

UNITY SOUTH CENTRAL REGION BYLAWS

(Revised and approved by Conference Body 10/11/2016)

DEFINITIONS

The South Central Unity Churches Association, Inc. DBA: the Unity South Central Region, Inc. and will be called *USCR*.

The USCR Regional Board of Trustees will be called *the Board*.

Association of Unity Churches International [DBA Unity Worldwide Ministries] will be called *UWM* or *the Central Office*, as applicable.

Unity School of Christianity [DBA Unity World Headquarters].

ARTICLE I

IDENTIFICATION

SECTION 1.01 - STATEMENT OF PURPOSE – The purpose of this organization is to assist our membership in the conduct, operation, and management of the member centers, churches, and study groups through conferences, consultations, prayer and education. These activities will encourage the spiritual and lay growth of the region through its Ministers, Spiritual Leaders, Licensed teachers and Lay Leadership. USCR will hold open discussions and examine progressive ideas that, through this Association and fellowship, will bring about an increasingly effective presentation of the teachings of Jesus Christ as interpreted by Unity School of Christianity of Unity Village, Missouri, the Association of Unity Churches International of Lee's Summit, Missouri (DBA Unity Worldwide Ministries) and the inspiration received through the founders of Unity School of Christianity, Charles and Myrtle Fillmore. Toward the accomplishment of its purpose, there will be an Annual Regional Conference to conduct the business of USCR.

SECTION 1.02 – LEADERSHIP – We acknowledge Jesus Christ as our leader and teacher, invisible though ever present, and his teachings as our guide. In all things, we follow the inspiration and illumination of the Christ indwelling as taught by him. The Bible will be our authorized textbook.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 2.01 - ELIGIBILITY – The USCR Conference Body will include all ministers and Licensed Teachers who are current members of the Association and reside in USCR, one additional elected representatives from each member ministry. USCR consists of the states of Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, parts of Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Wyoming, parts of Iowa, and other Unity ministries who petition and are approved for membership by the USCR Board.

SECTION 2.02 – VOTING – Voting privileges are granted to include all ministers and Licensed Teachers in our Region, regardless of whether or not they are placed in a ministry, and the elected representatives from member ministries as listed in Section 2.01.

ARTICLE III

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SECTION 3.01 – MEETING TIME AND LOCATION – The annual Regional meeting will be held in the last half of the calendar year. The Regional Board will establish the time and location, and teams so designated will accomplish the logistic arrangements, planning of program content and the overall coordination of the Annual Conference.

SECTION 3.02 – QUORUM – A quorum will constitute the members present and voting at any meeting of which all members have been notified in writing in accordance to Article III, Section 3.03.

SECTION 3.03 – WRITTEN NOTICE – A written notice stating the date, time and place will be posted on the USCR website and included in the USCR email or e-newsletter at least 30 days prior to the Annual Conference.

ARTICLE IV

GOVERNMENT – BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SECTION 4.01 – MEMBERSHIP – The Board will consist of eight members duly elected by the conference body, all of which have voting privileges.

- a. At least four will be ministers now serving in recognized Unity ministries of USCR.
- b. The Regional Representative.
- c. The Licensed Unity Teacher Regional Representative or his/her alternate.
- d. One member may be a qualified layperson.
- e. One member may be a retired Unity minister in good standing residing in USCR.

SECTION 4.02 – TERMS OF OFFICE – Each regular Board Member will hold office for a three-year term (Sections 5.03 and 8.01 pertain). Two Board Members' terms will expire annually. No Board Member will serve more than two consecutive terms of three years without an interval of one year before serving another term. Two Board Members will be elected by the Conference Body present and voting at the Annual Conference. A USCR Board Member will not serve a Regional and a National board position, concurrently.

