

**By-Laws of
The Illinois Great Rivers Conference Chapter of
The Fellowship of United Methodist
In Music and Worship Arts**

August 1, 1992; rev. April 24, 1993, rev. January 9, 1999, rev. February 12, 2016

I. Who We Are

- A. The name of the organization shall be The Illinois Great Rivers Conference Chapter of the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts.
- B. We are Christians embracing God's artistic gifts to create world transforming worship.
- C. Our mission is to create and support worship arts that lead to spirituality and faith formation, and to create and support relationships that lead to hospitality, fellowship, and nurture.

II. Affiliation

- A. The Chapter shall be a chapter of The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts, hereinafter called "The Fellowship," and shall adhere to its constitution.
- B. The Fellowship is an organization with a rich history with The United Methodist Church. Originally, it was founded to support musicians. The Fellowship has grown to include worship artists, clergy, and laity involved in all aspects of worship in The United Methodist Church as well as other denominations.
- C. The relation of the Chapter to the Illinois Great Rivers Conference shall be through the Conference Board of Discipleship.

III. Membership and Dues

- A. Membership is open to all interested parties and is for one year, beginning when the dues are paid and continuing until the anniversary of that date.
- B. The National Office of "The Fellowship" shall assess dues.

IV. Conference Chapter Organizational Procedure

- A. The Chapter Council shall consist of a Chairperson, Chairperson-elect, Past Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, At-large Representatives.
- B. The Council shall meet at least three times each year to conduct the business of the Chapter. All Council members must be members of "The Fellowship."
- C. The elected officers shall be Chairperson, Chairperson-elect, Secretary, and Treasurer.

D. Duties of the Officers:

1. Chairperson shall preside at all meetings and shall serve on all committees as an ex-officio member.
2. Chairperson-elect shall assist the chairperson and shall assume the duties of the chairperson in his/her absence.
3. Secretary shall be responsible to take minutes, make reports at meetings, and handle correspondence.
4. Treasurer shall keep a record of all chapter expenses and incoming monies from workshops, etc. All bills and money receipts shall be sent to our Conference Treasurer's office for processing at the end of each month. The Conference Treasurer's office will send a financial report as requested.

E. Committees may be appointed by the Chairperson or by a member of the Council.

F. Nominations and Elections: The Chairperson shall appoint a Nomination Committee which shall nominate any member in good standing as a candidate for the positions of Chairperson, Chairperson-elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. Members may submit nominations in writing one month prior to the elections. Elections shall be conducted by ballot between June 1 and July 1 in even-numbered years for a two year term. The Chairperson, Chairperson-elect, Secretary, and Treasurer may serve for two consecutive terms and shall be eligible for reelection to a previously held office. Officers shall take office on August 1 on even numbered years. If any officer is unable to complete a term of office, the Council may either appoint a replacement or reassign the officer's duties to another member of the Council for the remainder of the term.

G. Meetings are held via conference calls. The Chapter is encouraged to meet during Annual Conference and at the National Convocations. The Chapter may meet at other times as called by the officers for business, training, service projects, or events. Those present and voting on any given occasion shall constitute a quorum.

H. The Chapter will notify the National Office of all events.

I. The rules contained in *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Chapter in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-Laws and any special rules of order the Chapter may adopt.

V. Amendments

A. These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a general meeting or by a two-thirds vote of the members responding by ballot. Written notice of the proposed amendments must be submitted to all members thirty days prior to the vote.

B. The By-Laws may be suspended for purposes of practicality by a two-thirds majority of the votes received, either at a meeting of the Chapter membership or by ballot.