

BYLAWS OF THE UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

As revised at General Conference XXIV, Acapulco, Mexico
Effective 29 June 2010

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS General Conference XXV 1-5 July 2013

(Require approval by 2/3 or more of the Lay House and 2/3 or more of the Clergy House)

How to read the Bylaw Amendment Proposals:

CURRENT LANGUAGE:

- The column labeled “Current Language” shows how the Bylaws currently read.
- Any words that appear in **black bolded underlined** text with strike-through are to be deleted. Example: **This is how deleted words appear.**

PROPOSED LANGUAGE:

- The column labeled “Proposed Language” shows how the particular Article from the Bylaws would read if the Bylaw amendment proposal is approved by General Conference.
- Any words that appear in **red bold** text are to be added. Example: **This is how added words appear.**

THERE ARE FOUR (4) PROPOSALS:

- I. GB PROPOSAL 1: ADDENDUM 1- PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING BYLAW PROPOSALS – page 2
- II. GB & COE PROPOSAL 1: ARTICLE IX – CHURCH FINANCES – page 5
- III. COE PROPOSAL 1: ARTICLE VI – CHURCH MEMBERSHIP – page 8
- IV. COE PROPOSAL 2: ARTICLE V – GOVERNMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND OFFICERS – page 11

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I. GB PROPOSAL 1: ADDENDUM 1- PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING BYLAW PROPOSALS

Current Language	Proposed Language/Rationale/Impact
Addendum 1- PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING BYLAW PROPOSALS	
<p>Governing Board Proposal: -For clarification purposes on Governing Board or Council of Elders bylaw submission process.</p> <p>RATIONALE: The Governing Board and By-Laws committee has reviewed this proposal and it is submitted for clarification purposes. Historically, bodies that are elected and affirmed by General Conference have been able to bring forth MCC by-laws changes. The Governing Board and Council of Elders are bodies that are elected or affirmed by General Conference. The procedures voted on at last General Conference replaces the old system of having locally-initiated by-laws come through a Regional Conference for vetting, and ensures that by-laws submitted have been reviewed globally.</p>	
<p>Criteria In order for a Bylaw amendment proposal to be considered by the General Conference, the proposal must be sponsored by a member of the Lay House or of the Clergy House of General Conference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Members of the Lay House are Lay Delegates; the Interim Pastoral Leader of each affiliated church when that Interim Pastoral Leader is a member of UFMCC; and the members of the Council of Elders and of the Governing Board who are not clergy or Lay Delegates and are members of UFMCC. b. Members of the Clergy House are ordained clergy with a License to Practice and honorably retired clergy. 	<p>Criteria In order for a Bylaw amendment proposal to be considered by the General Conference, the proposal must be sponsored by the Governing Board, Council of Elders, a member of the Lay House or of the Clergy House of General Conference.</p> <p>Procedure for sponsorship by the Governing Board or the Council of Elders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Whenever a majority of the Governing Board or the Council of Elders votes to propose a Bylaw amendment, the full text of the proposal is to be submitted to the Governing Board member responsible for managing governance processes. B. Bylaw amendment proposals from the Governing Board or Council of Elders are due to the Governing Board member

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	<p style="color: red;">responsible for managing governance processes no later than sixty (60) days preceding General Conference.</p> <p style="color: red;">C. Bylaw amendments proposed by the Governing Board or the Council of Elders shall include an impact statement from the Governing Board.</p> <p style="color: red;">D. Any Bylaw amendment proposal submitted by the Governing Board or by the Council of Elders, accompanied by the impact statement, will be placed on the agenda of the next General Conference.</p>
<p>Procedure</p> <p>1. A member of the Lay House or of the Clergy House should submit the Bylaw amendment proposal in writing to the Office of the Moderator by no later than six (6) months prior to the next General Conference. The written proposal needs to include at least the following information:</p>	<p style="color: red;">Procedure for sponsorship by a member of the Lay House or Clergy House</p> <p>1. A member of the Lay House or of the Clergy House should submit the Bylaw amendment proposal in writing to the Office of the Moderator by no later than six (6) months prior to the next General Conference. The written proposal needs to include at least the following information:</p> <p style="color: blue;">RATIONALE: Section title clarification only.</p>
<p>6. No later than five (5) months prior to the next General Conference, the Bylaws Team will submit all compatible Bylaw amendment proposals for review and comment by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>All members of the Lay House and of the Clergy House;</u> b. The Governing Board; and c. The Council of Elders. 	<p>6. No later than five (5) months prior to the next General Conference, the Bylaws Team will submit all compatible Bylaw amendment proposals for review and comment by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Governing Board; and b. The Council of Elders.

