

**THE GREAT RIVER REGION OF THE
CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
DISCIPLES WOMEN GUIDELINES**

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ARTICLE I – IDENTITY

The name of this organization shall be the **Great River Region Disciples Women**. The Great River Region Disciples Women is the successor to the Arkansas Disciples Women, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi Christian Women's Fellowships, United Christian Missionary Society, National Christian Missionary Convention and Christian Woman's Board of Missions.

ARTICLE II – MISSION

A. The MISSION of the Great River Region Disciples Women is to:

1. Provide opportunities for spiritual growth, leadership, enrichment, education and creative ministries,
2. Enable all women to develop a sense of personal responsibility for the whole mission of the Church of Jesus Christ. (Based on International Disciples Women's Ministries – IDWM purpose statement); and,
3. Help unify the women of Disciples congregations in the Great River Region and bring them into fellowship with one another and with Christian women everywhere.

B. The mission is carried out through Regional, State and Congregational organizations.

ARTICLE III – AFFILIATIONS

The Great River Region Disciples Women is a ministry of the Great River Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This organization shall continue affiliation with the International Disciples Women Ministries (IDWM), Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, and all related programs including Church Women United and Global Women Connecting.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Great River Region Disciples Women shall consist of all women who are committed to the mission of Disciples Women in the Great River Region and who support its work.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS AND DUTIES

A. Regional Officers

The coordination of Disciples Women throughout the region is accomplished through the Joint Cabinet and its Executive Committee. Usually meeting once a year, themes are selected for use across the region. State cabinets have an opportunity to share ideas and planning for their own workshops and

retreats. The executive committee serves throughout the year as needed on behalf of all Disciples Women in the Great River Region.

1. The President shall be responsible for the administrative affairs of the Great River Region Disciples Women. She shall preside at all meetings of the organization, chair the Executive Committee and Joint Cabinet, and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. She shall work in cooperation with Regional Staff. She shall serve as a member of the IDWM Cabinet. She shall also serve as a voting member of the Regional Board of the Great River Region. The specific duties shall be governed by the job descriptions as approved by the Joint Cabinet.
2. The 1st Vice President shall assist the President and act in her absence. She shall also share leadership for retreat and workshops.
3. The 2nd Vice President shall assist the President and the 1st Vice President with retreats and workshop planning and shall assist the staff and president with Disciples Women publicity for the region. Duties also include regional publicity coordinator for Quadrennial Assembly and recorder for Executive Committee and Joint Cabinet meetings.

B. State Officers

The State Cabinets shall consist of the State Coordinators, the Directors of Worship, Service, Study, Stewardship, District Secretaries; and where applicable, the Coordinators for Church Women United, Legislative Advisors, and Members at large.

The State Cabinets are responsible for the planning of their spring workshops and retreats as related to the GRR Disciples Women Joint Cabinet. The transaction of business is administered directly through the region office.

1. Disciples Women State Coordinators shall oversee the women's ministry in their designated state, including leadership of state Disciples Women Cabinets, keeping women informed regarding potential and ongoing Disciples Women programs, coordinating efforts and serving as a liaison between the Regional and congregational Disciples Women.
2. Disciples Women State Recorders shall keep written records of all meetings. They shall bring meeting minutes of all recent meetings to the State and Joint Cabinet meetings. They shall supply to the Regional Office minutes of meetings for distribution. Permanent files shall be kept in the Regional office.
3. Disciples Women Service Directors shall assist in planning and suggesting service/action projects for both their state and regional Disciples Women. They shall keep the regional Disciples Women informed on the status of state projects. They shall assist in the planning for service/action presentations at retreat, workshops, and congregational level. Giving records shall be reported to and maintained in the Regional office.
4. Disciples Women Stewardship Directors shall assist in the management and care of DW resources (time, talent and treasures). They shall suggest ideas and resources of ongoing stewardship education.
5. Disciples Women Study Directors shall promote materials for spiritual enrichment of women throughout their state and the region. They shall plan/direct the introduction of new studies at

spring events and serve on the retreat planning committee, as requested. They shall promote and encourage ongoing study.

