

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
NORTHEAST AREA OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(Disciples of Christ)  
IN THE SOUTHWEST REGION**

**Constitution**

**PREAMBLE**

*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 God's covenant of love which binds us to God and to one another. Through baptism into Christ we enter 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 light of scripture. In the bonds of Christian faith we yield ourselves to God that we may serve the One whose kingdom has no end. Blessing, glory, and honor be to God forever. Amen.*

**ARTICLE I.**

**MISSION**

*The Mission of the Northeast Area Council is to support, educate, and empower Congregations and clergy through prayer, counsel, and compassion based on biblical foundations. We stand firm that we are all one body in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ."*

**ARTICLE II.**

**NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the Northeast Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest, a corporation, hereinafter referred to as the

**“Area”**

**ARTICLE III.  
PURPOSE AND AFFILIATION**

**Section 1:** Purpose

The Area is for educational, charitable, and religious purposes, with its principal activity being religious.

**Section 2:** Affiliation

The Area, although a separate organization, is affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest, as an integrated auxiliary as such term is interpreted under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

**ARTICLE IV.  
AREA MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1:** The Area's membership shall be composed of all congregations listed in the most recent edition of the Yearbook and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the northeast corner of Texas bordering on Oklahoma, Arkansas, and on the west and south of the following counties: Lamar, Hunt, Kaufman, Navarro, Anderson, Houston, Trinity, Angelina, Saint Augustine, and Sabine Counties, and in future changes in the boundary lines.

**Section 2:** Other congregation wanting to affiliate with the Northeast Area will apply to the Area Executive Council which will recommend either acceptance or denial to the Area Assembly. In the absence of an Area Assembly, the Area Executive Council has the authority to continue with the acceptance or denial of the congregation seeking affiliation with the Northeast Area.

Any congregation wanting to affiliate with the Northeast Area must,

- A.** Accept the Constitution and By-Laws of the Area by vote of said congregation and/or related organization:
- B.** Submit its constitution /by-laws to the Area Executive Council.
- C.** Cooperate in advancing the mission and purpose of the Northeast Area Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest, hereinafter referred to

as “the Region”; and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada hereinafter referred to as the “General Church”.

- D. Give financial support to the Northeast Area, the Region and the General Church.

## **ARTICLE V. Area Executive Council**

### **Section 1: Function**

It shall be the function of the Area Executive Council to conduct the Area’s Business, set policy, and to function on behalf of the Area Assembly when it is not in session.

### **Section 2: Composition**

The Area Executive Council shall consist of representatives and officers as set forth in the By-Laws.

### **Section 3: Meetings**

The Area Executive Council shall meet as often as necessary to carry out the policies of the Area Assembly and to coordinate the work of the Area.

## **ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENTS**

This constitution may be amended by a majority vote of those present and voting at any Area Assembly which has been called with thirty days’ notice of the proposed amendment.

## **BY-LAWS**

### **NORTHEAST AREA OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) THE SOUTHWEST REGION**

#### **I. The Northeast Area Year**

**Section 1:** The fiscal and program year of the Area will be January 1-December 31.

#### **II. Northeast Area Meetings**

##### **Section 1: Area Assemblies**

- A.** The Area shall have at least one Annual Assembly on a date approved by the Executive Council. A Notice of the Assembly or Assemblies shall be given in a written or electronic notice to all congregations of the Area no less than thirty days before the meeting date.
- B.** All members of congregations in the Area are eligible to attend and vote on the business items presented to the Assembly provided they are registered for and in attendance at the Assembly.
- C.** All recommendations submitted to the Assembly by the Executive Council shall first be published and distributed to each congregation of the Area no less than thirty days prior to the Assembly where they will be presented for vote.

##### **Section 2: Executive Council Meetings**

- A.** The Area Executive Council shall review and act upon recommendations given by the Standing Committees or by any appointed Area Executive Council Special Task Force.
- B.** No recommendation or business item, except that determined to be of an emergency nature by the Executive Council, shall be considered unless it has first been presented to the Area Executive Council or Moderator for consideration sixty days prior to the Executive Council meeting in which they are to be considered.
- C.** Recommendations or business items may be submitted by individual members, congregations, fellowship groups, and/or related units.
- D.** Recommendations shall be approved, disapproved, or tabled for further consideration at a later meeting.

- E. A quorum shall consist of no less than 6 Area Executive Council members to vote and authorize administrative decisions.

### **Section 3: Rules of Order**

All business sessions of the Assembly and the Northeast Area Executive Council shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Revised. The Moderator shall appoint a qualified parliamentarian prior to the business session of the Assembly when one is available.

