

Constitution and By-Laws
of the
Two Rivers Association
of the
South Dakota Conference
of the
United Church of Christ

ARTICLE 1: NAME

This organization shall be called the Two Rivers Association of the South Dakota Conference of the United Church of Christ.

ARTICLE 2: FAITH

The Association claims as its own the faith of the historic Christian Church expressed in the Holy Scriptures, in the ancient creeds, and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers, particularly as that faith is expressed in the Preamble to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ and in the Statement of Faith adopted by General Synod of the United Church of Christ, July 8, 1959.

ARTICLE 3: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Two Rivers Association shall be:

1. To provide nurture and fellowship in the Christian faith as we continue to strive to be both “united and uniting” in a covenant which binds us to “walk and talk together;”
2. To propagate the unique theological and historical witness of the United Church of Christ in the Two Rivers Association and throughout the South Dakota Conference;
3. To provide lay and clergy support of all “in-care” persons through the establishment of mentors and by cooperating with the South Dakota Conference Committee On Ministry;
4. To exercise the power and perform the functions of an Ecclesiastical Council as prescribed by the “Manual on Ministry” of the United Church of Christ;
5. To provide and support the continuing education of the membership of the Two Rivers Association;
6. To assist local churches within Two Rivers Association, aid in the establishment of new churches, and promote the general welfare of local churches as well as Commissioned, Licensed, and Ordained Ministers of this Association.

ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Two Rivers Association shall consist of the following:

1. Local Churches

- a. The local churches of the United Church of Christ located within the Two Rivers Association boundaries as established by the South Dakota Conference of the United Church of Christ.
- b. Each member church is entitled to be represented at the meetings of the Two Rivers Association by two (2) delegates as well as one (1) additional delegate for each 100 members of major fraction thereof, beyond the first 100 members.

2. Ministers

- a. All ordained commissioned, or licensed ministers of the United Church of Christ upon whom ministerial standing has been conferred by the South Dakota Conference in cooperation with the Two Rivers Association and who is a member of a local church of the Two Rivers association, or who is a United church of Christ minister in good standing serving as a pastor of a local church of the Two Rivers Association are voting members.
- b. Any ordained minister of the United Church of Christ who has retired from active service by reason of age or disability, whether he/she reside within the boundaries of the Two Rivers Association or not, may at her/his request remain a member of the Two Rivers Association.

3. Lay Officers

Lay Officers of the Two Rivers Association who are not delegates are members “ex-officio,” with vote.

4. Honorary and Affiliated Members

The Conference Minister of the South Dakota as well as the Associate Conference Minister of the South Dakota Conference and other members of the Conference staff, official representatives of the General Synod and instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ in attendance are to be considered Association Delegates *with* BUT *without* vote.

ARTICLE 5: PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

1. Local Churches

Church holding membership in the Two Rivers Association has, in fellowship, a God given responsibility for the Two Rivers Association, its labors and its witness, even as the Two Rivers Association has, in fellowship, a God given responsibility for the well-being and aspirations of each member church. In mutual Christian concern and in dedication of Jesus Christ, the sole head of the Church, the one and the many share in common Christian experience and responsibility.

The autonomy of the local church is inherent and modifiable only by its own action. Nothing in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Two Rivers Association shall destroy or limit the right of each local church to continue to operate in the way customary to it; nor shall it be construed as giving to the Two Rivers Association now, or at any future time, the power to abridge or impair the autonomy of any local church in the management of its own affairs or to withdraw from the

Two Rivers Association at any time without forfeiture of ownership or control of real or personal property or any rights therein belonging to the church.

Each member church is expected to contribute to Two Rivers Association expenses and an amount to be determined by the Two Rivers Association.

2. Ministers

Just as member churches and the Associations of the South Dakota Conference of the United Church of Christ have, in fellowship, mutual responsibility laid upon them by God for each other's well-being, so have member ministers of the Two Rivers Association. Member ministers agree to be faithful in attendance at meetings of the Association and in participation in its work.

ARTICLE 6: ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF MINISTERS

1. Ordination

- a. Not more than six months prior to the completion of theological training a student for the ministry shall apply through his/her local member church of the Two Rivers Association to the Committee on Ministry of the South Dakota Conference for approval as a candidate for ordination.
- b. Upon recommendation of the Committee on Ministry of the South Dakota Conference, the Two Rivers Association, acting as an Ecclesiastical Council, shall arrange for and carry out the formal ordination (or other action as deemed appropriate by the Ecclesiastical Council) at some subsequent time and in cooperation with the local church at which the ordination is to take place.

2. Installation and Recognition

When a minister accepts a call to a local church, she/he and the church may join in requesting the Two Rivers Association to arrange for a Service of Installation or of Recognition.

ARTICLE 7: MEETINGS

1. Regular Meetings

The Two Rivers Association shall meet once annually. The yearly regular meeting shall be held on the fourth Sunday of April. This meeting shall be convened at such place and time as the hosting body, in consultation with the Two Rivers association, shall determine. Further, devotions and the Lord's Supper shall be provided at this meeting of the Two Rivers Association and shall be arranged, in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Two Rivers Association, by the hosting body,

2. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Two Rivers Association may be held on call of the Executive Committee, or by petition of no less than twenty delegates from no less than twenty member churches. The Moderator of the Two Rivers Association shall issue the call for any special meetings, stating the purpose of the special meeting and sending any and all pertinent information to all Two Rivers Association churches no less than four weeks before the special meeting is to be held.