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	<p>RATIONALE: The Governing Board, which includes the Bylaw Team, and Council of Elders (both staff and volunteers) want to ensure that we have done our due diligence for compatibility with the UFMCC Bylaw framework, mission and vision prior to release to the members of the Lay House and of the Clergy House for consideration at General Conference. And to ensure adequate review time for bylaw amendment proposals received closer to the submission end date.</p> <p>Impact: N/A</p>
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#II. GB & COE PROPOSAL 1: ARTICLE IX – CHURCH FINANCES

Current Language	Proposed Language/Rationale/Impact
ARTICLE IX – CHURCH FINANCES	ARTICLE IX - CHURCH FINANCES
<p>A. FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: The UFMCC adopts and teaches tithing as the scripturally affirmed means of supporting the church and its ministries, and as the expression of good stewardship of time, skills, and money by individuals and church bodies. Therefore, it shall be the responsibility of both the clergy and the lay leadership of local churches to plan and implement programs of stewardship both to help persons grow in the grace of giving and to fund the church's ministries. An offering shall be received at each service of public worship in the local church and at conferences sponsored by UFMCC.</p>	<p>A. FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: The UFMCC adopts and teaches tithing as the scripturally affirmed means of supporting the church and its ministries, and as the expression of good stewardship of time, skills, and money by individuals and church bodies. Therefore, it shall be the responsibility of both the clergy and the lay leadership of emerging and affiliated churches to plan and implement programs of stewardship both to help persons grow in the grace of giving and to fund the church's ministries. An offering shall be received at each service of public worship in the local church and at conferences sponsored by UFMCC.</p> <p style="color: blue;">RATIONALE: Clarifies that emerging churches are also expected to plan and implement stewardship programs and creates a way for emerging churches to contribute to UFMCC.</p> <p style="color: blue;">IMPACT. Moderate increase in tithe income to UFMCC.</p>
<p>B. REPORTING: <u>As of January 1, 2003, the local church administrative body shall report all Church receipts each month to the UFMCC and with that report shall remit fifteen</u></p>	<p>B. REPORTING: Each local church shall report all church receipts each month to the UFMCC and with that report shall remit a percentage of the funds reported, as determined by General Conference.</p>

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<p><u>percent (15%) of the funds reported. As of January 1, 2004, the amount to be remitted shall be fourteen and one-half percent (14-1/2%). Beginning in 2005, the amount to be remitted shall be fourteen percent (14%) and then decrease by one percent (1%) per biennium until the amount to be remitted is reduced to ten percent (10%), unless the reduction is delayed or accelerated by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the General Conference.</u></p>	<p>RATIONALE: This amendment is proposed to eliminate the references to years that have already passed and clarifies that General Conference determines the church contribution level to UFMCC.</p>
<p>Funds bequeathed and money collected for the following purposes must be reported, but may be deducted from the total receipts before calculating the <u>percentages</u> due the UFMCC:</p>	<p>1. EXEMPT FUNDS: Funds bequeathed and money collected for the following purposes must be reported, but may be deducted from the total receipts before calculating the amount due the UFMCC:</p> <p>RATIONALE: This amendment is proposed as a clean-up item since General Conference and not churches determine the percentage due to UFMCC. The exemption is of an amount, not of a percentage.</p> <p>IMPACT: N/A</p>
<p>Any money transferred permanently or for a long term from any <u>of the above</u> exempt funds into the General Fund must be added to the income figures for that month, and tithes paid on them. Report and remittance are due to the UFMCC on or before the tenth (10th) day of the month following the month being reported.</p>	<p>Any money transferred permanently or for a long term from any exempt fund into the General Fund must be added to the income figures for that month, and tithes paid on them. Report and remittance are due to the UFMCC on or before the tenth (10th) day of the month following the month being reported.</p> <p>RATIONALE: Remove unnecessary words in the first sentence.</p> <p>IMPACT: N/A</p>

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Wherever possible and desirable as determined by the Governing Board, churches shall send their tithe directly to the UFMCC Headquarters. However, the Governing Board may choose, in certain circumstances, to authorize special accounts in nations other than the United States to hold in trust the ten percent (10%) UFMCC tithe within that nation. The Governing Board, upon the recommendation of the Moderator, will name the signatories on said accounts and will approve a budget for use of those monies for UFMCC purposes and programs within the respective nation. The Governing Board shall establish appropriate policies and procedures concerning the care of funds held in trust for UFMCC. Whenever funds are transmitted internationally to UFMCC, Fellowship Offices shall provide documentation satisfactory to national/regional government authorities in the sending countries.

B. **SUBMISSION OF TITHE PAYMENT:** Wherever possible and desirable as determined by the Governing Board, churches shall send their tithe directly to the UFMCC Headquarters. However, the Governing Board may choose, in certain circumstances, to authorize special accounts in nations other than the United States to hold in trust the UFMCC tithe payments within that nation. The Governing Board, upon the recommendation of the Moderator, will name the signatories on said accounts and will approve a budget for use of those monies for UFMCC purposes and programs within the respective nation. The Governing Board shall establish appropriate policies and procedures concerning the care of funds held in trust for UFMCC. Whenever funds are transmitted internationally to UFMCC, Fellowship Offices shall provide documentation satisfactory to national/regional government authorities in the sending countries.

RATIONALE: This amendment is proposed as a clean-up item. Prior to 2003, churches contributed 5% to their District and 10% to UFMCC. Now that we no longer have Districts, churches contribute only to UFMCC. The current language should have been amended when Districts were removed from the MCC structure.

