

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCHES

Bylaws

Adopted July 29, 2006

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ARTICLE I

Name and Location

Section 1. The name of the corporation shall be the United States Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches, Inc.

Section 2. Its principal office shall be located at 315 South Lincoln, Hillsboro, Kansas, 67063.

Section 3. In these Bylaws this corporation may be referred to as the Conference. Where applicable, references in these Bylaws to the masculine shall include the feminine.

ARTICLE II

Purpose of Corporation

Section 1. To build and maintain a strong Mennonite Brethren identity in the United States by affirming, clarifying and proclaiming Mennonite Brethren insights and interpretations of Scripture as set forth in the Confession of Faith.

Section 2. To initiate and coordinate new ministries within the United States by

encouraging and facilitating an assertive program of evangelism and church planting, by encouraging faithful discipleship in all matters of faith and life as defined by the Confession of Faith, and by encouraging and developing leadership at all levels of the conference: the local churches, the district conferences, and the United States Conference. The initiation of new ministries in cross-cultural evangelism and church planting shall be in consultation and cooperation with the several district conferences.

Section 3. The Conference shall have the right to make the final decision in all matters that relate to the Constitution and Bylaws, the Confession of Faith, the united activities, and the common welfare of the churches.

ARTICLE III Confession of Faith

(See the Confession of Faith of the U.S. and Canadian Conferences of the Mennonite Brethren Churches)

ARTICLE IV Member Churches

Section 1: Authority

A. Procedure for Membership. A church which desires to be admitted to membership must, in the first instance, become a member of a district conference. Upon obtaining such membership, the church shall also become a member of the United States Conference. The district conference shall forthwith notify the United States Conference of its action. In a situation where the location of a church makes such membership procedure impractical, the Leadership Board shall sponsor the membership of the church.

B. Membership and Voting Rights. The Conference includes all the districts and all churches that are founded on Christ and subscribe to the Confession of Faith set out in Article III, that have joined the Conference. All members of churches of the Central District, the Latin American District, the North Carolina District, the Pacific District, and the Southern District and any other districts formulated as hereinafter provided by the Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches shall be members of this Conference provided that members of the new district conference shall be members only if the new district conference has met all of the qualifications of the other districts above-named.

C. Representation. Individual Church members shall be entitled to representation through their respective churches and each member church of the above-named district conferences shall be entitled to representation of one delegate for every 50 members. Associate staff members may serve as delegates.

D. Governance. Each member church is autonomous in the governance and administration of its own local affairs.

Section 2: Limitations of Authority

A. Each district conference and each member church of the district conferences is also a member of the United States Conference, and directed by its rules and regulations.

B. Member churches shall accept as binding, decisions made by the Conference in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Conference.

C. Member churches shall subscribe to the Confession of Faith and be willing to accept the objectives of the Conference and to support its undertakings.

Section 3: Responsibilities

Each member church fills all offices within the church and performs the service to which it has been called of God through Jesus Christ.

Section 4: Expectations of Responsibilities

A. Member churches agree to abide by principles, policies, and resolutions of the Conference and to give prayerful, moral and material support to all Conference projects and activities to the best of their ability.

B. Member churches are also expected to:

1. Participate in Conventions by sending delegates.

2. Support the ministries of the Conference and its board, corporations, committees and task forces with prayer and financial support.

3. "Strive to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3) and "to walk by the same rule" (Philippians 3:16).

Section 5: Accountability

A. Conference Assistance. When a church, with the assistance of its district conference, is unable to resolve an issue which is harmful to its life and witness, the Conference shall have the authority and responsibility to offer assistance in a Christian spirit through the Board of Faith and Life.

B. Withdrawal of Membership. The Conference reserves the right to request a district conference to withdraw the membership of a church which cannot reconcile its own doctrinal convictions with resolutions of the Conference. A Church also reserves the right to withdraw its membership from the Conference.

C. Dissolution of a Church or District Conference. Should a church withdraw

from a district conference or be dissolved, its capital assets shall become the property of the district conference. Should a church sponsored by the Leadership Board and not a part of a district conference, withdraw from the Conference or be dissolved, its capital assets shall become the property of the Conference. Upon the dissolution of a district conference and after payment of all debts and liabilities, its remaining property shall be distributed to the United States Conference.

D. Dissolution of the Conference. If for any reason the Conference finds it necessary to seek dissolution, it shall, at its last session, determine the disposition of its property and assets, which after payment of all debts and liabilities, shall be distributed to U.S. Conference ministries.