SECTION 4.03 – BOARD MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS –

- a. Desires to serve on the Board.
- b. Three years of experience as a Minister and, for initial election as a Trustee, completion of at least one year in his/her present ministry for minister board position.
- c. Three years of experience as a Licensed Unity Teacher and completion of at least one year in his/her present ministry for the LUT Regional Representative Board position.
- d. Lay Persons must have five years of leadership experience in a Unity ministry and be recommended by the senior minister and Board of Trustees of their current ministry.
- e. Furthers the work of this Region by his/her active interest, love and support and through regular attendance at Regional Conference.
- f. Upholds the spiritual purpose, vision and goals of the Region, and the highest interest of its membership.
- g. Has demonstrated capabilities and is willing to take assigned leadership roles.
- h. Supports this Region through prayer, time and finances lovingly given.
- i. Maintains loving, open communication with other Board Members and the ministries in USCR.
- j. Has the ability, time and prayerful commitment to fill the duties and responsibilities as outlined in the job description for a Board Member contained in the Policy Manual of the Unity South Central Region.

- k. Ministers have the agreement and support of their Board and Licensed Teachers and lay candidates have the agreement and support of their minister.

SECTION 4.04 – VACANCIES – In case of a vacancy on the Board, the remaining Board Members will appoint a new member who qualifies to fill the unexpired term of the said vacancy. Serving more than one year of an unexpired term will constitute a full term of office.

SECTION 4.05 – RESIGNATION OR REMOVAL FROM OFFICE Any trustee may resign at any time. In addition any trustee may be removed by the Board of Trustees due to unexcused absences from three successive regular board meetings or because of a failure to fulfill the duties of the office. Replacement shall be in accordance with Section 4.04.

SECTION 4.06 – REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE – The Regional Representative will serve as a member of the Board during his/her term of office. In addition the Regional Representative may be removed by the Board of Trustees due to unexcused absences from three successive regular board meetings or because of a failure to fulfill the duties of the office. Replacement shall be in accordance with Section 5.01d.

SECTION 4.07 – LICENSED UNITY TEACHER REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE – The Licensed Unity Teacher Regional Representative will serve as a member of the Board during his/her term of office. When the Licensed Unity Teacher Regional Representative or the Alternate Licensed Unity Teacher Regional Representative is unable to participate regularly at Board meetings or in the Regional Conference activities, his/her resignation will be accepted after an inquiry of their individual intent is made by a Board representative appointed by the President. Replacement shall be in accordance with Section ~~8.03~~ 8.01

SECTION 4.08 – JUDICATORY REPRESENTATIVE – The Judicatory Representative will attend board meetings in a non-voting capacity. When the Judicatory Representative or the Alternate Judicatory Representative are unable to participate regularly at Board meetings, or in the Regional Conference activities, or to fulfill Association of Unity Churches duties and responsibilities, their resignation will be accepted after an inquiry of their individual intent is made by a Board representative appointed by the President. Replacement shall be in accordance with Section 6.03.

SECTION 4.09 – FUNCTION – The Board will transact all fiscal business, and provide appropriate programs for its closed, public and retreat meetings. Suggestions and recommendations for pursuing the purpose of this organization as established in Article I of these Bylaws will be presented to the USCR body. The Board will report in full all actions taken at its meetings and furnish a financial report consisting of an Income and Expense Report, Trial Balance and a Balance Sheet. The Board is specifically charged with the fiscal responsibility of the assets of this corporation, and will fulfill the desires and intentions of the USCR body with promptness and dispatch.

SECTION 4.10 – BOARD MEETINGS – The Board will meet at least two months prior to the Annual Conference to transact all business pertaining to the Annual Meeting. This will accomplish advance planning, programming, and announcing so orderliness and good timing can be exercised in all required meetings. When the President deems it necessary, he/she will call a special Board meeting. When the Association of Unity Churches Regional Representative deems it necessary, s/he can request that the President call a special Board meeting. Four Board members will constitute a quorum for the transaction of all Board business. When deemed necessary by the Board President, regional business may be conducted by phone or email communications.

