

Central District

Missionary Church

Bylaws

(Adopted by vote of District Conference – May 2010)

BYLAWS
Central District
Missionary Church, INC.

Article I	Name	Page 3
Article II	Purpose	Page 3
Article III	Boundaries	Page 3
Article IV	Relationship	Page 3
Article V	District Conference	Page 4-5
Article VI	Officers & Elections	Page 5-7
Article VII	Duties of Officers	Page 7-8
Article VIII	District Executive Board	Page 8-10
Article IX	District Committees	Page 10-11
Article X	Finances	Page 11
Article XI	Ministers & Staff	Page 11
Article XII	Pastoral Relations	Page 11-13
Article XIII	Amendments	Page 13

It shall be governed in all matters pertaining to doctrine, polity, and practice by the Constitution and Bylaws of the parent organization.

ARTICLE V -- DISTRICT CONFERENCE

- JURISDICTION** SECTION 1 - The Missionary Church, Central District, Inc. shall be governed by an annual conference, which shall function in accordance with the authority delegated to it by the Constitution and General Conference of the Missionary Church, Inc., and by the Missionary Church Central District Bylaws.
- COMPOSITION** SECTION 2 - The District Conference shall include all churches and district institutions within its boundaries. (A district institution is any institution within the district controlled by the district and used for district purposes.)
- CONFERENCE MEMBERS** SECTION 3 - The District Conference shall be composed of: the denominational President, member ex officio; all ordained and licensed ministers resident in the district; members of the District Executive Board; one lay delegate for each 50 members or fraction thereof from each full member church, any approved missionaries on home ministry assignment; and all members of district committees.
- TIME OF MEETING** SECTION 4 - The District Conference shall meet annually at a time and place decided by the District Conference or the Executive Board. All conferences shall be governed according to Robert's Rules of Order.
- FUNCTIONS** SECTION 5
- a. The District Conference shall elect by ballot its own officers and committees including the District Superintendent, the Vice-District Superintendent, the Secretary, additional members of the Executive Board, and such other officers, boards, and committees as may be deemed necessary. A majority of the votes cast shall be required for election.
 - b. It shall ratify the appointment of the District Treasurer. (see Article VI, Section 2, Paragraph d.)
 - c. It shall approve new churches for membership in the Missionary Church, Inc., and shall request that a certificate of membership in the denomination be issued by the proper denominational officers.
 - d. It shall conduct conferences, conventions, and

camps in the district as practical, and shall take steps as are necessary to implement and promote the missionary programs of the denomination.

- e. It shall receive the reports of the District Superintendent and other officers, the Executive Board, pastors, other ministers, and committees, and shall submit to the General Conference such reports as may be required.
- f. It shall be the prerogative of the District Conference to make recommendations to the General Conference.

**SPECIAL
CONFERENCE**

SECTION 6 - A special conference may be called by the District Executive Board. The membership of the Special Conference shall be the same as the membership of the previous annual District Conference.

ARTICLE VI -- OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

**EXECUTIVE
OFFICERS**

SECTION 1 - The Executive Officers of the Missionary Church, Central District, Inc., shall consist of a District Superintendent, Vice-District Superintendent, Secretary, and Treasurer. All officers must be members in good standing of a full member Central District Missionary Church.

**DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENT**

SECTION 2

- a. (1) The District Superintendent shall be elected for a term of four years by the District Conference from among its ordained ministers. In case of special need, the District Executive Board may request assistance from the General Board in securing qualified district leadership.
- (2) In the last year of a term, if the present District Superintendent is willing to continue in the office and has the support of the District Executive Board, the Vice District Superintendent and Secretary will send a letter to all licensed ministers inviting a written response. The District Executive Board will then evaluate the responses to determine the appropriate action.
- (3) In the event of a vacancy in the office of the District Superintendent due to retirement, resignation, termination, or at the recommendation of the District Executive Board, a Search Committee will be established.

