

# **United Church of God, *an International Association***

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## **POLICY FOR MEMBER APPEAL TO THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS**

### **Preamble**

The care of the brethren is one of the major responsibilities entrusted to the ministry (1 Timothy 3:5; 2 Corinthians 1:24). Section 8.10 of the Bylaws of the United Church of God, *an International Association* (hereafter “UCGIA” or “the Church”) was written to ensure that the members may have a process to address what they perceive to be mistreatment through the improper use of disciplinary measures. The Council of Elders has established this policy for appeal by the Church membership.

### **Bylaw Article 8.10 RIGHT OF APPEAL**

“All lay members of UCGIA have the right to appeal any disciplinary or other adverse actions or decisions against them to the Council, by following the process of appeal approved by the Council or within the Rules of Association.”

### **Definition**

*Church Member:* An individual who has been duly baptized and possess God’s Holy Spirit is a member of the Church of God, regardless of organizational affiliation (Acts 2:38-39; Romans 8:9). However the term “Church Member” as used in this policy applies only to an individual who has been duly baptized and is considered to be a member in good standing of the UCGIA and may be listed on the membership roles of the Church (where available).

### **Appeal Criteria**

A member who appeals to the Council of Elders of UCGIA and who seeks the Council of Elders’ determination on disciplinary actions and/or adverse ecclesiastical decisions, should have first sought a Christian resolution by following the biblical principles as outlined in Matthew 7:1-5; Matthew 18:15-18; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8 and Galatians 6:1-2. Pending any appeal or review, any disciplinary action or other decision from which the appeal or review has been taken shall remain in force.

### **A Brief Description of the Appeal Process**

1. Seek a resolution as outlined in Criteria section above.
2. Communicate verbally and in writing with the local pastor.
3. Communicate verbally and in writing with regional pastor and Ministerial Services Team (or international equivalents)
4. Communicate verbally and in writing to the Member Appeal Committee.
5. Appeal to the Council of Elders via the Member Appeal Form (Attached)

A full description of the appeal process can be found in the document “Procedure for Member Appeal to the Council of Elders”.

**MEMBER APPEAL**  
**To the Council of Elders**  
**United Church of God, *an International Association***

**Name or Appealing Member:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pastor's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Elder(s)' name(s) involved:** \_\_\_\_\_

**The Issue(s):**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**With whom did the issue(s) arise?**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please clearly state what you are appealing:**  
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(Please turn this page over to complete the form.)

**Have you sought resolution as explained in the Member Appeal Policy? (Explain):**

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**The Results:**

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**Please list the names of any attachments:**

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**Please feel free to add additional pages for more space to explain any of the sections above.**

I, the undersigned, am the member who is appealing the decision or action described above or in any attachments. I have read the above and state that it is true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. *I agree to abide by and to accept the decision of the Council of Elders in this case.* I understand that failure to sign this statement and to make this commitment shall mean that the Council of Elders will not hear this appeal and that the decision which I am appealing will automatically become final.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Appealing Member*