SECTION 4.11 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS – The members of the USCR Board will selected from the members-at-large in a manner decided by the Board at the first Board meeting after the Annual Meeting or at a

Special Meeting called for the purpose of selecting officers. Officers' terms are for one year and are eligible for re-election to additional one-year terms. Any officer, representative, or member-at-large may be removed by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees.

- a. Officers of the Board of Trustees shall consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- b. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Corporation; shall have the general powers usually vested in the office of President; shall preside at all meetings of the members and trustees; shall be active in the management of the affairs of the Corporation; and shall see that all orders and resolutions of the Board are carried into effect. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- c. The Vice President shall act in all cases for and as the President in the latter's absence or incapacity, and shall perform such other duties as may be required from time-to-time.
- d. The Secretary shall attend all sessions of the Board and all meetings of the members and act as clerk thereof, and record or cause to be recorded all the votes of the Corporation and minutes of all its transactions in an electronic record which shall be kept in a location determined by the Board. The Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, an up-to-date electronic record of policies in a location determined by the Board; shall give or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the members and of the Board of Trustees; and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the President
- e. The Treasurer shall have custody of the corporate funds and securities and shall keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Corporation, and shall keep the monies of the Corporation in a separate account to the credit of the Corporation. The Treasurer shall disburse the funds of the Corporation as may be ordered by the Board of Trustees, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements and shall render to the President and trustees, at the regular meetings of the Board, or whenever they may require it, an account of all financial transactions and of the financial condition of the Corporation. In the event that the board chooses to contract these functions, the Treasurer is responsible for overseeing the proper handling of the region's accounts.

SECTION 4.12 – OFFICER VACANCY –A vacancy in an office will be filled by appointment of the Board at its next scheduled or special business meeting. The appointee will serve during the unexpired term of the said office. When a Board officer is unable to participate regularly at meetings or in USCR activities, his/her resignation will be accepted after an inquiry is made of his/her intent by a Board representative appointed by the President.

SECTION 4.13 – OFFICER COMPENSATION – Officers may be reimbursed for their expenses for travel to Board meetings, or otherwise incurred in the performance of their duties and responsibilities, as directed by the USCR body.

ARTICLE V

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

SECTION 5.01 – QUALIFICATIONS, DUTIES AND ELECTION – USCR will elect a Regional Representative to serve on the Standards Ministry Team and as liaison between the Region and UWM.

- a. **QUALIFICATIONS** – Candidates for Regional Representative will have at least 5 years' experience in ministry, 2 years of which must be in current ministry; and successful completion of Ethics Review System training and peacemaking skills training or its equivalent.
- b. **DUTIES** - The Regional Representative will handle all duties that are decided and determined by UWM and the region, including advising, consulting and training in regional ministries. S/He will serve as the USCR Representative on the Unity Worldwide Ministries' Standards Ministry Team. S/he will

distribute to the members of USCR informational reports pertaining to all pertinent decisions and determinations made by the UWM Board of Trustees. S/he will be a member of the USCR Board; s/he will convey those determinations which the members of USCR will deem necessary, to the UWM Board of Trustees of the Association for review and consideration.

- c. **ELECTION - Regional Representative.** The Nominating Team will present at least one nominee to the conference body for election and approval with the nominee(s) for Regional Representative and, at the discretion of the Board, an Alternate Regional Representative. The Alternate Regional Representative will assume the duties of the Regional Representative only in the event that the Regional Representative is unable to fulfill his/her term of office and s/he will complete the unexpired term.-The Board will appoint an Alternate Regional Representative when there is a vacancy in said office to serve until the next election of the Regional Representative. When the Regional Representative is briefly unavailable, the appointed USCR UWM Certified Ministry Consultant will fulfill the duties of the Regional Representative except for voting on the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 5.02 – COMPENSATION – The Regional Representative will be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of his/her duties and responsibilities as determined by the Board. The Board may determine adequate compensation over and above said expenses, to be paid on a monthly basis, or as mutually agreed upon by the Board and the Regional Representative.