ARTICLE V District Conferences

This Article describes the relationship of the district conferences to the United States Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches.

Section 1: Authority

- A. Formation of New District Conferences. New district conferences may be formed when churches are organized, providing they meet all of the qualifications of the other districts above-named.
- B. The Conference shall, in close cooperation with the other district conferences, organize new district conferences, if desirable.
- C. District conference boundaries may be changed upon the formation of new districts with the consent of the district conference affected.

Section 2: Limitations of Authority

- A. The district conferences are organically united with the United States Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches. Therefore, the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws shall be basically consistent with the official documents of incorporation and regulation of the United States Conference.
- B. Each district conference shall adopt its own Bylaws in harmony with the Bylaws of the Conference. No changes in the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws of the district conferences shall conflict with the Constitution and/or Bylaws of the United States Conference.

Section 3: Responsibilities

- A. To associate into a body corporate the churches generally known as Mennonite Brethren Churches.
- B. To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through its members, ministers, evangelists, and missionaries.
- C. To organize and to maintain churches, schools, missions, benevolent institutions, Christian camps, and to publish Christian literature.

D. To employ and support Christian workers who shall serve in accordance with the Bylaws of the Conference and provision which may be made by the Conference from time to time.

E. To uphold and administer the standards of faith and life established by the United States Conference.

Section 4: Expectations of Responsibility

A. The district conferences are committed to cooperate and participate positively in the administration and execution of the organization and ministries of the United States Conference.

B. The district conferences pledge themselves to support all the activities of the United States Conference. The district conferences shall work in close cooperation with and support the United States Conference.

C. The District Conferences shall include in their board policy manuals a Conflict of Interest policy that makes reference to holding multiple positions or offices concurrently.

Section 5: Accountability

A. In case of a conflict of principle or jurisdiction between the district conferences and the United States Conference, the latter shall take precedence.

B. Each district conference shall prepare an annual report of its ministry and shall distribute the same to the U.S. Conference Leadership Board, its corporations and the other district conferences.

ARTICLE VI Convention

Section 1: Time and Location. The Conference shall meet in a regular convention once every two (2) years at the time and place determined by the Leadership Board.

Section 2: Delegates. Each member church of the Conference shall be entitled to representation by one delegate for every fifty (50) members or fraction thereof plus the pastor or pastoral designate in the event of a pastoral vacancy. Members of Conference boards and committees will be considered delegates by virtue of office. No person can serve as a delegate who is not a member in good standing of a Mennonite Brethren church in one of the districts which are cooperating and participating in the organization of the Conference. If the delegate's qualifications are questioned, the matter shall be referred to the Leadership Board for recommendation.

Section 3: Special Conventions. Special conventions may be called by the Leadership Board. Before calling a special convention the Leadership Board shall furnish all member churches with a detailed report stating the cause for calling a special convention. The special convention shall be publicized as to place and date in the

periodical of the Conference for a period of not less than thirty (30) days prior to the proposed convention date.

Section 4: Officers. The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of the Conference shall be elected to serve terms of office beginning or ending immediately after adjournment of the regular biennial convention. These officers are elected for two year terms and may succeed themselves only once in their respective offices.

Section 5: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer. The Chair of the Conference shall preside at meetings of the convention and of the Leadership Board and shall perform the usual functions of a presiding officer according to accepted parliamentary procedure and carry on the necessary and official correspondence during the interim between regular convention sessions. The Vice-Chair shall serve in the capacity of the Chair in the event the Chair is absent or unable to serve, or at the discretion of the chair. The Secretary shall ensure the preservation of a permanent record of all proceedings of the convention and of the Leadership Board. The Secretary shall prepare minutes of the convention sessions for publication and also collect the minutes of the boards and committees of the Conference, which were prepared during the term of office and place them in a permanent file. The convention shall provide any necessary assistant secretaries for the sessions of the convention. The Treasurer serves as the Chief Financial Officer of the corporation and also serves as a voting member of the Mennonite Brethren Foundation Board of Directors.

Section 6: Convention Procedure. All discussions should be characterized by a Christ-like spirit. To proceed in an orderly fashion, generally accepted rules of order shall be followed. Questions of routine matters shall be determined by a majority vote of delegates present at the convention. Special questions shall be determined by a vote designated by the convention. Voting shall be by individual delegates. Delegates shall not speak on any one point more than three times without special permission. A delegate is to address the Chair and not interrupt another speaker nor become personal or offensive. The Chair of the convention shall have authority to rule a delegate out of order.