- (a) The Search Committee shall consist of five people from the district, chaired by the Vice District Superintendent, with no more than a total of two District Executive Board members.
- (b) The Search Committee will send a letter no later than January 1, to all licensed ministers in the district requesting names to be considered for the office of District Superintendent. After an evaluation process, the Search Committee will then recommend one name to the District Executive Board for approval and subsequent presentation to the District Conference. The candidate's name will be communicated to the churches at least 30 days prior to District Conference.

- (4) The candidate shall communicate to the District Conference his ministry experience and how he intends to fulfill the position of District Superintendent, with time given for questions, prior to a vote being taken.
- (5) The affirmation vote for District Superintendent must be at least 75% for the candidate to be elected.
- (6) In the event of no election, referral is made back to the Search Committee and the District Executive Board to bring recommendation to District Conference.

VICE-DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENT

- b. The Vice-District Superintendent shall be elected for a term of two years by the District Conference from among its ordained ministers. When the district has sufficient members to be entitled to a pastor serving on the General Board, the Vice-District Superintendent shall so serve.

SECRETARY

- c. The Secretary of the District shall be elected for a term of two years by the District Conference.

TREASURER

- d. The Treasurer of the District shall be appointed by the District Executive Board for a term of two years, taking office at the discretion of the District Executive Board. This appointment is to be ratified by the District Conference.

SUPPORT STAFF

- e. The support staff of the district shall be appointed by the District Superintendent in consultation with and by ratification of the District Executive Board, and

they shall serve at the discretion of the District Superintendent and the District Executive Board.

ELECTION OF

- f. The election of the District Superintendent and the appointment of the Treasurer shall occur in odd number years, and the election of the Vice-District Superintendent and the Secretary shall be on the even number years.

ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE

- g. All elected and appointed officers and committee members shall take office July 1 (unless otherwise noted) following District Conference, except for the District Superintendent who may take office at the determination of the District Executive Board.

VACANCIES

- h. Any vacancies occurring among Executive Officers or committee members not otherwise provided for shall be filled by appointment of the District Executive Board. Such appointees shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VII -- DUTIES OF OFFICERS

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

SECTION 1

- a. The District Superintendent shall have supervision of all the churches and ministers within his jurisdiction, arrange for conventions and conferences within the district, arrange for meetings in churches in the interests of the denominational programs, arrange for meetings with church boards to evaluate the progress and work of the local church, emphasize the duties of churches to their pastors and pastors to their churches, and uphold the Constitution of the Missionary Church, Inc.
- b. As the need arises, he shall take such steps as are necessary in the change or transfer of ministers. He shall serve as the chief liaison officer in all negotiations between pastors and churches.
- c. As the need arises, the District Superintendent shall have the authority, in consultation with the District Executive Board, to take such steps as are necessary to safeguard the district's churches and members.
- d. He shall serve as the liaison between the district, the denominational college, and World Partners, USA.

- e. He shall accept such additional assignments as may be outlined by the District Conference.

VICE-DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENT

SECTION 2 - The Vice-District Superintendent shall perform such duties as are delegated to him by the District Superintendent. In case of the death, resignation, or removal of the District Superintendent, the Vice-District Superintendent shall become the Superintendent until the next District Conference.

SECRETARY

SECTION 3 - The Secretary shall record and keep the minutes of the District Conference and the District Executive Board and perform such other functions as are outlined by the Conference or the Executive Board.

TREASURER

SECTION 4 - The Treasurer shall receive such monies as the District Conference shall determine and make payments in keeping with its policies and directives. He shall submit such reports as the District Conference, District Executive Board, and District Superintendent shall require.

SUPPORT STAFF

SECTION 5 - Support staff shall have duties clearly defined by the District Superintendent in consultation with the District Executive Board.

