

# **Constitution of the Western Plains District Church of the Brethren**

## **ARTICLE I. NAME AND BOUNDARIES**

The name of this corporation is “Church of the Brethren, Western Plains District, Inc.” (hereinafter “the District”).

The District embraces all of the congregations of the Church of the Brethren in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and northern New Mexico,<sup>1</sup> and any additional area that may be properly designated by the District Conference and approved by the Standing Committee of Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren (hereinafter “Annual Conference,” a denominational level gathering not to be confused with the annually convened District Conference).

## **ARTICLE II. INCORPORATION**

Western Plains District is incorporated under and pursuant to the Religious and Charitable Corporations Act of Kansas<sup>2</sup> and is registered as a foreign corporation in Colorado and Nebraska. The principal place of business of this corporation is McPherson, Kansas, or such other place as the Leadership Team may determine. The affairs of the corporation are managed by the Leadership Team. The Leadership Team Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and District Executive are the legal officers of the corporation. All legal documents shall be signed by at least two of the officers.

## **ARTICLE III. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Western Plains District is to coordinate and promote the religious and business activities of the Church of the Brethren in the District and of other religious organizations as they relate to the activities of the Church of the Brethren in the District consistent with the polity of the Church of the Brethren as established by Annual Conference.

## **ARTICLE IV. MEMBER CHURCHES**

All Church of the Brethren congregations that are recognized by the District as organized churches are member churches of the District. Church of the Brethren Fellowships who have been recognized by District Conference shall also be considered as a “member church.”

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1. Even though this constitution recites that Northern New Mexico is part of our service area, we do not have corporate registration in New Mexico. The only relevant church of the Brethren registration on New Mexico records is Tokahookaadi, and as of this writing it has been revoked for non-filing.
  2. The former constitution recited that we were organized under the religious corporations acts of all three states. This language above is more accurate with respect to our legal status in each state. At the time of this writing, checks of corporate records in both Nebraska and Colorado show that our filings may be behind although we’re still reported as “in good standing.” We have different registered agents in each of the three states, but that is a statutory requirement. Our original articles of incorporation in Kansas (1962) recite that our “trustees” shall be no fewer than 9 and no more than 25. The leadership team as now constituted is at the lower threshold of that range.

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#### **ARTICLE V. PROPERTY AND ASSETS**

All District property will be held in trust by the Leadership Team for the teaching and dissemination of the gospel of Jesus Christ, according to the beliefs, practices, and polity of the Church of the Brethren, as set forth by Annual Conference.

The Leadership Team will take title to property on behalf of the District received by gift or bequest and hold the property in trust, as is also the case of property purchased or currently held by the District.

#### **ARTICLE VI. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The District Conference, which meets annually, is the final authority of the District on policy, program, and procedure. The delegate body is composed of representatives of each Member church.

The Leadership Team manages and administers the work of the district as authorized by the District Conference and employs executive personnel to implement the work of the Leadership Team.

#### **ARTICLE VII. RELATED INSTITUTIONS**

The District may enter into relationship with separately organized and incorporated Church of the Brethren institutions such as camps, retirement communities, colleges, and other institutions of interest to the District. In each instance there shall be mutual agreement between the District and the institution as to the nature of the relationship.

#### **ARTICLE VIII. FISCAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL YEAR**

The organizational and program year is from the close of one annual District Conference through the close of the next annual District Conference. The Fiscal year is January 1 through December 31.

**ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be amended by a 2/3 majority vote of the delegates present at a District Conference. Proposed amendments must be distributed to the delegates at least thirty days before the delegate body convenes for business.

Adopted by District Conference, July 29, 2017