

CONSTITUTION
OUTDOOR MINISTRIES ASSOCIATION (OMA)
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Adopted at Consult XV - Silver Lake Conference Center, Connecticut, March 6, 2005
Amended at Consult XVI- Merom Camp and Conference Center, Indiana, March 5, 2007
Proposed N-Sid-Sen November 2009

- I. **NAME** - The name of the organization shall be Outdoor Ministries Association, United Church of Christ hereafter referred to as OMA - UCC.
- II. **MISSION STATEMENT** - 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 so that we may work together to meet their needs and find common solutions, deepening and broadening the understanding of the intra-dependence 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 faith based organization: conference, association, program center, professional, or volunteer that agrees with the mission of the organization and pays the annual fees.
 - B. Board of Directors - A board of ten (10) Directors will be elected by the general membership. At least Seven (7) of which must be members of the United Church of Christ.
- V. **OPERATIONS** - The day-to-day operations of the OMA - UCC will be vested in a Board of Directors.
- VI. **MEETINGS**
 - A OMA - UCC will have at least a biennial meeting in odd numbered years. A notice of this meeting will be mailed to all members at their last known address at least ninety (90) days in advance of the meeting.
 - B The Board of Directors will meet at least annually to conduct any necessary business. The place and time of this annual meeting will be made known to all the membership and a report of such made available to all members.
 - C. Special meetings may be called by the Board of Directors as necessary.
- 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. **FEES** - The fees of the OMA - UCC will be set by the Board of Directors. Fees will be evaluated and billed annually and reported to the OMA - UCC membership.
- IX. **AMENDMENTS** - Amendments to the Constitution will be by two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members present at the biennial gathering. The membership shall be notified and provided with the text of the proposed changes at least sixty (60) days in advance of that meeting.

BY LAWS
OUTDOOR MINISTRIES ASSOCIATION
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (OMA - UCC)
Proposed N-Sid-Sen March 30, 2009

- I. **THE OBJECTIVES OF OMA - UCC ARE:**
 - A. To communicate between Conferences, Outdoor Ministry programs, and personnel.
 - B. Provide resources in support of professional training and standards in Outdoor Ministries.
 - C. A mutual sharing of ideas for programming and operations.
 - D. Facilitate alliances with other entities that would improve expand and support Outdoor Ministries in the UCC and the wider church.
 - E. A means of recognizing individuals and organizations that have made lasting contributions to Outdoor Ministries.

- II. **MEMBERSHIP** - Membership is available to any United Church of Christ and/or faith based Organization: Conference, Association, Program Center, professional or volunteer. All current memberships will have one voice and one vote at any general membership meeting.

- III. **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** - A board of ten (10) Directors will represent the general membership, four of which will serve as the officers.
 - A. The Board of Directors will direct a nominating committee, populated from a cross section of the general OMA membership and chaired by an outgoing Board member, to nominate a slate of prospective members at the general membership meeting held in odd numbered years. All nominees must hold a current membership. Special consideration should be given to diversity when considering nominations.
 - B. Members of the Board of Directors will be elected to a four year term and may succeed themselves for one additional term.
 - C. Director's terms will begin January 1st of even numbered years and end on December 31st of odd numbered years at the completion of their term.
 - D. The OMA Board can appoint general members to the Board to fill vacant terms, until the next election cycle.
 - E. 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. Annually the Board of Directors shall elect from among its membership a President, Program Chair, Secretary and Treasurer at the final Board Meeting of the year for a one year renewable term. All officers must be employed by an OMA-UCC member site or program and/or be a member of a UCC Congregation.
 - B. The President will conduct meetings in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order, Revised and will ensure that all Directors are included in the life of the Board's work. In addition the President shall maintain and enhance the OMA relationships within the National UCC Church.
 - C. The Program Chair shall plan and oversee all program gatherings of the full membership of OMA.
 - D. 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.
 - E. The Treasurer shall establish and present an annual budget, collect and record all monies, pay bills as directed by the Board of Directors, notify members of annual fees, and maintain a roster of current membership.

- V. **COMMITTEES** - The Board of Directors shall organize and authorize committees and task forces as needed.

- VI. **MEETINGS** - The Board of Directors shall endeavor to meet face to face annually and may take action by phone, mail, and other electronic medium. All actions must be recorded.

- VII. **QUORUM** - A quorum for the Board of Directors shall be six (6).

VIII. AMENDMENTS - Amendments to the By-Laws will be by the majority vote of the OMA Board of Directors at any Board meeting **and are subject to ratification by vote of the general membership at the next general meeting.**