

## 1. Identification

### a. Name

The name of the organization shall be South Central Unity Churches Association, Inc., dba Unity South Central Region hereafter referred to as *USCR*. USCR is registered as a non-profit corporation of the State of Colorado and governed by the laws of the State of Colorado.

### b. Definitions

Association of Unity Churches International dba Unity Worldwide Ministries shall be referred to as *UWM*. Unity School of Christianity dba Unity World Headquarters shall be referred to as *UWH*. Members shall be current and in good standing with UWM, UWH, and USCR and shall be referred to as *members*. Member ministries shall be current and in good standing with UWM, UWH, and USCR and shall be referred to as *member ministries*.

### c. Jurisdiction

USCR includes the states of Arkansas, Colorado, parts of Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, parts of Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Wyoming, and other Unity ministries who petition and are approved for membership by the USCR Board.

### d. Leadership

We acknowledge the Divine Consciousness expressed in Jesus Christ and other master teachers in ourselves as our inspiration in leadership. In all things, we follow the guidance of the indwelling Divine as taught by many, using the Bible and other Scriptures as our references. We are inspired by the evolution of our Consciousness as we challenge ourselves to follow Divine Perfection.

## e. Principles

We are following Unity's five basic Principles as defined and described hereafter:

- i. There is only one Presence and one Power in our lives and in the universe—God, Goodness, Omnipotence.
- ii. We are God expressing such inherent Goodness.
- iii. Our way of thinking shapes our life experiences.
- iv. Prayer, meditation, denials, and affirmations are the tools we use to expand our Spiritual Understanding.
- v. Knowing these Principles is not enough. We must act upon and live them every day.

## f. Purpose

Our purpose is to love and care for our members and member ministries in support of their growth and evolution toward their Divine Fulfillment. We also represent regional interests within, and contribute to, the greater Unity movement.

## 2. Corporation

### a. Principal and Other Offices

The principal executive office of USCR shall be fixed by the board of trustees. USCR may also have offices at such other places as the board of trustees may designate from time to time.

### b. Record Keeping

- i. Records of membership, finances, donations, corporate minutes, and other records required by law or as designated by the board of trustees shall be maintained at the USCR's principal office, any of its other designated locations, or at a designated online storage location approved by the board of trustees.

- ii. The minutes of meetings of the board of trustees, ministry teams, or any other team established in the interest of USCR shall be considered a confidential record of proceedings and as such be protected. A request from members or member ministries to examine such records of proceedings with proper purpose, as determined by the board of trustees, shall be approved by same, allowing for the redaction of confidential and non-pertinent information.

## c. Fiscal Responsibilities

- i. *Fiscal Year.* The fiscal year shall be determined by the board of trustees.
- ii. Financial reports shall be generated and reviewed by the board of trustees.
- iii. An internal or external audit may be requested by the board of trustees or membership in alignment with their rights as outlined further in these bylaws.

## d. Dissolution

In the case of USCR's dissolution, all property and funds remaining after resolution of any debts shall be delivered to UWM for religious and educational purposes. Such funds or property shall be for the use and benefit of UWM as may be determined by their board of trustees. Should UWM no longer exist, any assets remaining of USCR shall be delivered to UWH.

## 3. Membership

### a. Eligibility

Those eligible for membership shall be within USCR's jurisdiction as defined by §1.b. and §1.c. Such individuals and organizations shall include:

- i. Any Unity ministry, represented by a designated delegate.
- ii. Any individual who is an ordained or licensed Unity minister.
- iii. Any Licensed Unity Teacher.
- iv. Any individual who is placed into the leadership position of a Unity ministry.

## b. Power and Authority

Members shall have the power and authority to do the following at any duly called membership meeting according to the meeting's agenda:

- i. Make or second motions, speak in debate, and vote on any matters officially brought to the attention of the membership;
- ii. Approve by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote amendments to these bylaws;
- iii. Elect members to the board of trustees;
- iv. Elect members to the nominating committee;
- v. Review the financial reports as provided by the board of trustees;
- vi. Remove by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote any or all trustee(s) from the board of trustees provided written notice of the action was sent to all members in writing thirty (30) days prior to the meeting;
- vii. Override by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote any action of the board of trustees, provided written notice of the action was sent to all members in writing thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

## c. Voting

- i. Any eligible individual as defined by §3.a. shall have one vote.
- ii. Both proxy and absentee voting are specifically prohibited.

# 4. Membership Meetings

## a. General Provisions

- i. *Date, Time, Location.* The date, time, and location of duly called membership meetings shall be determined by the board of trustees. Such meetings may be in person, virtual, or both.
- ii. *Quorum.* Those present, eligible individuals as defined by §3.a. shall constitute the quorum for the transaction of business at any duly called membership meeting.
- iii. *Presiding Officer.* The president of the board of trustees shall serve as the presiding officer of the annual membership meeting unless the president relinquishes the chair to another member of the board of trustees, a professional

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registered parliamentarian, or to a representative approved by the board of trustees.

- iv. *Member Rights.* In addition to the membership rights outline in §3.a., members shall have the power and authority to request in writing, no later than thirty (30) days prior to any duly called meeting, that a specified matter be placed on the agenda of any membership meeting.
- v. *Rights to Speak of Non-Members.* Non-members' right to speak may be extended by the presiding officer or by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of the membership.

