

CONSTITUTION
OUTDOOR MINISTRIES ASSOCIATION
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

adopted at Consult XV – Silver Lake Conference Center, Connecticut
March 6, 2005

I. NAME

The name of the organization shall be **Outdoor Ministries Association, United Church of Christ** hereafter referred to as **OMA - UCC**.

II PURPOSE

Recognizing and affirming Outdoor Ministries as a significant partner in the ministry and future of the church, the mission of the Outdoor Ministries Association, United Church of Christ is to advise, connect and advocate on behalf of the network of persons responsible for Outdoor Ministries in the United Church of Christ so that we may work together to meet the needs and find common solutions, deepening and broadening the understanding of intradependence of the whole of God's Creation on behalf of the whole church.

III. HEADQUARTERS

The headquarters of the Outdoor Ministries Association, United Church of Christ, will be determined by the Board of Directors of OMA - UCC.

IV MEMBERSHIP

A. The members of OMA – UCC may be any Outdoor Ministry Site and/or program and their paid and volunteer staffs, Conference, Association, local church, or individual who agrees with the stated purpose of the organization and pays annual dues.

B. Board of Directors

A board of fourteen Directors will be elected by the membership meeting at the biennial Consult. Each of the six regions of the UCC will be represented by two members from each region. Two at large members will also be elected for a total of 14 members.

V. OPERATIONS

The day-to-day operations of the OMA - UCC will be vested in a Board of Directors and or its executive committee made up of its officers. The operational period will be from Consult to Consult, meeting biennially.

VI. BIENNIAL MEETING

1. OMA - UCC will have a biennial meeting, called Consult, in the odd numbered year to be held in or near the month of March. A notice of the meeting will be mailed to all members at their last known address at least ninety (90) days in advance of the meeting, along with a request for nominations to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors, and any proposed Constitution or By-Law changes.
2. There will be no proxy votes.
3. The Board of Directors will meet in the even numbered year to conduct any necessary business, hear committee reports (including plans for the Consult for the following year). The place and time of this meeting will be made known to all the membership and a report of such made available to all members.
4. Special meetings may be called by the Board of Directors or by two or more officers.

VII. FOUNDERS

The founders of OMA - UCC are those persons who were present at Consult X held at Temple Hills, Ohio, March 25-29, 1995. Their names are listed as an addendum to this Constitution.

VIII. DUES

The dues of the OMA - UCC will be set by the Board of Directors. Dues will be evaluated biennially and reported to the biennial meeting of the OMA - UCC membership.

IX. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution will be by two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members present and voting at the Consult meeting. The membership shall be notified and provided with the text of the proposed changes at least sixty (60) days in advance of the Consult meeting.

BY LAWS
OUTDOOR MINISTRIES ASSOCIATION
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

I. THE OBJECTIVES OF OMA - UCC ARE;

To provide a formal structure that will facilitate networking among United Church of Christ people who have an interest in Outdoor Ministries:

- A. This organization will provide:
1. communication between Conferences, Outdoor Ministry programs, and personnel
 2. resources in support of professional training and standards in Outdoor Ministries
 3. mutual sharing of ideas for programming and operations
 4. alliances with other entities that would improve expand and support Outdoor Ministries in the UCC
 5. a means of recognizing individuals and organizations that have made lasting contributions to Outdoor Ministries

II MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership is a voluntary affiliation with OMA – UCC to provide a community to promote Outdoor Ministries in the United Church of Christ. All members have a voice at any meeting of OMA - UCC.
- C. Program Members include all Outdoor Ministry Sites and Outdoor Ministry programs (and members of their paid and volunteer staffs) that may or may not be located at a specific site. All Program Members shall agree to the stated purpose of the organization, shall pay annual dues, and shall have a formal relationship with a local church, Association, or Conference of the UCC.
- B. Individual Memberships are available to any person who may not be associated with a Program Member's site or program. Individual members shall agree to the stated purpose and pay annual dues to the organization.
- C. All members have a voice at any meeting of OMA - UCC.
- D. Only members designated as electors by their conference will vote. Each Conference may designate one elector for the conference and one elector for each site associated with the Conference. If a Conference does not have a physical site associated with the Conference it may designate one elector to represent the Conference and one elector to represent the Outdoor Ministries Program of the Conference.

III. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. The Board of Directors will be comprised of fourteen (14) members, seven (7) to be elected by the general membership at each Consult.

B. Two members will be nominated from each region. Two At Large members will be nominated by the Board of Directors.

C. Nominations from each region can be submitted to the Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors by any member by September 1st of the year prior to Consult. All nominations will be sent to the region of residence where each region will confirm the nominations and may submit two (2) to the Board of Directors for election at Consult. All nominees must be members of OMA - UCC. All members of the Board of Directors must hold a current membership.

D. Members of the Board of Directors will be elected to a four year term and may succeed themselves for one additional term. Vacancies will be filled by appointment of the Board of Directors, using names submitted to it by the nominating committee.

E. Director's terms will begin and end at the conclusion of the board of directors meeting immediately following consult. Directors elected at the consult will be invited and encouraged to attend the post consult board meeting with voice but without vote

F. Should any Covenanted Ministry of the UCC wish to send a representative to any meeting of OMA - UCC, they shall function in a participating fashion with the Board of Directors granting voice without vote.

G. Directors may resign at anytime with a written notice to the President. Directors will be deemed to have forfeited their position if they have unexcused absences of two consecutive meetings of the Board of Directors.

IV OFFICERS

A. At the first meeting after elections at the Consult, the Board of Directors shall elect from among its membership a President, President Elect, Secretary and Treasurer.

B. The President will conduct meetings in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order, Revised and will insure that all Directors are appointed to a standing committee.

C. The secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes of each meeting of OMA - UCC and the Board of Directors and shall make available said minutes to the membership.

D. The treasurer shall collect and record all monies, pay bills as directed by the Board of Directors, notify members of annual dues (due in January of each year) and maintain a roster of current membership and serve on the "Finance Committee" and shall be bondable.

The treasurer will provide the membership with an internal audit each year and shall arrange for an external audit to be completed at the end of his/her term as treasurer.

V COMMITTEES

A. The Board of Directors shall organize committees and task forces as needed. All committees

and task forces shall be encouraged to bring to their respective group any persons as it may see fit as having a necessary and valuable contribution to make toward the goals and purposes of OMA - UCC.

VI. MEETINGS

1. The Board of Directors shall endeavor to meet at least once in the year that the Consult does not meet at a time and place determined by the Board and at least twice in the year of the Consult, once just prior to Consult and once just after Consult. The Consult will be held at various sites within the bounds of the United Church of Christ to promote each region and their unique opportunities.

VII. QUORUM

A quorum for the Board of Directors shall be two-thirds (2/3) of its members excluding vacancies.