

Revised October 10, 2011. Accepted and approved in April 2012. The Bylaws will be reviewed every five (5) years. They are currently under review.

BYLAWS OF CHURCH WOMEN UNITED IN OHIO, INC.

Church Women United is an organized movement that brings church women together in a visible community to witness to their faith in Jesus Christ and, enabled by the Holy Spirit, to go out into every community and nation as instruments of reconciling love.

Church Women United (Protestant, Orthodox, Roman Catholic and other Christian women) may express the ecumenical dimensions of their faith and work. By affirming the richness of their diversity of age, lifestyles, socio-economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds and Christian traditions and by sharing equally in all aspects of the work, women are enabled to achieve their common goals and to build a covenantal community of worship, study and cooperative action.

ARTICLE I – DEFINITION

Section 1. Church Women United in Ohio is incorporated, pursuant to the Membership Corporations Law of the State of Ohio, under the name of Church Women United in Ohio, Inc., hereinafter referred to as CWUO.

Section 2. CWUO is one of three parts which make up the movement. These three parts - Local, State, National – are interdependent and interrelated and constitute the movement that is Church Women United.

ARTICLE II – NAME The name of this State Unit shall be Church Women United in Ohio.

ARTICLE III – PURPOSE AND GOALS CWUO is an ecumenical movement of Christian women, for the purpose of witnessing to their unity and faith in Jesus Christ through worship, study, action, celebration and global relationships.

The goals are:

- to seek to deepen commitment to Jesus Christ and His Church;
- to nurture and encourage church women in local communities to initiate the formation of new units;

- to maintain on a State basis, other relationships that assist in fulfilling the aims and purposes of the movement;
- to study, speak and act on conditions and issues in the world, working toward a just, peaceful and caring society;
- to be a liaison between National and Local Units to interpret concerns and interest of one to the other;
- to offer creative help to Local Units in observing Celebration Days, namely: World Community Day, Human Rights Day, May Friendship Day.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Section 1. CWUO is open to all Christian women who wish to manifest their unity through fellowship, study, cooperative action and financial support.

Section 2. Church Women United shall be composed of Local Units, organized and governed by their own by-laws but not in conflict with National or State By-Laws.

Section 3. A Local Unit in good standing shall be a unit which contributes financially to the State Unit, with an annual pledge and one-half of the May Friendship Day offering.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

Section 1. The elected officers of the State Unit shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Coordinators of Planning Groups: Ecumenical Action, Ecumenical Celebrations, Ecumenical Development, Communications, Nominations Chair, and Area Chairpersons. These officers shall perform their duties as described in the job descriptions adopted by the Executive Board.

Section 2. Officers shall be elected by the Leader's Council to serve a two (2) year term, or until their successors are elected. They shall be installed and assume their duties at the close of the State Assembly following the Leader's Council at which they were elected.

Section 3. Officers shall be eligible for re-election to the same office for one additional term. After serving two terms in the same office said officer may be elected to serve in a

different office, The Treasurer may serve a maximum of four (4) consecutive terms or eight (8) years, which shall be consistent with Article VI, Section 3, as set forth in these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. The Executive Board shall consist of elected and appointed members

A. Elected members shall be the Officers, Area Chairs and all members of the Nominating Committee.

B. Appointed members shall be the Finance Chair, the Newsletter Editor, the Spiritual Enrichment Chair and such other committees, standing or special. They are appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Board,

C. Vacancies shall be filled by the President with the approval of the Executive Board from recommendations made by the Nominating Committee

D. Any member of the National Executive Council, who resides in Ohio, shall be An ex-officio member and shall not be counted in the quorum.

Section 2.

A. Elected members shall serve two years, or until their successors are elected, and shall be eligible to serve one additional term in the same office.

B. After serving two (2) terms in the same office, they may be elected to serve in a different office.

C. Board members missing three (3) consecutive unexcused Board meetings will automatically forfeit their position on the Board.

D. Vacancies shall be filled by the President with the approval of the Executive Board from recommendations made by the Nominating Committee.

Section 3. Members of the Executive Board, elected and appointed, shall not be eligible to serve on the Board for more than four consecutive terms or eight (8) years. Any member who has served one year of a term shall be considered to have served a full term.

Section 4. The Executive Board shall meet at least four (4) times each year, February, May, August and October, at the call of the President or by any two members of the Executive Board.

Section 5. A quorum for the meetings of the Executive Board shall be a simple majority of the total membership.