ARTICLE VIII -- DISTRICT EXECUTIVE BOARD

COMPOSITION

SECTION 1 - The District Executive Board shall be composed of the District Superintendent, the Vice-District Superintendent, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and four elected members. Of these four elected members, one pastor and one layman shall be elected each year for a two-year term. Following District Conference, if a geographical area (Central Illinois, Northern Illinois & Wisconsin, Northern Indiana & Central Indiana) is not represented on the District Executive Board, a pastor or layman from that area shall be appointed by the District Executive Board for a two-year term. The Support Staff may serve as advisory or consulting members of the Executive Board if the District Superintendent and Executive Board so desire. Other advisory members may be appointed to the District Executive Board at the discretion of the District Superintendent and the District Executive Board for a two year term. All Executive Board members must be members in good standing of a full member Central District Missionary Church.

QUORUM

SECTION 2 - A majority of the members of the Board

shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, provided reasonable notice of the meeting has been given.

DUTIES

SECTION 3

MINISTERIAL
COMMITTEE

PASTORAL
RELATIONS
COMMITTEE

BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

BUDGET
COMMITTEE

- a. It shall be the responsibility of the District Executive Board to conduct the necessary business of the District Conference in the intervals between conferences. It shall deal with all emergency matters and shall call a special session of the District Conference when necessary.
- b. The Executive Board shall serve as a Ministerial Committee and shall approve ministerial candidates and recommend the licensing and ordination of ministers. It may appoint a committee to examine ministerial candidates. It shall certify to the denominational Home Office annually a list of all ordained and licensed ministers under the jurisdiction of the District.
- c. The Executive Board shall serve as a Pastoral Relations Committee. When necessary, this committee shall assist the District Superintendent in making pastoral changes and help resolve any conflicts and problems that arise from pastoral selection in the highest interest of churches, pastors, and the denomination. The District Superintendent shall be the liaison officer between the Executive Board, pastors, and congregations in all pastoral relations.
- d. The Executive Board shall serve as the Board of Directors of the District Conference and shall hold in trust any properties owned by the District Conference and have authority to receive and hold in trust monies, gifts and legacies; to acquire, loan or borrow money; to purchase, sell, improve, convey or exchange real estate or other property such as stocks, bonds, mortgages, and other securities held by the District Conference; to issue annuity agreements; and to serve as the trustees for estates and gifts in conformity with civil laws of the several states in keeping with the authority delegated by the District Conference. The Board may designate certain of its officers to serve as agents to carry out any of the foregoing authorizations.
- e. The Executive Board shall serve as the Budget Committee.

APPOINTMENTS f. The Executive Board shall appoint such positions as are necessary to fulfill the purpose and vision of the District.

ARTICLE IX -- DISTRICT COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE

SECTION 1

a. The Executive Committee of the District Executive Board shall be composed of the District Superintendent, Vice District Superintendent, District Secretary and District Treasurer and any additional members the District Executive Board deems necessary.

DUTIES

The District Executive Committee shall be authorized to conduct the business of the district between meetings of the District Executive Board and District Conferences. All actions of the District Executive Committee shall be subject to ratification by the District Executive Board. The Executive Committee shall be accountable to the District Executive Board which shall be accountable to the District Conference.

RESOLUTIONS
COMMITTEE

SECTION 2

a. The Resolutions Committee shall be composed of the District Superintendent, the Vice-District Superintendent, two pastors, and two laymen.

APPOINTMENT

b. Two pastors and two laymen shall be appointed for staggered terms of two years by the District Executive Board.

DUTIES

c. It shall receive and coordinate proposed recommendations from local churches or individuals and consider other advisable recommendations relating to the progress or work of the District or Conference. Suggestions or recommendations from groups or individuals outside the Committee should be in the hands of the Committee no less than two months prior to District Conference.

NOMINATING
COMMITTEE

SECTION 3

a. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of the District Superintendent, who shall serve as chairman; Vice-District Superintendent; the Executive Officer whose term does not expire; and two additional members. It shall effect its own organization.

- ELECTION
- b. The two additional members of the Nominating Committee shall be elected annually by District Conference.
- DUTIES
- c. It shall submit nominations to the District Conference for the following District Officers, Directors, Committees, and such others as may be delegated to it: District Secretary; additional members of the Executive Board; additional members of the Nominating Committee.

