

Communities Together, Inc. By-Law Revision Team

Proposals for Communities Together, Inc. By-Law Changes for vote at 2024 Annual Mtg.

Rationale for revisions: The bylaws have not been revised for fifteen years. During that time, the landscape of our supporting congregations has been such that securing members for the Board, particularly clergy persons, has become a monumental task. Although the Board still actively seeks a balance of laypersons and clergy, as well as, working to maintain a robust Board of Directors, the revisions that are being proposed reflect the reality of this changing landscape.

Current:

- **Article IV – SUPPORTING CONGREGATIONS**

- **Section 1 – Supporting Congregations**

Christian Churches that support the mission and programs of Communities Together shall be referred to as “supporting congregations.” These congregations are expected to support the work of Communities Together by providing pastoral participation, delegate cooperation, congregational member involvement, and/or financial contributions.

Revised:

- **Article IV – SUPPORTING CONGREGATIONS**

- **Section 1 – Supporting Congregations**

Christian Churches that support the mission and programs of *Communities Together* shall be referred to as “supporting congregations.” These congregations are **encouraged** to support the work of *Communities Together* by providing pastoral participation, delegate cooperation, congregational member involvement, and/or financial contributions.

Current:

- **Article IV – SUPPORTING CONGREGATIONS**

- **Section 2 – Delegates**

- Each supporting congregation may elect or appoint, in accordance with its own by-laws or traditions, two or more of its members to act as “delegates” to *Communities Together*.
- A delegate gives his or her supporting congregation a presence at *CT* meetings, advocates for *CT* in the delegate’s congregation, and becomes an extension of the congregation into the community through *CT*’s programs.

- c. A delegate is expected to attend meetings of *Communities Together*, publicize and garner support for *CT's* programs, and to volunteer.
- d. A delegate or member of a supporting congregation may be elected by the Board of Directors to the status of Honorary Life Delegate in recognition of his or her outstanding service to *Communities Together*.

Revised:

- **Article IV – SUPPORTING CONGREGATIONS**

- Section 2 – Delegates**

- a. Each supporting congregation may elect or appoint in accordance with its own by-laws or traditions, **one** or more of its members to act as “delegates” to *Communities Together*.
- b. **Pursuant to Section 2a, referenced herein the *Communities Together* by-laws, in the event that a supporting congregation elects or appoints a delegate**, this gives the delegate’s supporting congregation a presence at *Communities Together* meetings, advocates for *Communities Together* in the delegate’s congregation, and becomes an extension of the congregation, into the community through *Communities Together* programs.
- c. **A delegate is encouraged, but not required**, to attend meetings of *Communities Together*, publicize and garner support for *Communities Together* programs, and to volunteer.
- d. A delegate or member of a supporting congregation may be elected by the Board of Directors to the status of Honorary Life Delegate in recognition of his or her outstanding service to *Communities Together*.
- e. **All new delegates will receive an orientation which will be provided by the Board of Directors.**

Current:

- **Article VII – THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Section 1 – Composition and Number**

The Board of Directors shall include:

- a. The Executive Committee (the officers of *Communities Together*, as provided in Article VIII, Section 1) and
- b. At least five, but no more than ten, directors-at-large.

Revised:

- **Article VII – THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- **Section 1 – Composition and Number**

The Board of Directors shall include:

- The Executive Committee (the officers of *Communities Together*, as provided in Article VIII, Section 1) and
 - At least five, but no more than ten, directors-at-large.
 - The Board of Directors is encouraged to have at least one clergyperson serve as a Director.
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Current:

- **Article VIII – THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- **Section 2 – Election and Term of Officers**

- The offices of President and Vice-President preferably should alternate between a clergyperson and a layperson.

Revised:

- **Article VIII – THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- **Section 2 – Election and Term of Officers**

- The Executive Committee is encouraged to have a clergyperson to serve as an officer in at least one of the available positions.
- The offices of the President and Vice-President are not required to have a clergyperson serve as an officer in either of the previously mentioned positions; therefore, it is not necessary for the offices of the President and Vice-President to alternate between a clergyperson and a layperson.