Section 6. The Executive Board shall:

A. have general supervision of the affairs of the organization between meetings of the Leader's Council;

B. establish and maintain relationships with National and Local Units;

C. approve policies and official statements of the State Unit;

D. secure adequate financial provisions for State and National programs;

E. review the proposed budget as presented by the Finance Committee;

F. develop appropriate relationships with religious and secular groups as a means for achieving goals of the State Unit of Church Women United and

G. approve the appointments recommended by the President.

Section 7. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. It shall:

A. have the authority to act in emergency situations between meetings of the Executive Board

B. recommend policy to the Executive Board;

C. The Nominating Committee

Section 1. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five (5) members. The Leader's Council shall elect the Chair.

A. A representative from each Area will be elected in the appropriate year at the Area Meetings by its members and will take office immediately.

B. It shall be the duty of the committee to nominate to the Leader's Council one Candidate for each position to be filled and with the approval of the Executive Board shall establish the procedure for securing nominations.

C. The Nominating Committee will present the Slate of Officers to the Executive Board at the February Meeting. Upon approval, it shall be mailed to the members of the Leader's Council thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting

Section 2. The Finance Committee shall consist of not less than three (3) members, one of whom shall be the Treasurer. It shall be appointed by the President, with the approval of the Executive Board. The Finance Committee shall:

A. prepare the annual budget for review by the Executive Board and adoption by the Leader's Council;

B. review, at least quarterly, the expenditures under the approved budget, in light of available or anticipated income, and recommend to the Executive Board any corrective action; review and make recommendations on any non-budgeted financial requests brought before the Executive Board and submit a bi-annual outside-audited financial report to the Executive Board for approval which will be presented at the Leader's Council.

C. act as the Constitution/By-Laws Committee and D. meet at the call of the President.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

Section 1. A State Assembly shall be held annually at a time and place designated by the Executive Board. It shall be open to all Christian women to provide opportunities for fellowship, study, training, and witnessing, expressing concerns and acting in response to State, National and International issues. Voting privileges shall be limited to members of the Leader's Council who are in good standing (See Article VIII, Section 1).

Section 2. Area meetings shall be held every fall to provide opportunity for local Church Women United Units to participate in area-wide events for the purpose of training CWU leadership, sharing information and inspiration, and providing opportunities to experience community as an ecumenical group of Christian women. The Coordinator of Ecumenical Development, in consultation with the Executive Board and Area Chairs, shall be responsible for scheduling and planning these area-wide events.

ARTICLE VIII - LEADER'S COUNCIL

Section 1. The Leader's Council shall consist of:

- A. all elected and appointed members of the Executive Board;
- B. presidents, or their designees, of Local Units who have fulfilled their financial obligations to the State Unit for the previous fiscal year and
- C. denominational representatives or their designees.

Section 2. The Leader's Council shall meet annually at a time and place designated by the Executive Board. Special meetings shall be called by the President of the Executive Board.

Section 3. A quorum shall consist of those present and eligible to vote.

Section 4. A Leader's Council shall:

- A. elect the officers and other elected members of the Executive Board;
- B. adopt the annual budget;
- C. amend the By-Laws;
- D. hear reports from members of the Executive Board;
- E. explore issues of concern to Christian women;
- F. identify needs;
- G. make recommendations to the Executive Board;
- H. exchange information related to Church Women United and
- I. adopt resolutions.

ARTICLE IX - COMMITTEES

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B. It shall be the duty of the committee to nominate to the Leader's Council one Candidate for each position to be filled and with the approval of the Executive Board shall establish the procedure for securing nominations.

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A. prepare the annual budget for review by the Executive Board and adoption by the Leader's Council;

B. review, at least quarterly, the expenditures under the approved budget, in light of available or anticipated income, and - recommend to the Executive Board any corrective action;- review and make recommendations on any non-budgeted financial requests brought before the Executive Board and-submit a bi-annual outside-audited financial report to the Executive Board for approval which will be presented at the Leader's Council.

ARTICLE X-FISCAL YEAR The fiscal year shall be January 1st through December 31st.

ARTICLE XI – DISSOLUTION

- In the event of the dissolution of the State Unit, any funds remaining in the Treasury, after the payment of all outstanding debts, shall be forwarded to the National Office of Church Women United for support of the movement.

- In the event of dissolution of a Local Unit, any funds remaining in the treasury after payment of all outstanding debts, shall be forwarded to the State President for the support of the movement

ARTICLE XII – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY The rules contained in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, shall govern the organization in all cases in which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-Laws, and any special rules of order that may be adopted.

ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS These By-Laws may be amended:

A. by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members present ??? at the Annual Meeting of the Leader's Council provided that the notice of the amendment Has been submitted in writing and sent to each Council voting member at least fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting and

B. by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members present??? at the Annual Meeting of the Leader's Council, provided that the amendment be submitted in writing and read at one session and voted on at the next session of the Leader's Council.

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