

**INTERNATIONAL YOUTH OF UNITY
BYLAWS**

**A R T I C L E I
Identification**

Section 1.01. **Name.** The name of this organization shall be the INTERNATIONAL YOUTH OF UNITY (hereinafter referred to as “International Y.O.U.” or “Y.O.U.”).

Section 1.02. **Principal Office.** The principal office of the Y.O.U. shall be at the principal offices of the Association of Unity Churches, a non-profit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia, in Lee's Summit, Missouri, or at such other place as the Association of Unity Churches shall hereafter designate.

Section 1.03. **Operation.** The International Y.O.U. operates under the direction of the Association of Unity Churches’ Board of Trustees, who shall designate a person(s) to serve as Y.O.U. Coordinator.

**A R T I C L E II
Purpose**

Section 2.01. **Purpose.** The purpose of Y.O.U. is to encourage and assist in the spiritual growth of all young people who are seeking to express the indwelling Christ in accordance with the principles of practical Christianity as taught and interpreted by Unity School of Christianity, Unity Village, Missouri, and the Association of Unity Churches.

Section 2.02. **Levels of Organization.** In the accomplishment of the stated purpose, the Y.O.U. shall have three levels of organization: Chapter, Regional and International.

**A R T I C L E III
Membership**

Section 3.01. **Chapters.** The Y.O.U. is an organization of young people's groups that are formed under the direction of a duly recognized minister in a ministry which is a member of the Association of Unity Churches (“Chapters”).

Section 3.02. **Membership by Chapter.** Membership in the International Y.O.U. is by local Chapters, which have received a Charter from the International Y.O.U.

Section 3.03. **Chapter Charter.** A Chapter Membership Application form shall be requested from, completed, and returned to the Y.O.U. Coordinator at the Association of Unity Churches. Upon approval of the Application, a Chapter Charter will be issued.

Section 3.04. **Chapter Formation.** In order to form a Y.O.U. Chapter, there must be one or more young people ranging from 14 through 18 years of age and an adult sponsor.

Section 3.05. **Chapter Name.** All Chapters shall be officially known and designated by the name of the Association of Unity Churches' member ministry sponsoring the Chapter ("(Name of Ministry)Youth of Unity"). Each Chapter may have an unofficial, distinctive name, chosen by its members. The Chapter shall use this name locally.

Section 3.06. **Rules of Individual Membership.** Each Chapter of Y.O.U. may prescribe its own rules of membership, which are guided by local conditions and subject to the approval of the Association of Unity Churches' member ministry sponsoring the Chapter. Participation by individuals in Regional and International events, however, is subject to the standards set by the hosting organization.

A R T I C L E I V

Regions

Section 4.01. **Regions.** The Y.O.U. Chapters shall be divided into Regions, which will be approved by the Association of Unity Churches and kept on file at the principal offices of the Y.O.U.

Section 4.02. **Regional Gatherings.** Each Region may have several gatherings a year, but must have one "official" gathering, to which all Chapters within the Region are invited and at which the annual business meeting is held. All Chapters in each Region are expected to adhere to the standards set by the Region in attending each function.

A R T I C L E V

Business Meeting and Voting

Section 5.01. **Annual Conference and Business Meeting.** An annual International Conference of the Y.O.U. shall be held at Unity Village, Missouri, unless otherwise provided for by the Association of Unity Churches. The annual business meeting of the Y.O.U. shall take place during the International Conference.

Section 5.02. **Conference Delegates.** All Chartered Chapters shall be invited to send qualified delegates to the International Conference. Each Chartered Chapter shall be allowed a minimum of two (2) delegates. Chartered Chapters may request additional delegates from the International Y.O.U. Coordinator provided space is available.

Section 5.03. **Quorum.** At the annual business meeting, a quorum shall be two-thirds of the registered delegates who are present at the International Conference.

Section 5.04. **Voting.** At the International Conference, each Youth of Unity delegate registered and present shall be entitled to one vote during elections. Each Chartered Chapter having at least one delegate registered and present, shall have one vote on all other matters brought before the Conference body.