Section 7: Leadership Board. The Leadership Board will consist of nine members, including the four elected officers of the Convention. The Leadership Board should reflect appropriate balance among the Districts and must have at least four members who live geographically west of the Rocky Mountains and four members who live east of the Rocky Mountains. Board members shall be elected for a term of not more than four years and may succeed themselves once.

Article VII Leadership Board

Section 1: Authority

The Leadership Board is authorized to:

- A. Carry out the purposes of the Conference as mandated by the Constitution and as directed by the Conference in session and to serve as the Conference in interim.
- B. Make such decisions as are necessary for the welfare of the Conference but which do not justify calling a special convention.
- C. Manage and conduct all legal and financial affairs of the Conference.
- D. Delegate such authority and duties as necessary. This shall include the power to employ administrative staff and to hire agents and professional personnel to assist the Board in carrying out the work of the Conference. The specific staff positions and agents needed for this shall be determined by the Leadership Board. The Board shall be authorized to pay salaries and benefits to such staff persons and agents as may be appropriate in the direction of the Leadership Board.
- E. Appoint committees and task forces to perform specific functions as might be appropriately delegated or as mandated by the Conference in session.
- F. Make appointments to inter-denominational agencies and service organizations where the interests of our constituency are being served.

Section 2: Limitations of Authority

The Leadership Board may not make any decision, adopt any policy or take any action that is in violation of the Statement of Faith or the Constitution and Bylaws of the Conference.

Section 3: Responsibilities

- A. The administrative responsibilities of the Leadership Board include the following:
 - 1. Carry out the purposes of the Conference as mandated by the Constitution and as directed by the Conference in session.
 - 2. Serve as the Conference in Interim.
 - 3. Design its own governance structure and processes.
 - 4. Delegate authority and responsibility for management to the Executive Director.
 - 5. Give vision and direction to the conference by maintaining a current Strategic Plan.
 - 6. Encourage leadership development.
 - 7. Monitor performance and measure the results of its own responsibilities.
 - 8. Coordinate the ministries of the various boards, committees, task forces and corporations of the Conference.
- B. The fiscal responsibilities of the Leadership Board include the following:
 - 1. Invest funds of the Conference in any kind of property, real, personal, or mixed, and to vary such investments in its discretion.
 - 2. Buy, sell, postpone sale, mortgage, hypothecate, exchange, convert,

lease, option or otherwise deal in property of all kinds, whether real or personal, or otherwise as required from time to time for the benefit of the Conference and to execute all necessary documents to effect good and valid transactions.

3. Accept security for debts or property owed, allow time for payment of debts, compromise, abandon or otherwise settle any debt, account or claim of the Conference and to enter into such agreements, arrangements, and releases as required.

4. Execute under seal of the Conference all such documents and contracts as may be required to legally affect good and valid transactions in the course of administering the property of the Conference.

Section 4: Expectations

In fulfilling its responsibilities, the Leadership Board is expected to:

- A. Maintain open communication between the boards, corporations, committees, task forces, District Conferences, and Churches.
- B. Facilitate an annual strategic planning conference of the boards and corporations.
- C. Use approved methods of accounting.
- D. Meet at least three times per year.
- E. Include in its board policy manual a Conflict of Interest policy that includes reference to holding multiple positions or offices concurrently.

Section 5: Accountability

The Leadership Board shall exercise its accountability to the Conference by:

- A. Submitting a comprehensive report to the Conference in convention.
- B. Submitting an audited report to the convention at its regular session.
- C. Producing and distributing a regular publication for the Conference.
- D. Filing all required documentation to state and federal government agencies and departments in a timely manner.

Article VIII Board of Faith and Life

Section 1: Authority

A. The Board of Faith and Life (BFL) is authorized by the Conference to carry out its responsibilities as outlined in this Article and in the Bylaws of the Board of Faith and Life.

B. The Board of Faith and Life should reflect appropriate balance among the Districts and must have at least three members who live geographically west of the Rocky Mountains and three members who live east of the Rocky Mountains. Board members shall be elected for a term of not more than four years and may succeed themselves once.

- C. The Conference shall provide the financial and administrative resources required by the BFL to fulfill its responsibilities.