6. Disciples Women Workshop Coordinators are responsible for planning and coordinating activities necessary for the implementation of Spring Workshops.
7. Disciples Women Worship Directors organize meaningful worship services, providing worship settings for retreats, workshops, and other Disciples Women events.
8. Disciples Women Legislative Directors shall monitor state and national government legislation and shall share information with the Cabinets and congregations and report specific actions taken with special emphasis on the concerns of women from a non-partisan stance.
9. Disciples Women Retreat Directors are responsible for planning, organizing, and overseeing their state's Retreat.
10. District Secretaries shall maintain relationships with the Disciples Women groups in their assigned congregations. They shall assist the Regional Disciples Women Staff in maintaining the Disciples Women Directory which includes an updated list of current congregational Disciples Women officers.

C. Members at Large

1. MCMC Disciples Women President shall be a liaison between the Mississippi Christian Missionary Convention Women and the Great River Region Disciples Women and shall participate in Great River Region Disciples Women Executive Committee as a voting member.
2. GRR DW serving as officers on National Convocation DW Cabinet, International DW Cabinet, World DW Cabinet.
3. GRR DW President of ethnic constituency fellowship groups in the Great River Region, as recognized by the CC(DOC) and the GRR Regional Board.
4. A Young Adult representative shall cultivate a young women's ministry, including leadership opportunities, providing resources, and organizing and promoting young women's involvement in IDWM. She shall coordinate young women's ministry events and shall participate in Great River Region Disciples Women Executive Committee as a voting member.

ARTICLE VI – TERMS OF OFFICE

A. Joint Cabinet members with vote shall be elected to terms of office as follows:

1. GRR Disciples Women Regional President, 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President each serving two year increments, rotating up in position every two years for a total of six years of service, one being from each state at all times.
2. State Coordinators and District Secretaries each serving four years minimum with possibility of re-election.
3. Worship, Stewardship, Study, Service, Legislative Representative, Records, Workshop Coordinators, and Retreat Coordinators, each serving a two year term with a possibility of re-election.
4. Members at Large each serving a two year term, unless otherwise defined by the office they serve.

- B. Whenever possible, the President shall be selected from current Cabinet members. The President, upon completion of a term of service, shall take a two-year sabbatical before being eligible for re-election to any office. The immediate Past-President shall serve as an Ex-Officio member for one year. Cabinet members shall be elected during the year of the Regional Assembly and installed at Regional Assembly. If a person elected to any office is unable to continue to serve her full term, the GRR DW Executive Committee may appoint someone to fill the office until the next regularly scheduled election.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

A. The general membership of the Great River Region Disciples Women shall meet at the time of the Regional Assembly of the Great River Region for the purpose of electing Cabinet members and officers.

1. Elections shall be held on the year of the Regional Assembly.
2. Terms of office begin and end at the Regional Assembly.
3. Business between Assemblies shall be handled by the GRR DW Joint Cabinet.

B. The GRR Disciples Women Joint Cabinet meets shortly after the annual IDWM/CWSF meeting to plan regional and state Disciples Women ministries. The Joint Cabinet is comprised of the regional Presidents, the State cabinets and members at large as elected at the Regional Assembly.

C. The Executive Committee of the Joint Cabinet, comprised of President, 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents and State Coordinators & MCMC President are empowered to act on behalf of the Joint Cabinet between meetings and shall meet as required.

D. In all meetings of Joint and State Cabinets and their Executive Committees, a simple majority shall constitute a quorum when a vote is necessary. Otherwise, the Cabinet shall make decisions by consensus.

ARTICLE VIII – NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A. Appointments

1. The state cabinets of Disciples Women of the Great River Region shall appoint their own nominating committees.
2. The GRR Disciples Women President, Executive Director and Regional Minister shall appoint a committee to nominate a 2nd Vice President.

B. The immediate past State Coordinator shall serve as chair for the first two years after completion of her term as Coordinator, with other members appointed by the new State Coordinator in consultation with the GRR Disciples Women staff.

C. These state committees shall function for a two-year period, from Regional Assembly to Regional Assembly;

D. The Nominating Committee shall be guided by the Operating Guidelines of the Great River Region in selecting the membership of the Disciples Women Cabinet.

- E. Each state's nominating committee shall provide slates of cabinet positions to be filled for each term of office. In order to coordinate with the regional nominating process, the slates shall be compiled by September 1 of election years.

ARTICLE IX - EMPLOYED PERSONNEL

- A. The Great River Region of the Christian Church (DOC) shall provide appropriate staffing for the ministries of the Disciples Women throughout the Great River Region.
- B. As per the bylaws of the GRRCC (DOC), the Executive Regional Minister selects, trains, and supervises staff in consultation with the President of the GRR Disciples Women

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

These guidelines may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the Joint Cabinet.