

## **THE CONSITUTION**

United Christian Ministries at Kent State University, Inc.

Kent Ohio

Effective September 19, 1972

(Amended 2/10/79; 4/14/82;4/10/93; 1/8/97;6/17/98;4/10/00;12/20/02; 11/19/2010; 1/21/2011;5/3/13)

### **ARTICLE I – NAME AND LOCATION**

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be “United Christian Ministries at Kent State University, “incorporated as a non-profit corporation according to the laws of the State of Ohio.

Section 2: The principal office of this organization shall be located at 1435 East Main Street, Kent, Portage County, Ohio 44240- or such place as shall be designated by the Board (See Article IV).

### **ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

Section 1: The purpose for which this organization is formed is to nurture a Christian Community at Kent state University for the expression of Christian life in worship, study, fellowship, and service. Christian discipleship shall be encouraged by:

- A. Providing for effective growth and participation of the members of the campus Christian community in the life and work of the church.
- B. Increasing sensitivity to and understanding of the responsibility of the Christian community within the university as an institution.
- C. Increasing sensitivity to and understanding of the responsibilities to which God calls members of the academic community in the political, social, and economic world.
- D. Increasing sensitivity to interfaith cooperation, including education and programming to raise awareness of and fellowship with other traditions.

Section 2: Believing persons to be more important than programs: United Christian Ministries, under the Lordship of Christ, is committed to serving persons in their search for values and the development of a philosophy and way of life; and in their quest for identity for wholeness.

Section 3: Believing God is in the world and calls followers to serve there: United Christian Ministries accepts its basic responsibility to advance the Kingdom of God by all available means at home and abroad.

Section 4: Recognizing that in the church of Christ we are members of one body we must deepen our understanding and participation in the ecumenical and interfaith movements:

- A. Through common experience and expression in intercollegiate campus Christian movements, and through cooperation and sharing with other campus ministry efforts at Kent State University; and
- B. Through partnership with interfaith individuals and organizations concerned about the dignity of persons and God's justice and love for people everywhere.

Section 5: In accomplishing the above purpose United Christian Ministries shall endeavor to reflect the viewpoint of the participating denominations to serve their best interests and to cooperate with the University to provide an atmosphere of support and respect for all. To this end, United Christian Ministries has and will be a SAFE ZONE for all, free from harassment and harm.

Section 6: The purpose of this corporation shall be exclusively religious within the intendment of section 501 ( c ) of the 1954 Internal Revenue Code.

### **ARTICLE III – SPONSORSHIP**

Section 1: Denominations participating in the United Christian Ministries at Kent State University as continuing sponsors are those affiliated with the Ohio Board of Campus Ministries, and/or individual congregations or members thereof:

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Episcopal Church

Kent Friends

Presbyterian Church

United Church of Christ

United Methodist Church

Section 2: Upon approval of the Board continuing sponsorship shall be available to any Christian denomination or agency willing to share in the stated purposes of the United Christian Ministries as attested to by signing the Constitution of United Christian Ministries, and by contributing financially, sharing time, students, and Board members. In order to maintain continuing sponsorship status at least two of the three previously stated criteria must be met. (See Article IV)

Section 3: Upon a two thirds vote of the Board, Guest membership will be granted to congregations wishing to affiliate for two years. The affiliate status will allow for mutual discernment of sponsorship potential. At the end of the two years upon consent of the affiliate and approval of the Board by a two-thirds vote they will be recognized as continuing sponsors. Guest membership may also be extended to interfaith organizations.

Section 4: Board dissolution of continuing sponsors shall be considered upon inactivity based on Section 2 of Article III.

## **ARTICLE IV – THE BOARD**

Section 1: The Board shall be the governing unit for the United Christian Ministries at KSU incorporated and shall establish those policies and procedures necessary for the accomplishment of its purposes. It shall employ and supervise the professional staff necessary for planning and executing the programs and activities of the United Christian Ministries (See Article VI)

Section 2: The Board shall have the authority to adopt and establish by laws and make all rules and regulations deemed necessary for the management of its affairs in accord with the law and not inconsistent with the articles of incorporation; and trusteeship to buy, sell, receive, hold or dispose of, by gift, grant or other conveyance, any property, real or personal, with full power to mortgage, encumber or pledge said property, to borrow in the name of corporation and act for any purpose as may be permitted by law in furtherance of its objectives. (Note exceptions in Plan of Union: II. Properties)

Section 3: The Board shall consist of the following:

- A. Voting members (designated)
  - 1. One representative member, either lay or clergy, from in or near the city of Kent, from each sponsoring denomination for a term of at least two years.
  - 2. Up to sixteen additional members, all at large. These members preferably should be reflective of the denominations UCM represents or of the constituency served where and when possible. Ideally these members should include clergy as well as Kent State University staff and students. The major qualification is an interest in and a commitment to campus ministry.
  - 3. A treasurer elected annually to serve concurrently with the fiscal year being observed by the Board's budgeting and auditing procedures.
- B. Non-voting consultants (invited)
  - 1. One official representative from each state agency for United Ministries in Higher Education.
  - 2. Professional staff employed by the Board.
  - 3. The Board shall have the power to add other non-voting consultants as the need arises.
  - 4. Affiliate Guest Members, including interfaith representatives, will have voice but no vote until the process for full sponsorship has been agreed and completed by mutual decision.
- C. At-large members shall serve two-year terms, renewable as needed at annual elections.
- D. A Board member absent without excuse or notice for two (2) of the regular meetings of the Board within a 12-month period will be considered to have resigned and may be replaced upon recommendation of the Personnel Committee and action of the Board.