SECTION 5.03 – TERMS OF OFFICE – The Regional Representative is elected for a four-year term without term limit.

ARTICLE VI

JUDICATORY REPRESENTATIVE

SECTION 6.01 – QUALIFICATIONS, DUTIES AND ELECTION – The Board of Trustees will appoint a Judicatory Representative to serve as delineated in the Association Ethics Review System Policy.

- a. **QUALIFICATIONS –** Candidates for Judicatory Representative will have at least 5 years experience in field ministry, 2 years of which must be in current ministry; and successful completion of Ethics Review System Training and peacemaking skills training or its equivalent.
- b. **DUTIES -** The Representative will handle all duties as delineated in the Unity Worldwide Ministries Ethics Review System Policy.
- c. **ALTERNATE JUDICATORY REPRESENTATIVE –** The Board of Trustees will appoint an Alternate Judicatory Representative S/he will assume the duties of the Judicatory Representative only in the event that the Judicatory Representative is unable to fulfill his/her term of office and s/he will complete the unexpired term. The Board will appoint an Alternate Judicatory Representative when there is a vacancy in said office to serve until the next election of the Judicatory Representative.

SECTION 6.02 – COMPENSATION – The Judicatory Representative will be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of his/her duties and responsibilities as determined by the Board. The Board may, determine adequate compensation over and above said expenses, to be paid on a monthly basis, or as mutually agreed upon by the Board and the Judicatory Representative.

SECTION 6.03 – TERMS OF OFFICE – The Judicatory Representative and the Alternate Judicatory Representative are appointed for four year terms without term limit.

ARTICLE VII MINISTRY TEAMS

SECTION 7.01 – APPOINTMENT – All teams, chairpersons and Board representatives, with the exception of the Nominating Committee, shall be appointed by the Board President with the approval of the Board. The President will be an ex-officio member of all teams.

SECTION 7.02 – ELIGIBILITY – Team members will be appointed from the USCR membership of Unity ministers, Licensed Teachers and laypersons.

SECTION 7.03 – RESPONSIBILITIES – Team chairpersons will call and conduct their respective meetings. They will pursue the discharge of duties assigned by the Board. Written reports will be provided on all activities in which they are engaged prior to regularly scheduled Board meetings. Copies of said reports will be provided to the President and the Secretary electronically.

SECTION 7.04 – VACANCIES – When any team chairperson, program coordinator, facilitator or team member is unable to participate regularly at said team meetings or USCR activities, his/her resignation will be accepted after an inquiry of his/her intent is made by a Board representative appointed by the President.

SECTION 7.05 – NOMINATING TEAM– The Nominating Team shall consist of one member of the Board, one active Licensed Unity Teacher and two active ministers selected in the following manner:

- a. At the Annual Membership Meeting, the membership will elect two of its Active members to serve on the Nominating Team for the next year's election.
- b. The Board will elect one of its Trustees.
- c. An active Licensed Unity Teacher serving in the region will be elected to the Nominating Team at the annual regional conference.
- d. In the event of a vacancy, the Board will select a person from the active membership within one week of notification.
- e. This team will select one nominee for each Board vacancy. This team will also select at least two nominees for the positions of Regional Representative and Alternate Regional Representative and at least two nominees for the positions of Licensed Unity Teacher Regional Representative and Alternate Licensed Unity Teacher Regional Representative. All nominees must be active participants in the region. Nomination of qualified individuals from the regional membership may be submitted to the Nominating Team in writing no less than 30 days prior to the Annual Conference. A copy of the Board Member Requirements will be in the registration packet, and the requirements will be read by the Secretary prior to the election process.