3. Cancellation of Regular or Special Meetings

In case of emergency, the Executive Committee shall have the authority to change the time and/or place of both regular and special meetings of the Two Rivers Association.

ARTICLE 8: OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

1. Officers

The officers of the Two Rivers Association shall be as follows: Moderator, Assistant-Moderator, Treasurer, and Secretary. These four officers shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by a simple majority of the quorum present at the regular April meeting of the Two Rivers Association.

a. Moderator

The Moderator shall assume office at the close of the meeting at which s/he is elected. S/he shall serve for two years from the date of her/his election, and shall chair all meetings of the Association.

b. Assistant-Moderator

The Assistant-Moderator shall assume office at the close of the meeting at which s/he is elected. S/he shall serve for two years from the date of her/his election and shall assist the Moderator in any and all necessary duties relating to the Two Rivers Association. Further, in the absence of the Moderator elect, the Assistant-Moderator shall perform the duties of the Moderator. The Assistant-Moderator shall succeed to the office of Moderator after the completion of her/his two-year term.

c. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be elected for a term of three years. S/he shall keep the roll of the churches and ministers of the Two Rivers Association conduct its correspondence and keep account of all financial transactions.

d. Secretary

The Secretary shall be elected for a term of three years, and shall record the minutes of any and all meetings of the Association and/ or Executive Committee, keep a permanent record of the meetings of the Two Rivers Association, collect data, and compile records, providing necessary information to the State Registrar.

2. Standing Committees

All Two Rivers Association committees shall act in cooperation with the similar committees or agencies of the South Dakota Conference of the United Church of Christ, the General synod, and other National bodies in order that the program of the United Church of Christ may have effective expression. Members of standing committees shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by a simple majority of the quorum present at the regular April meeting of the Two Rivers association. Committee members may serve a maximum of two consecutive three-year terms on a standing committee and will not be eligible for re-election for at least one year.

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. The Executive Committee shall consist of eight members of which the Moderator, Assistant-Moderator, Treasurer, Secretary, and the Pastor of the hosting body of the next meeting shall be voting member's ex-officio, and three members, one elected each year for a term of three years. This committee shall keep in communication with the State Board of Directors of the South Dakota Conference of the United Church of Christ, supplying that Board with information regarding the Two Rivers association and making member churches in the Two Rivers Association aware of the continuing work of the Conference.
 - ii. The Executive committee shall meet on call of the Moderator who shall act as the committee's chair, and a simple majority of the committee shall constitute a quorum for all meetings of the committee.
 - iii. The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill vacancies in offices and committees occurring between the April meetings of the Two Rivers Association. Such appointments shall last only until the next April meeting of the Association.
 - iv. The Executive Committee shall make all necessary arrangements for the April meeting of the Two Rivers association, and notify all member churches of the same. The Executive Committee shall see that business is presented to all meetings of the Two Rivers association in an orderly and expeditious manner.
- b. Committee on Church and Ministry
 - i. The Committee on church and Ministry shall consist of three members of the Two Rivers Association, one elected each year for a term of three years.
 - ii. The Committee on church and Ministry shall cooperate with the South Dakota Conference of the United Church of Christ in matters of ordination and ministerial standing.
 - iii. The Committee on Church and Ministry shall make appropriate recommendations to the Two Rivers Association regular meeting in April concerning the admission or dismissal of churches.
- c. Nominating Committee
 - i. The Nominating Committee shall consist of three members, one elected each year for a three year term.
 - ii. The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for presenting a slate of candidates for election at the regular April meeting of the Two Rivers Association.
 - iii. As a general practice, the consent of all persons to be brought forth by the Nominating Committee for nomination shall be secured before the meeting.
- d. Financial Review Committee
 - i. A Financial Review Committee shall meet on the even numbered years to review the books and financial information for the Two Rivers Association. The Financial Review Committee shall consist of three (3) people from the Two Rivers Association, not to include anyone from the Executive Board. The Financial Review committee shall give a written and oral report of findings at the Two Rivers Association meeting.
 - ii. The Nominating Committee shall appoint three (3) people to serve on the Financial Review Committee.

e. Other Committees

Other committees may be formed as deemed advisable by the Executive Committee and/or the voting delegation of the Two Rivers Association.

ARTICLE 9: QUORUM

A quorum at a duly called meeting of the Two Rivers Association shall consist of those voting delegates present at the meeting.

ARTICLE 10: AMENDMENTS AND RULES OF ORDER

1. Amendments

This constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any regular meeting of Two Rivers association, or at a special meeting called for that purpose, provided that an announcement of the proposed amendment is made in writing to the churches and ministers no less than four weeks prior to the meeting at which the proposed amendment is acted upon.

2. Rules of Order

The order of business shall be in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order unless otherwise provided in the Constitution and By-Laws.

This Constitution and By-Laws was adopted by the member churches of Two Rivers Association on October 27, 2002.

Revised October 26, 2003-Added in article 8, 2d Financial Review Committee and Changed the definition of Quorum in Article 9.

Revised April 28, 2013- Article 7:1; Article 8:2, a. iv; Article 8:2, b, iii; Changed from two yearly meetings to one.