Section 2: Limitations of Authority

The Board of Faith and Life may not make any decision, adopt any policy or take any action that is in violation of the Statement of Faith or the Constitution and Bylaws of the Conference.

Section 3: Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Board of Faith and Life shall be to:

- A. Provide spiritual oversight and serve as the guardian of the Confession of Faith. Any changes or modifications to the Confession of Faith must be processed through this Board for presentation to the Conference;
- B. Watch over the spiritual life of the Conference and its churches and give guidance and direction in matters of faith, doctrine and ethics. It shall, when deemed necessary, initiate appropriate action or serve as a reference body in issues of spiritual and social concern;
- C. Function as an advisory board to district conferences in matters of ethics, doctrine, and polity;
- D. Initiate appropriate disciplinary action when conditions contrary to the teaching of the Bible and the principles of the Conference exist in our churches and conferences;
- E. Convene study conferences for purposes of consultation and discernment on issues of faith, discipleship or polity; and
- F. Commission the dissemination of information in print and other media to facilitate wider participation in study and consensus building.

Section 4: Expectations

The Board of Faith and Life is expected to:

- A. Fulfill its spiritual auditing function independent of supervision by any other board, corporation, committee, task force, member church, District Conference or college.
- B. Set annual goals to fulfill its other responsibilities.
- C. Participate in the annual strategic planning conference.
- D. Maintain compliance with Article IX of these Bylaws.

Section 5: Accountability

The Board of Faith and Life is directly accountable to the Conference. It shall fulfill its accountability by presenting a report of the results of its activities to the Conference at its regular session and by communicating regularly with the Conference in its publications.

ARTICLE IX Corporations

Section 1: Authority

A. Corporations. In order to fulfill its purpose expressed in Article II of these Bylaws, the Conference may delegate its authority to several interdependent corporations, including but not limited to the Board of Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary (MBBS), the Board of Mennonite Brethren Foundation (MBF), and the Board of Mennonite Brethren Mission and Service International (MBMSI). The Conference may create additional corporations from time to time.

The primary means of delegating its authority are through the election of the members of the respective boards and the definitions of their relationship to the Conference in these Bylaws. Board members shall be elected for a term of not more than four (4) years and may succeed themselves once. The total number of board members elected or appointed to each board by all parties may be determined by these Bylaws or in the case of MBBS, MBMSI and MBF, by their respective Bylaws. Where not already determined in the Bylaws of the respective corporations, the number of members elected or appointed to the respective boards shall be determined by the Conference and documented in these Bylaws.

Interdependent corporations formed by the Conference may develop their own Constitution and Bylaws and apply for and maintain 501(c)3 status.

The Conference in convention in any regular or special session or the Leadership Board in the interim of biennial sessions may remove any officer of the corporation, whom it has elected or appointed, from office for cause. Such removal shall require a two-thirds majority of the Leadership Board.

B. Qualifications. All members who are in good standing in their home churches and who have proved themselves faithful in their Christian life are eligible for election to corporations and offices. Members to be elected to any of the corporations and offices shall have been a member of a Mennonite Brethren Church for at least one year.

Section 2: Limitations of Authority

The Constitution and Bylaws on any of the above corporations may not violate the Constitution and Bylaws of the US Conference.

Section 3: Responsibilities

The Conference in convention shall elect members to the boards of MBBS, MBMSI, MBF in order to administer these ministries and to meet needs to fulfill the purposes of the Conference as outlined in the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

The specific responsibilities of the corporations, committees and task forces may be documented in Articles X to XII of these Bylaws and in the Bylaws, Governance Manuals, and minutes of the respective corporations.

Section 4: Expectations

- A. Each corporation is expected to:
 - 1. Follow the same process for changes in their respective Constitutions and Bylaws as is outlined in Article XIV below.
 - 2. Carry out the duties of the board which have been delegated to the respective board as documented in these Bylaws and their respective Bylaws.
 - 3. Elect their officers from the members elected by the Conference in convention and other duly elected and appointed members and organize their governance, leadership and management as they deem proper.
 - 4. Include in its board policy manual a Conflict of Interest policy that makes reference to holding multiple positions or offices concurrently.
- B. In order to foster interdependence and to strengthen the MB community each corporation is also expected to:
 - 1. Promote conference ministries performed by the other boards and corporations.
 - 2. Participate in an annual strategic planning conference by sending its Chief Executive Officer and two members of its board, including its chair.
 - 3. Be supportive of conference funding strategies.

