

Process Notes on Developing the New Constitution and Bylaws

Members of the Board and other members of the Conference recognized the need for a major revision of the Constitution and Bylaws of our Conference.

Beginning in 2018, a subcommittee of the Board began work. A hearing was held at the annual meeting to collect information and suggestions and members of the Board worked through sections of the current by-laws offering suggestions. The sub-committee sought copies of the current Constitution and Bylaws for several other Conferences of the UCC. These were reviewed and discussed then a line-by-line review of our current Constitution was undertaken. In 2020 input from the national UCC was sought, with UCC General Counsel, Heather Kimmel and the then Conference Minister Search Coordinator, Lee Albertson. They offered insights on the legal issues involved in these documents and the necessary wording on the role of the Conference Minister. This work continued intermittently for the next few years with a few amendments to the current Constitution and Bylaws being passed at Conference annual meetings.

In 2024, the Board decided that the work of the original committee could best be completed if one individual was asked to take what had been done by the committee and write a new document with a uniform voice. This new document would articulate who we are as a Conference and describe our present reality and the vision of who we hope to become in the future.

The Rev. Dr. Cameron Sharp volunteered to undertake this task. He first researched the broader ideas of a constitution and bylaws. He realized that trying to change the current document was futile and prayerfully started crafting a totally new document. The new Constitution has been written to embrace covenant, love, diversity and vision of the broader UCC. The Bylaws are a document that is legally binding. The State of Washington requires us to be true to our Bylaws. The reminder that Amendments are not only welcomed but expected gave him a boldness to capture the PNC UCC essence.

At each step along the way, he consulted with Board members and/or the entire Board. In total, thirteen drafts of the document were offered and reviewed by members of the Board in their regular meetings and on two extended retreats, the second of which was in the fall of 2025.

Six hearings were held for members of the Conference, three in December of 2025 and three in January of 2026. The eleventh and twelfth editions of the revised Constitution and Bylaws were shared with the entire Conference with an invitation to attend these hearings and offer suggestions and comments. The December hearings were held at a time difficult

for many to attend, the January hearings were added to facilitate further input. A list of those attending these hearings is added below.

In addition to continuing review by the Board of Directors of the Conference, Heather Kimmel, General Counsel of the national UCC brought her expertise to the proposed document. Her edits include making sure the proposed document is consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the national UCC and Washington State law.

Each comment and suggestion made at the hearings was recorded and reviewed by members of the Board and the Rev. Sharp. Corrections and many helpful suggestions were incorporated in the **thirteenth** edition which is being circulated to the Conference for the consideration of the delegates to the 2026 Annual meeting.

Here is the list of those who attended the listening sessions held by the Board. In each case, Board members were present to hear comments and suggestions and the Conference Scribe, Ron Patterson and Board member Morag Stewart, took notes on each comment and suggestion:

Session One---December 3, 2025; 1:00 pm Present: Ron Patterson, Al Bentley, Morag Stewart, Sandy Wisecarver, Gen Heywood, Andy Warren (Staff), Margo Richardson, and Cindy Bauleke.

Session Two---December 3, 2025; 6:30 pm Present: Lois Farnsworth-Whysong, Morag Stewart, Andy Warren, Ron Patterson, Sandy Wisecarver, Jane Dunkel, Paul Koppe, Terry Teigen, and Leah Atkinson Bilinski.

Session Three---December 14, 2025; 6:30 pm Present: Ron Patterson, Morag Stewart, Arleen Hobson (Staff), Karen Nooney, James Carter, Mary Stamp, Bill Maury-Holmes, Bonnie Dalious, Andy CastroLang, Jim CastroLang, Jane Sorenson, Elizabeth Gordon, Michael Gordon, Karyn Frazier, and Sophie Morse.

Session Four--- January 20, 2026; 2:00 pm Present: Ron Patteron, Morag Stewart, Cameron Sharp, Sandy Wisecarver, Rose Savini, Jenn Hagedorn, and Lin Hagedorn.

Session Five---January 20, 2026 6:30 pm Present: Ron Patterson, Morag Stewart, Sandy Wisecarver, Karen Nooney, Mana'o Vavasa, James Carter, Emily Tanis Lekkel, and Susan, Chamberlin.

Session Six---January 21, 2026, 6:30 pm Present: Ron Patterson, Morag Stewart, Sandy Wisecarver, Betsy Runke, Bill Maury-Holmes, Paul Koppe, Elizabeth Gordon, and Michael Gordon.