

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF THE
MICHIGAN CONFERENCE OF THE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

THE MICHIGAN CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ARTICLE I – Name

The name of this corporation is the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ.

ARTICLE II – Term

The time for which said corporation is created is perpetual.

ARTICLE III - Purpose

The purposes for which this corporation is organized are:

- A. To be a Conference of the United Church of Christ composed of each of the local churches which had heretofore been a part of the Michigan Congregational Conference or of the Michigan-Indiana Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and all ministers who composed such conference or synod and of all churches and ministers that are hereafter received into or granted standing by any Association of the United Church of Christ within the geographical area of this Conference which is the State of Michigan.
- B. To exercise all powers for which a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Michigan can be authorized to exercise in furtherance of its purpose as a Conference of the United Church of Christ.
- C. No substantial part of the activities of this corporation shall include the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. No part of the earnings or assets of this corporation shall inure to the benefits of any individual member thereof or contributor thereto or for any private, personal, or selfish purposes. No part of the assets of this corporation or income derived therefrom shall be given to or inure to the benefit of any person, corporation, or organization not tax exempt under the Internal Revenue Code of the United States of America. In the event of dissolution of this corporation, none of its property shall be distributed to any person, corporation, or organization not tax exempt under the Internal Revenue Code of the United States of America; and all of its property shall be distributed at such time solely for the purposes set forth in Article III hereof.
- D. A Conference may exercise the functions of an Association when they are delegated to it by an Association or where no Association exists. (See latest edition of the Bylaws of the United Church of Christ and also Art. VIII, Sec. E, Par. 4 of the Michigan Conference Bylaws.)

ARTICLE IV – Membership

The voting membership of this corporation shall consist of:

- A. All ordained ministers holding standing in the Associations of this Conference or in the Conference acting as an Association
- B. Delegates selected by and representing churches of the Conference as the Bylaws may provide.
- C. Other persons as the Bylaws may provide.

Voting members shall be open to the Holy Spirit and shall be free to vote according to their consciences.

ARTICLE V – Polity

- A. The autonomy of each church is inherent and modifiable only by its own action. Nothing in these Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws of this corporation shall destroy or limit right of each church to continue to operate in the way customary to it; nor shall be construed as giving to the General synod or to this Conference or to any Association, now or at any future time, the power to abridge or impair the autonomy of any church in the management of its own affairs as guaranteed by Article IV, par. 15 of the Constitution of the United Church of Christ as declared in force by the Third General synod on July 4, 1961.
- B. The autonomy of the recognized Associations of this Conference is also inherent and their separate lives may not be modified, abridged, or limited by this Conference.
- C. The autonomy of this Conference is also inherent and its separate life and right to seek and follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to manage its own affairs is guaranteed.
- D. While each entity has autonomy modifiable only by its own action, each also has a God given responsibility for sister churches, Associations, Conferences, and General Synod. This responsibility includes a relationship of mutual concern one for another, fulfilling the scriptural admonition that we rejoice with those who rejoice and suffer with those who suffer.

ARTICLE VI – Amendments

The Articles of Incorporation of this corporation may be amended at a duly called meeting by a duly called meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting provided that such amendment shall have been:

- A. Presented to the Conference at the last previous duly called meeting of the Conference, or
- B. Requested by official action of not less than ten of the churches composing the Conference, or
- C. Recommended to the Conference by its Board of Directors.

A copy of any proposed amendment shall be mailed to each church and each minister of which this Conference is composed no less than ninety days prior to the meeting at which action of the proposed amendment is to be taken.