Section 5.05 **Meeting Procedures.** The Christ Spirit within and the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall be the guides for conducting the annual business meeting and determining proper procedure.

ARTICLE VI
Officers and Elections

Section 6.01. **International Officers.** The international officers of Y.O.U. shall be a President of Service, President of Prayer and President of Communications.

Section 6.02. **Applications for Office** Applications for international offices shall be requested from and returned to the International Y.O.U. Coordinator. Applicants shall complete the form which must contain the signatures of the applicant's minister, Y.O.U. sponsor, regional consultant, and parent(s). Candidates for International office must be present at the time of elections.

Section 6.03. **Election of Officers** International officers shall be elected each year at the International Conference from among the persons who have properly submitted applications for office. Election shall be by ballot and a preferential vote shall be used. A majority vote shall be necessary for election.

Section 6.04. **Term of Office** The officers elected at the annual business meeting shall be installed during the International Conference. The term of office for each of the officers shall be one year, or until their successors are installed.

Section 6.05. **Vacancies** If any International Officer is unable to fulfill his/her term of office, the remaining Officer(s) and the Y.O.U. Coordinator may recommend a replacement to be approved by the Association of Unity Churches' Board of Trustees.

Section 6.06 **Regional Representatives.** Each region shall select at its official regional gathering Regional Representatives who will be officially recognized and installed at the International Conference.

Section 6.07. **Other Offices.** International Officers shall not hold other Chapter, Regional, or International offices in Y.O.U.

ARTICLE VII
Duties of International Officers

Section 7.01. **Officer of Service.** The Officer of Service shall be responsible for International Y.O.U. projects involving service. The position presides over all official business meetings.

Section 7.02. **Officer of Prayer.** The Officer of Prayer is responsible for including prayer in all aspects of the International Y.O.U. ministry.

Section 7.03. **Officer of Communications.** The Officer of Communications shall be responsible for the distribution of International Y.O.U. communication.

Section 7.04 **Officer of Relations.** The officer of Relations is responsible for creating and enhancing relations within Unity and other organizations. This office will chair the Wisdom Council.

Section 7.05. **Responsibilities.** Each International Officer assumes the inherent inspirational and administrative responsibilities of the office when installed.

ARTICLE VIII
Amendments

Section 8.01 **Wisdom Council** Each region shall have a position at the council table.

Section 8:02 **Regions** Regions shall be defined by a committee consisting of International Coordinator, International Officer of Relations, One YOU Regional Consultant, one person from World Wide services.

Section 8:03 **Chair** The International Officer of Relations shall chair this advisory body.
(Effective date Conference 2007)

ARTICLE IV
Amendments

Section 9.01. **Amendments to Bylaws.** These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Chartered Chapters having at least one delegate registered and present, at any meeting of the International Conference when a quorum is present, subject to the approval of the Association of Unity Churches' Board of Trustees, provided that any proposed amendments are provided to each Chartered Chapter at least sixty (60) days prior to the International Conference.

Section 9.02. **Procedure.** Any proposed amendment shall be submitted in writing to the Y.O.U. Coordinator at least ninety (90) days prior to the opening day of the next scheduled International Conference. With the aid of the International Officers, the Y.O.U. Coordinator will consider and make recommendations to the International Conference regarding any proposed amendment.

*Originally Adopted August 4, 2000 – Annual International Youth Of Unity Business Meeting
Approved September, 2000 – Board of Trustees – Association of Unity Churches*

*Amended August 9, 2001 – Annual International Youth of Unity Business Meeting
Approved September 2001 – Board of Trustees – Association of Unity Churches*

*Amended July 16, 2004 - Annual International Youth of Unity Business Meeting
Approved January 2004 – Board of Trustees – Association of Unity Churches*

*Amended July 16, 2005- Annual International Youth of Unity Business Meeting
Approved January 2005 – Board of Trustees – Association of Unity Churches*