## b. Annual Membership Meeting

- i. There shall be one annual membership meeting each year.
- ii. *Notice.* The date, time, and location of the annual membership meeting shall be announced at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting. This announcement shall also include approved nominees for any available board of trustee positions.

## c. Special Membership Meetings

- i. *Request.* Special membership meetings shall be requested by:
  - 1. a majority vote of the board of trustees; or
  - 2. a petition signed by no less than fifty (50) members and submitted to the president of the board of trustees.
- ii. *Call.* The special membership meeting shall be called within sixty (60) days of receipt of request.
- iii. *Notice.* The date, time, and location of a special membership meeting shall be announced at least fifteen (15) days in advance of the meeting.

# 5. Governance

## a. Board of Trustees

- i. All persons serving on the board of trustees must be eligible members as defined by §3.a.

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- ii. The board of trustees shall consist of a minimum of four members, holding the offices of the president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. No trustee shall hold more than one office unless per interim until the next duly called membership meeting.
- iii. There shall be a minimum of three ministers on the board of trustees.
- iv. There shall not be more than one trustee affiliated with any one member ministry.
- v. No trustee shall be affiliated with each other via familial or domestic relations.

## b. Officers

- i. *President.* The president shall preside over all board and membership meetings, serve as an ex-officio member of all ministry teams except the nominating committee, be a signatory to any legally required documents, attend to all official business as directed by the board of trustees, and represent USCR as its chief executive officer. The president shall not simultaneously hold any other office.
- ii. *Vice-President.* The vice-president shall assist the president in the performance of their duties, perform such duties in their absence, and succeed to that position in a case of vacancy.
- iii. *Secretary.* The secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, an accurate record of the minutes of all board and membership meetings, hold in custody and be responsible for all reports, contracts, other legal papers, and keep the meeting minute books. The secretary shall be a signatory when approved by the board of trustees.
- iv. *Treasurer.* The treasurer shall be custodian of all funds, pay out or cause to be paid out funds authorized by the board of trustees, see that all expenditures are evidenced by proper receipts and vouchers, keep or cause to be kept a record of all financial transactions, submit financial reports at each regular board meeting, and submit a financial report of the previous fiscal year for presentation during the annual membership meeting.

## c. Representatives

- i. *Regional Representative.* A member of the board of trustees shall be appointed as the regional representative to represent the region's members.

- ii. *Licensed Unity Teacher Representative.* A member of the board of trustees shall be appointed as the Licensed Unity Teacher (LUT) representative to represent the region's LUTs.
- iii. *Youth and Family Ministry Representative.* A member of the board of trustees shall be appointed as the Youth and Family Ministry (YFM) representative to represent the region's YFMs.

## d. Terms

- i. Elected trustees shall hold office for three (3) years.
- ii. No elected trustee shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms without an interval of one (1) year between terms.
- iii. Elected trustees shall take office at the first board meeting after their election.
- iv. Trustees who serve on the board more than half of a term shall be credited with having served a full term.

## e. Elections

- i. The election of the board of trustees shall be conducted by ballot or its equivalent at the annual membership meeting if there is more than one (1) nominee for each available position; if there is only one (1) nominee for an available position, the membership shall elect a trustee by simple majority vote.
- ii. Ballots shall be counted by at least two (2) members present at the duly called membership meeting when the election was held who are neither members of the board of trustees or the nominating committee or affiliated with any of such members; the ballot count shall be overseen by a member of the nominating committee.
- iii. The results of the ballot count shall be presented before the conclusion of the duly called membership meeting when the election was held.
- iv. The available positions shall be filled according to who received the highest number of ballots. Those elected by majority vote shall fill the position in timely order of their election.

## f. Nominating committee

- i. All persons serving on the nominating committee must be eligible members as defined by §3.a.
- ii. The nominating committee shall consist of a minimum of three members, composed of at least one (1) board of trustees liaison.
- iii. There shall not be more than one nominating committee member affiliated with any one member ministry.
- iv. No nominating committee members shall be affiliated with each other via familial or domestic relations.
- v. The nominating committee chair shall be appointed by the nominating committee members.
- vi. The term of any nominating committee member other than a board of trustees liaison shall be limited to one (1) year. No nominating committee member other than a board of trustees liaison shall serve more than two (2) terms without an interval of one (1) year between terms.
- vii. No nominating committee member shall be eligible for election or appointment to the board of trustees while serving on the nominating committee.
- viii. The nominating committee shall vet and recommend at least one (1) potential and qualified nominee per opening according to the guidance of the board of trustees in due time as requested by the board of trustees.
- ix. The board of trustees shall review for approval the nominating committee's recommendations for the election or appointment of trustees.
- x. If an interim board is necessary, the nominating committee shall establish such interim board prior to the next legally required board meeting.

## g. Resignation/Removal

- i. Any trustee may resign at any time.
- ii. Any trustee may be removed by a majority vote of the remaining trustees due to unnotified absences from three (3) consecutive regular board meetings, failure to fulfill the duties of the office, or disruptive/unethical behavior.



## h. Vacancies

- i. Any vacancy on the board of trustees shall be filled by appointment as outlined in §5.f.ix.
- ii. Appointments to the board of trustees shall be ratified by a majority vote of the membership during the annual membership meeting.
- iii. Appointed board of trustees shall complete the term of the filled position.