

Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ
Guide to the Proposed Bylaw Amendments
October 2004

This guide is intended to assist delegates with understanding the amendments as proposed. It is background information only. All proposed amendments are to the Bylaws, not the Constitution.

Preamble: a technical change since the national setting no longer calls its agencies "instrumentalities", but "covenanted and affiliated ministries".

Article IG and Article IVB: These items are interrelated.

In **Article IV [Regions and Programs] B [Ministry Teams]**, the idea is to open the door to more ministry teams with more specificity of focus. Current ministry teams may choose to continue, or may dissolve or redistribute themselves into smaller, more focused areas of concern. After many years of attempting the utilization of larger teams with a more encompassing scope, it seems clear that it doesn't work as well as hoped. Much effort has been expended by a great many people on these teams, and there has been good accomplished. Yet, the size and scope seem to diffuse energy rather than focus it.

The provision that the Board of Directors will annually review and authorize the formation of teams simply ensures that there is a means of sunseting teams as interest or need subsides. It also provides a means of holistic oversight of the many ministries we hope will be spawned by this change.

Article IG becomes necessary because if we have a good many ministry teams develop, we do not want the meetings of the Conference to be out of balance between the delegates of local churches and those carrying out these ministries. Obviously, members of ministry teams would also be members of local churches, but there is a difference between a delegate elected by a local church and a person who has volunteered on a team because of a particular interest. Thus, empowering the chairperson (or designee) of each team is a means of ensuring their representation at meetings, but still not overwhelming the balance.

Article IIB4: Duties of the Treasurer

The new language makes the job description of the treasurer more realistic and still retains the major responsibilities essential to the role.

Article IIB6: a nomenclature change from yearbook to directory, as currently used.

Article III Board of Directors

A: Adding the phrase “no more than” is simply a prudent move suggested by the attorneys on the bylaws committee.

Under Voting Members:

A1. With the change to five regions, having two persons from each region balances regional representation with members at large and still keeps the board at a size that empowers it to be a decision-making body.

Note that the order of the other two sections has been reversed to facilitate language.

New **A3:** Instead of seven at large, there will be six (a function of the change to five regions increasing those representatives to ten). Following the printing of the proposed amendments, the committee realized the language could be clearer and they will propose the following as the new language:

The remainder shall be members-at-large to be elected for three-year staggered terms. The terms of the two representatives from the same Region shall not expire in the same year.

C2: adding the word “following” allows the Finance Committee to report only when they have met between meetings of the Board, rather than repeating reports.

Article IV: See commentary under Article I, above.

Article V Committees of the Conference:

This is an adjustment in the composition of the Nominating Committee because of the shift to five Regions. Prior composition had nine regional representatives; this proposal will have five from the regions and four at large, in part to ensure sufficient diversity.

Article VII Meetings of the Conference:

This amendment permits us officially to send notice of meetings via electronic means (fax or email) in those cases where possible.