ARTICLE VIII

LICENSED UNITY TEACHERS REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

SECTION 8.01 – ELECTION AND DUTIES –The Conference body will elect a Licensed Teacher Regional Representative for a four-year term at the appropriate annual Conference. The Licensed Unity Teachers Regional Representative is responsible for maintaining communications among the Licensed Teachers of the Region and with the USCR Board; for presenting proposals from the Licensed Teachers to the Board and after approval, to the Conference Body. S/He will keep in continuing communication with the UWM home office Licensed Teacher Coordinator to disseminate pertinent information, and to act as liaison for the USCR Licensed Teachers with the home office. Replacement shall be in accordance with Section 8.03.

SECTION 8.02 – COMPENSATION – The Licensed Unity Teachers Regional Representative will be reimbursed for his/her expenses for travel to Board meetings, or otherwise incurred in the performance of his/her duties and responsibilities as directed by the USCR Conference Body.

SECTION 8.03 – ALTERNATE LICENSED UNITY TEACHER REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE – The Nominating Team will present a slate to the conference body for election and approval with the nominees for Licensed Unity Teacher Regional Representative and Alternate Licensed Unity Teacher Regional Representative. The nominee who receives the largest number of votes will be elected Licensed Unity Teacher Regional Representative. The nominee who receives the second largest number of votes when the Licensed Unity Teacher Regional Representative is elected will be the Alternate. S/He will assume the duties of the Licensed Unity Teacher Regional Representative only in the event that the Licensed Unity Teacher Regional Representative is unable to fulfill his/her term of office and he/she will complete the unexpired term. When there is a vacancy to said office, an alternate will be elected to serve out the unexpired term by the Conference body at the next Annual Conference.

SECTION 8.04 – TERMS OF OFFICE – The Licensed Unity Teacher Regional Representative and the Alternate Licensed Unity Teacher Regional Representative are elected for a four-year term and may be elected for two consecutive terms.

ARTICLE IX

FINANCES

SECTION 8.01 – SUPPORT – USCR will be supported by the tithes and love offerings of the members of this organization. Legacies, bequests, endowments and any excess income over expenses generated by any Regional retreat or activity will be deposited through the Treasurer. A Finance Team will be established for investments and fiscal operations.

SECTION 8.02 – CONTRACTS – All contracts approved by the Board must be signed by an officer of the Board.

SECTION 8.03 – SIGNATURES – The Treasurer, Accountant, and other approved by the Board are authorized to sign checks for approved business transactions.

ARTICLE X

DISSOLUTION

SECTION 9.01 – Should this corporation dissolve; all property and funds remaining after the payment of the debts of the Corporation will be delivered to the Association of Unity Churches International (DBA: Unity Worldwide Ministries), a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Georgia, for religious purposes. Such funds or property will be for the use and benefit of the Association as may be determined by the Board of Trustees. Upon reestablishment of a Regional organization of churches and centers within the geographical limits of the Unity South Central Region as set out by the Association of Unity Churches (DBA: Unity Worldwide Ministries), the Association will make available to said organization an amount of money equivalent to that received from the dissolution.

Should the Association of Unity Churches (DBA: Unity Worldwide Ministries) no longer exist, any assets of this corporation remaining after dissolution will be delivered to the Unity School of Christianity DBA Unity World Headquarters), Unity Village, Missouri. Should Unity School of Christianity no longer exist, any assets remaining of this corporation after dissolution will be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the

County in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purpose or to such organization or organizations, as said Court will determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for purposes set out in Section 5.01(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

ARTICLE XI

BYLAWS

SECTION 10 – Amendments to these Bylaws must be made by active members of USCR at the Annual Membership Meeting. Written notice setting forth the proposed amendments must be made available to all members at least thirty days prior to the required membership meeting. An affirmative vote of two-thirds (67%) of all members present and voting will be necessary to pass any amendment to these bylaws. These Bylaws fully supersede all previous Bylaws adopted by USCR.

Approved October 11, 2016 by the conference body

Becky Whitehead, President

David Howard, Secretary