

## ***BY-LAWS OF THE WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES***

The above named corporation, having been incorporated as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Washington and as an association of churches within the meaning of Section 501c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code adopts the following Bylaws as it begins its operational life.

### **PREAMBLE**

Our unity is faith in Jesus Christ. Therefore, we feel called to express and strengthen this unity we already have by constituting this Association for deepening of ecumenical fellowship, the development of moral community and the advancement of common witness for justice and peace.

### **PURPOSE**

Consistent with our Articles of Incorporation, we expect to implement the preamble by working together;

- a) To manifest and to celebrate our unity in Jesus Christ
- b) To listen and learn from one another, to express our differing views, and to more fully discover our oneness.
- c) To express the theological foundation for our life together and the action programs in which we engage.
- d) To develop systems that will enable us to nurture and support our life together.
- e) To develop systems that will enable us to engage in common mission.

### **I. Membership**

The Washington Association of Churches is committed to inclusivity and diversity as a part of its justice mission. We encourage, in all of the following membership categories, the appointment and/or election of representatives from multiple and diverse communities with attention to racial, ethnic, gender and sexual orientation, geography, and specific skill sets.

- 1.1 Members shall be those denominational judicatories, ecumenical ministries, congregations, clergy associations, Para church ministries, religious orders and Christian colleges, universities and seminaries who subscribe to the preamble and purpose of the Association as stated above, who designate representatives to the Board of Directors, and who contribute financial support to the budget of the Association.”