Section 4: Meetings of the Board shall be held monthly during the academic year with the exceptions determined by the Board. One of the monthly meetings shall be designated at the Annual Meeting with no less than 14 days notice to members of the Board. Notice of the time and place of meetings shall be given by the Secretary.

Section 5: Special meetings and/or executive sessions may be called by the President or by petition of one-third of the voting members. A quorum of two-thirds shall be required.

Section 6: At its Annual Meeting the Board shall elect from its own membership the following officers: A President, a Vice-President, and a Secretary. A Treasurer shall be elected annually. This may be affected at the Annual meeting with the duties to start at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Section 7: Vacancies occurring among the at-large membership may be filled by action of the Board at any meeting.

Section 8: The Board shall be responsible for identifying, exploring, and developing funding avenues to provide for the program and work closely with the UCM director and staff to allow for coordinated efforts towards fund-raising for ministry. Funding strategies with our supporting churches and denominations, and improve visibility and image both on campus and in the community will be intentionally sought out. All committees shall meet annually.

#### **ARTICLE V- COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD**

Section 1: The Standing Committees of the Board shall consist of the following:

A. Strategy Committee

The Strategy Committee shall be responsible for developing goals and strategies for United Christian Ministries, for evaluating the work of the United Christian Ministries, and for making recommendations to the Board.

B. Property and Finance Committee

The Property and Finance Committee shall be responsible for preparing budgets to implement the strategy and programs approved by the property, equipment, transportation, office expense and given needs as they arise. It shall submit the approved budget to the appropriate agencies in harmony with the time schedule for the respective communions, and shall administer and review the funds and arrange for the financing of the United Christian Ministries. It shall conduct a bi- annual audit of the Treasurer's books at the conclusion of each fiscal year.

C. Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee shall screen and recommend persons for staff positions to the Board, as well as advise the President with respect to the appointment of voting members to various committees. It shall serve further as a nominating committee by presenting a slate of nominees for various offices of the Board at the Annual Meeting. This slate shall be made public at least fourteen days prior to the Annual Meeting. It shall also confer with the program staff providing opportunity for counseling on matters pertaining to the staff members' job descriptions, salary, travel expense, vacation, refresher courses, housing, and other matters related to the effectiveness, comfort, and well being of the staff member (s) and family, and shall make appropriate recommendations to the Board.

Section 2: Committee Membership

- A. Every voting member of the Board shall be a member of one of the Standing Committees.
- B. The President shall appoint the chairperson and respective members to each of the three Standing Committees.
- C. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and shall vote only in case of a tie.
- D. All committees shall meet at least annually.

Section 3: When necessary, ad hoc committees may be constituted by action of The Board.

**ARTICLE VI – STAFF**

Such staff as are deemed required by the Board shall be employed by the Board recognizing the procedures of their respective denominations. Such staff as are deemed desirable by the Board shall be employed under contract by the Board for the purpose of planning and executing the programs and activities of the United Christian Ministries at Kent State University.

**ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS**

This constitution may be amended by a majority favorable vote of the members eligible to vote at any meeting of the Board, provided the amendment has been submitted in writing to the Board members at least thirty days prior to the meeting of the Board at which the suggested amendment is to be considered.

### **ARTICLE VIII – DISSOLUTION**

Any and all funds which may from time to time be contributed by sponsors or by other individuals shall vest in the corporation without regard to the proration of the amount of gift by each sponsor and no title shall remain in the donor and the same shall constitute gifts without the necessary or requirement of accounting to the donor. In the event this corporation is dissolved or becomes extinct by reason of disbursal of its Board or abandonment of the work or for other causes, such property as it may have, both real and personal, may be sold or disposed of as the Board may direct after payment of all existing indebtedness, or obligations to the corporation. Any assets thereafter remaining shall be divided or disbursed among sponsors in direct proportion to the aggregate contributions paid by such sponsors to the capital funds of the corporation. All sponsoring members shall share in the dissolution of the corporation whether they are members at the time of dissolution or not, as long as they have at any time contributed to capital funds. Individual Board members shall have no right to share in the distribution, such right having been specifically released and waived. Following dissolution, the Board shall continue in office for the purpose of liquidation of all indebtedness and winding up in the business of the corporation in accordance with the state law.

### **ARTICLE IX – ENDOWMENT DISSOLUTION**

(Adopted April 14, 1982)  
(Amended March 10, 1993)  
(Amended May 3, 2013)

Any funds held in the Endowment Account shall, in the event of United Christian Ministries' dissolution, be distributed at the direction of the United Christian Ministries Board.