Section 5: Accountability

All of the above corporations are accountable to the Conference and shall:

- A. Submit their strategic plans and reports of their activities to the regular session of the convention.
- B. Submit an audited report to the convention at its regular session.
- C. Keep a record of all meetings held and upon request make the records available to the officers of the Conference. All board and committee records shall ultimately be filed with the Conference secretary, who shall then file same in the United States Conference Archives.
- D. All corporations are also accountable to:
 - 1. The Board of Faith and Life, acting for the Conference, for compliance with the Statement of Faith.
 - 2. The Leadership Board of the Conference, acting for the Conference, for participation in the annual strategic planning conference.

Article X
Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary

Section 1: Authority

- A. Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary (MBBS) is authorized to provide leadership training on behalf of the Conference.
- B. The MBBS Corporation shall be owned jointly by The United States Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches and the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches.
- C. MBBS is authorized to maintain 501(c) 3 charitable status and to operate with its own Constitution and Bylaws.
- D. The periodic conventions of each of the national conferences, including any joint conventions of said national conferences, may serve as meetings of the portion of the Corporation there represented, for the purpose of selecting members of the Board as set forth in the Bylaws of MBBS.
- E. MBBS shall be governed in accordance with the Bylaws of MBBS which are expressly approved by the partnering national conferences.
- F. A majority of the members of the Board shall be elected by the national conferences. Four (4) members shall be selected from the membership of The United States Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches by that conference.

Section 2: Limitations of Authority

The Board of MBBS may not make any decision, adopt any policy or take any action that is in violation of the Statement of Faith or the Constitution and Bylaws of the Conference.

Section 3: Responsibilities

The responsibilities of MBBS are to:

- A. Provide leadership and leadership training that strengthens the theological identity, direction, cohesiveness, and mission of the Mennonite Brethren Church.
- B. Work in partnership with Mennonite Brethren and other churches in leadership development, discerning (“calling out”) potential pastors and other gifted leaders, providing biblical and practical training for multiplying and training leaders in the congregational context.
- C. Train and equip men and women for kingdom mission and ministry in the church and in the world.
- D. Work with Mennonite Brethren and other churches and ministries, to train leaders who have a passion for godliness, are anchored biblically, think theologically, ably articulate the Gospel, love people, serve the church, and understand the culture.

E. Coordinate theological training for Mennonite Brethren pastors and other leaders in the United States and Canada in order to make seminary education more accessible and affordable in their respective districts and provinces.

Section 4: Expectations of Responsibility

MBBS is expected to maintain compliance with Article IX of these Bylaws.

Section 5: Accountability

MBBS is accountable to the Conference for fulfilling its responsibilities. MBBS shall exercise that accountability by providing a report of the results of its activities to the Conference in its regular sessions and by communicating with the Conference in its regular publications.

Article XI Mennonite Brethren Foundation

Section 1: Authority

A. The Board of Directors of Mennonite Brethren Foundation (MBF) is authorized to be the delegated agents for the Conference in areas of stewardship education, financial management, and deferred giving plans and services.

B. MBF may act as trustee for all trusts in which the United States Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches or its regional Conferences, local churches, ministries, seminaries, educational institutions, agencies or department are designated by the trustor. With respect to all existing trust relationships, the Foundation shall act as the agent for the United States Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches and recognized denominational affiliates in its place and stead, as trustee, to the extent authorized by the Leadership Board.

C. To the extent permitted by law, it shall have the power to issue charitable annuities.

D. MBF is authorized to maintain 501(c) 3 charitable status and to operate with its own Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

Section 2: Limitations of Authority

MBF may not make any decision, adopt any policy or take any action that is in violation of the Statement of Faith or the Constitution and Bylaws of the Conference.

Section 3: Responsibilities

MBF shall control, carry out and manage various activities of the United States Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches relating to estate planning, wills, trusts, estates and other types of deferred gifts.

Section 4: Expectations

MBF is expected to maintain compliance with Article IX of these Bylaws.

Section 5: Accountability

- A. MBF is accountable to the Conference for fulfilling its responsibilities. The Board of MBF shall exercise that accountability by providing a report of the results of its activities to the Conference in its regular sessions and by communicating with the Conference in its regular publications.
- B. The Leadership Board shall appoint the U.S. Treasurer to be a member of the MBF Board of Directors.