### **Section 4: Fellowship Meetings**

Clusters of congregations may meet periodically for fellowship and mutual strengthening

## **III. AREA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

### **Section 1: Composition**

- A. The Executive Council shall be comprised of 11 or more representatives elected at the Area Assembly for a term of three years with no more than a third of the representatives being replaced in a single year.
- B. The Executive Council shall consist of 6 officers and 5 or more at-large representatives.
- C. All Area Executive Council representatives must be a member of a Northeast Area Congregation in good standing. Each representative shall have full voting rights.
- D. Area Fellowship Groups may provide one representative each to serve as ex-officio representatives on the Executive Council.
- E. Related units Disciples Homes, Jarvis Christian College, Disciples Crossing Camp and Conference Center may provide one representative each to serve as ex-officio representatives of the Administrative Council.

### **Section 2: OFFICERS**

#### **A. Officer Positions**

The Area Executive Council shall consist of Moderator, Moderator-Elect, President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

## **B. Selection**

Officers shall be elected by the Area Executive Council at the January meeting following an Area Assembly.

## **C. Terms of Office**

The one-year term to which the officers shall be elected shall run from January 1, following the date of the Assembly where they were selected, to December 31. No officer may serve more than two consecutive terms in any office other than the Treasurer.

## **D. Vacancies**

- i.** Should a vacancy occur among the representatives of the Area Executive Council, the Area Executive Council shall select a replacement to complete the unfulfilled term of office if the vacancy leaves the Area Executive Council with less than 11 members.
- ii.** If an Officer position becomes vacant the Area Executive Council shall vote on a replacement to finish out the remainder of the term.

## **Section 3: Officer Duties**

### **A. President**

Shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Northeast Area Executive Committee Council.

### **B. Vice-President**

Shall follow perform the responsibility of the President in his/her absence.

### **C. Moderator**

The Moderator shall give leadership to, and preside over the Area Assembly. The Moderator will be an ex-officio member of all standing committees. The Moderator shall represent the Northeast Area on the Regional Council of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest concurrent with his/her term as Moderator.

### **D. Moderator-Elect**

The Moderator-elect shall assume the duties of the Moderator in the absence of the Moderator and shall represent the Northeast Area on the Regional

Council of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest if the Moderator serves on the body in another role (elected or appointed).

#### **E. Secretary**

The Secretary shall properly record the minutes of all regular and called meetings of the Northeast Executive Council, and Area Assembly meetings. The Secretary is also responsible for coordinating Signatory changes to the Area's bank accounts.

#### **F. Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall disburse all funds and shall be responsible for an exact recording of all financial transactions of the area. Make a verbal financial report at the Area Executive Council scheduled meetings. Shall give a written and verbal annual audit of all financial transactions at the December meeting.

### **IV. LEGAL MATTERS**

#### **Section 1: Incorporation**

The Northeast Area is incorporated in the State of Texas with a Certificate of Incorporation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest – Northeast Area with charter number 356904-1 on March 4, 1975.

#### **Section 2: Legal Representatives**

The Moderator, Treasurer and President, shall be jointly designated as the legal representatives of the Area, and shall have authority to buy, sell, borrow, exchange, and/or acquire and dispose of all securities, properties, holdings and to negotiate all legal affairs of the Area as instructed by the Area Executive Council or Area Assembly.

#### **Section 3: Disciples Crossing Camp and Conference Center**

The Area Executive Council will elect representatives from the Northeast Area to sit on the Board of Directors of the Disciples Crossing Camp and Conference Center in Athens, Texas at the August Executive Council meeting.

- A.** In selecting nominees to represent the Northeast Area on the Board of Directors of the Disciples Crossing Camp and Conference Center, this

committee shall seek a wide representation of the Area, both geographically, program usage, and manifested interest or skills useful to the camp.

## **V. STANDING COMMITTEES AND SPECIAL TASK FORCES**

### **Section 1: Standing Committees**

None at this time.

### **Section 2: Special Task Forces**

The Area Executive Council may appoint Special Task Forces for specific purposes with termination upon the completion of their function.

### **Section 3: Fellowship Groups**

- A. Disciples Women:** This group shall be led by a Coordinator of Consultants and three Area Consultants who shall administer an Area program for the women of our congregations.
  
- B. Disciples Men:** This group shall be led through a Coordinator along with an executive committee to administer a program for the men of our congregations. The Coordinator of the Department of Church Men will represent this group on the Administrative Council.
  
- C. Christian Youth Fellowship:** Details regarding the CYF are to be found in the Youth Ministry Policy Manual of the TBA, NTA, and NEA (Tri-Area) of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest in Section 5, page 1-3.
  
- D. Texas Christian Missionary Fellowship:** This group consists of traditionally African American congregations within the Area. They have a biennial meeting schedule.
  
- E. Hispanic Congregations Fellowship:** This group consists of congregations in the Northeast Area that are Hispanic in origin and conducting services mostly in Spanish.



**VI. AMENDMENTS**

The By-laws of the Northeast Area may be amended by a 2/3 vote of those present and voting at any Area Executive Council meeting which has been duly called and for which at least one month's notification of proposed amendments has been communicated to members of the Council.

Approved by Northeast Area Executive Council –

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DATE: \_\_\_\_\_