SECTION 4

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES The District Executive Board shall have the authority to establish other District Committees that may be deemed necessary.

ARTICLE X -- FINANCES

DISTRICT FINANCES SECTION 1 - The District Conference shall be self-supporting in its operation. Its budget year shall be from July 1 to June 30. Our reporting year shall be from January 1 to December 31.

DISTRICT FUNDS SECTION 2 - All monies for District operations and District Church Extension shall be sent to the District Treasury. District Conference shall establish the formula for contributions from each church for District operations and Church Extension. The formula shall be determined by the District Conference.

ARTICLE XI -- MINISTERS & STAFF

SECTION 1 - All staff hired shall pass a background check prior to hiring.

SECTION 2 – The local Church Board shall determine that any ministers and staff hired shall be doctrinally compatible with the Missionary Church.

SECTION 3 - Included in these Bylaws is the Section pertaining to Ministers in the Constitution of the Missionary Church, Inc.

ARTICLE XII -- PASTORAL RELATIONS

SELECTION SECTION 1 - The pastor shall be chosen by a vote of the local conference at a meeting called for this purpose after appropriate consultation with the District Superintendent. He shall be chosen from among persons approved as

ministers in the Missionary Church, Inc., and at least 70% of all votes cast shall be required for selection. Proxy and absentee votes shall not be permitted. The District Executive Board, working in cooperation with the church board, shall have the privilege, where deemed necessary, to appoint the pastor of those churches where either the District or the Denomination subsidizes the church or pastor's salary.

TERM

SECTION 2 - The term of service shall be an indefinite period of time.

**CHURCH BOARD
REVIEW**

SECTION 4

- a. The Church Board shall meet with the pastor at least annually to discuss the relationship between the pastor, Church Board, and the congregation. This review is for the purpose of establishing a better pastor-church relationship.
- b. In the absence of the pastor, if after discussion the board has interest in giving the church membership the opportunity to have a vote regarding a desire of change in pastoral leadership, the board shall vote by ballot on a motion to bring the matter to the church membership for a vote.
- c. If a majority of the board favors a membership vote regarding a desire of change in pastoral leadership, the board shall announce to the congregation at least 10 days in advance the date and time in which the vote by the membership shall be taken. (See Missionary Church Constitution Article XIII, Section C3.)
- d. The pastor and District Superintendent shall be informed immediately by the Church Board Chairman of the decision of the board to have a membership vote regarding a desire of change in pastoral leadership.
- e. Annually, the Church Board shall review and establish pastoral salaries and benefits for the ensuing year.

**MEMBERSHIP
VOTE
REGARDING A
DESIRE OF
CHANGE IN
PASTORAL
LEADERSHIP**

SECTION 4

- a. A vote regarding a desire of change in pastoral leadership may be called for by the church board or the pastor (See section C3) and shall be taken according to the sample ballot provided by the District Superintendent. Announcement of a meeting for pastoral vote shall be made at least

ten days prior to the vote.

- b. The District Superintendent, upon recommendation of the District Executive Board, may call for a vote regarding a desire of change in pastoral leadership.
- c. The Church shall immediately notify the Pastor and District Superintendent of the results of the vote.
- d. If the pastor receives less than 60% of the votes cast, a desire of change in pastoral leadership will be indicated. If he receives less than 70% of the votes cast, the advisability of the pastor remaining shall be determined by the District Superintendent, the Church Board, and the pastor in consultation.

**PASTORAL
PREFERENCE**

SECTION 5 - Each minister shall indicate on his denominational Annual Report Form a statement of his desire for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE XIII -- AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these Bylaws may be adopted at any regular session of the District Conference by a two-thirds majority vote of the Conference, provided they do not conflict with the Constitution of the Missionary Church, Inc. All recommended amendments must be published at least 30 days prior to the date set for the District Conference.