Article XII

Mennonite Brethren Mission and Service International

Section 1: Authority

- A. Mennonite Brethren Mission and Service International (MBMSI) is authorized to operate global Christian mission programs on behalf of the Conference by training and sending missionaries to all parts of the world.
- B. The MBMSI corporation shall be owned jointly by The United States Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches and the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches. The Bylaws of MBMSI shall provide that additional conferences may become joint owners in the future.
- C. MBMSI is authorized to maintain 501(c) 3 charitable status and to operate with its own Constitution and Bylaws.
- D. The MBMSI corporation will be governed in accordance with the Bylaws of MBMSI which are expressly approved by the partnering national conferences.
- E. The periodic conventions of each of the national conferences, including any joint conventions of said national conferences, may serve as meetings of the portion of the Corporation there represented, for the purpose of electing members of the Leadership Board as set forth in the Bylaws of MBMSI.
- F. A majority of the members of the Board shall be elected by the national conferences. Four (4) members shall be elected from the membership of The United States Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Churches by the convention of that conference.

Section 2: Limitations of Authority

- A. The Board of Directors of MBMSI may not make any decision, adopt any policy or take any action that is in violation of the Statement of Faith or the

Constitution and Bylaws of the Conference.

B. The Bylaws of MBMSI shall provide that the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the MBMSI corporation may only be amended by action of the partnering national conferences.

Section 3: Responsibilities

The responsibilities of MBMSI are:

- A. Holistic Church Planting – transforming lives and communities.
- B. Mobilization – calling the church into mission.
- C. Training & Team Health - healthy deployment of healthy missionaries.

Section 4: Expectations

MBMSI is expected to maintain compliance with Article IX of these Bylaws.

Section 5: Accountability

MBMSI will be accountable to the partnering national conferences in the following ways. MBMSI will:

- A. Provide full reports to the partnering national conferences at their conventions.
- B. Communicate regularly with the Conference in its regular publications.
- C. Review its constituency relations function in order to assure adequate communication and relationship with the partnering national conferences, the district and provincial conferences, as well as the individual churches which make up those conferences.

Article XIII

Nominating Committee

A. The Nominating Committee shall be comprised of one person selected by each district. This may be a District Minister if so approved by their District. Their term shall be limited to four years. This committee will be convened as necessary by the Executive Director of the U.S. Conference and shall submit nominations to the Leadership Board for approval.

B. The Committee shall seek candidates for all vacancies. The Committee shall present all customary duties of the proposed position as they solicit members for nomination. The delegation may add additional nominees from the convention floor. The committee shall give opportunity for local churches to suggest nominees for the various vacancies. Consent from the respective nominees shall be obtained prior to placing names on the ballot to ascertain their readiness to serve if elected. The Nominating Committee chair shall be determined by the committee. The chair shall communicate with the respective

board chair if clarification is needed i.e. the definition of customary duties for a position.

C. The Conference shall provide the financial and administrative resources required by the Nominating Committee to fulfill its responsibilities.

ARTICLE XIV Amendment of Constitution and Bylaws

Section 1: Amendment of the Constitution

A. Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by a local church, Conference board or committee or district conference by submitting the desired change to the Leadership Board for its consideration and evaluation. It shall be the responsibility of the Leadership Board to inform the churches of the proposed amendment not less than two months prior to the convention at which action is to be taken.

B. After a proposed amendment has been adopted by not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates, it shall be submitted to the churches for ratification. If within ninety days after adjournment, no more than one-third (1/3) of the churches have reported a negative vote on the amendment, the officers of the Conference shall declare the amendment passed and shall take appropriate steps to have the Constitution of the Conference amended so that the same may be consistent with the amendment passed by the convention.

Section 2: Amendment of Bylaws

A. Amendments to the Bylaws may be proposed by a local church, Conference board or committee or district conference by submitting the proposed change to the Leadership Board for its consideration and recommendation before it is placed on the convention floor. An amendment may be adopted at the convention at which it is proposed.

B. The Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation of the Corporation may be revised or amended by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting at a regular or special convention. Notice of a proposed revision or amendment shall be given to member churches at least ninety (90) days prior to the convention at which the matter will be presented for action. This notice provision may be waived by a two-thirds vote of the delegates at a convention.

C. No revisions or amendments to the Bylaws or Articles of Incorporation may in any way be in conflict with any part of the Confession of Faith.

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