, its assets and all property and interest it may then  
567 possess, including any devise, bequest, gift or grant contained in any will or other  
568 instrument, in trust or otherwise, made before or after such dissolution, shall be transferred  
569 to the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ or its successor.

#### 570 **Article IX. Amendments to the Bylaws**

571

- 572 145. Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by the Association Council, a member  
573 church, or any ten (10) authorized ministers of the Association. Such proposed  
574 amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary/Registrar of the Association at  
575 least three (3) months prior to the meeting of the Association at which the proposed  
576 amendment is to be considered. At least two (2) months prior to the meeting, the  
577 Secretary/Registrar shall inform in writing each member church and each member  
578 authorized minister a copy of the proposed amendment. Adoption of an amendment shall  
579 require a simple majority affirmative vote of those delegates present and voting at an official  
580 meeting of the Association. Amendments may be considered at an Annual Meeting or a  
581 special meeting called for that purpose.

582 **END**

583 Revised at Annual Meeting 4.98 / current constitution.doc  
584 Adopted at Annual Meeting 11.07.2010  
585 Paragraph 139 amended at Annual Meeting 11.12.17