IMPACT: N/A

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III. COE PROPOSAL 1: ARTICLE VI – CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Current Language	Proposed Language/Rationale/Impact
<p>PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS REGARDING MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION</p> <p>Council of Elders Proposal 1 -- To expand access to membership in MCC</p> <p><u>RATIONALE:</u> Currently, we have a single, narrow pathway to membership in MCC; the only way for someone to belong to MCC is by becoming a member in good standing of an affiliated church. This set of amendments would create additional ways for people to come into membership with MCC.</p> <p><u>IMPACT:</u> While there is no financial impact, there will be tremendous social and spiritual impact as more people from around the world will be able to become and to see themselves as members of MCC.</p>	
<p>Article VI: <u>CHURCH</u> MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>A. MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING: Any baptized Christian may become a member in good standing of the local church. A local church has the authority to determine any additional criteria for gaining and retaining membership in that local church. Any additional criteria shall be in accordance with UFMCC Bylaws and be compatible with UFMCC core values.</p>	<p>Article VI: MEMBERSHIP IN UFMCC</p> <p>A. MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING OF A LOCAL CHURCH: Any baptized Christian may become a member in good standing of an emerging or affiliated local church. A local church has the authority to determine any additional criteria for gaining and retaining membership in that local church. Any additional criteria shall be in accordance with UFMCC Bylaws and be compatible with UFMCC core values.</p> <p><u>RATIONALE:</u> This will allow emerging churches to offer membership in MCC.</p>

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B. MEMBERS OF UFMCC:

- 1. Members in good standing of each emerging and affiliated local church shall be considered to be Members of UFMCC.**
- 2. All clergy persons ordained by UFMCC shall be considered to be Members of UFMCC.**
- 3. All Members of UFMCC may serve on appointed committees, hold elected office, and participate in all activities of UFMCC.**

RATIONALE:

1. Members of a local church that closes or disaffiliates automatically lose their membership in and sense of connection to the greater MCC movement, even when they have wanted to continue to "be MCC" as individuals. Further, people who live in places where MCC has no affiliated church are not able to join MCC at all. To address this, MCC is developing a global virtual church that is currently recognized as an emerging ministry, a church in the process of affiliation. Individuals from around the world, including those who were members in closed or disaffiliated churches, will be able to have membership in MCC through the virtual church. In addition, this proposed amendment clarifies that all MCC members, including members of "brick-and-mortar" churches, are simultaneously members of the global movement of MCC.

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2. This proposed amendment would recognize all clergy ordained by UFMCC to be members of MCC, regardless of whether the clergy person is a member of a particular MCC congregation. Having a single pathway to membership creates particular challenges for some clergy. For instance, it can be difficult or even unwise for clergy who are between AAA ministries to keep their membership with the church they formerly served. Some retired clergy may not be able to join a local MCC for a lot of reasons. There might not be an MCC where they live. Participating in their local MCC might not be good for the clergy person or for that particular congregation. In all circumstances, each clergy person would retain the option of also joining a "brick-and-mortar" MCC.

3. This proposed amendment affirms MCC's commitment to equality of access, in this instance granting equal access to members of both "brick-and-mortar" churches and of the global MCC virtual church.

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#IV. COE PROPOSAL 2: ARTICLE V – GOVERNMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND OFFICERS

Current Language	Proposed Language/Rationale/Impact
<p>COUNCIL OF ELDERS PROPOSAL 2 - ARTICLE V.B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create the status of “emerging churches” • To create the status of “aligned organizations” • To modify the status of “associated organizations” • To allow representation at general conference by emerging churches, aligned organizations, and associated organizations. <p><u>RATIONALE:</u> This series of amendments is proposed by the Council of Elders in order (1) to make clear MCC's desire to be in community with like-minded people, ministries, and organizations and (2) to expand the ways by which like-minded individuals, ministries and organizations can access and be in relationship with MCC. These amendments also provide a framework for implementation of the recommendations from the International Task Force. In addition, some of these amendments are proposed as "clean up" so that the current MCC Bylaws will more completely reflect the changes in MCC structure that were adopted by the 2007 General Conference.</p> <p><u>Impact:</u> There is no financial impact, other than positive (as more individuals and groups have access to MCC and participate).</p>	

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ARTICLE V.B LOCAL CHURCHES:

ARTICLE V.B

B. LOCAL CHURCHES

1. **EMERGING CHURCHES:** Within the UFMCC, all church bodies that seek to enter into the process of meeting the criteria for affiliation as established by the Council of Elders and approved by the Governing Board may apply to UFMCC for authorization as an “emerging church.” Emerging churches include parish extensions, new church starts, and existing churches that seek to affiliate with UFMCC.
 - a. **AUTHORIZATION:** The Council of Elders shall establish procedures for authorization of emerging churches, procedures for authorization of the leader for each emerging church, and processes for supporting each emerging church until it achieves affiliation.
 - b. **ACCOUNTABILITY:** The emerging church shall be subject to these Bylaws and to the approval or disapproval of actions by a designee of the Council of Elders. When such come to exist, the emerging church shall then also be subject to its local Articles of Incorporation, local Bylaws/Standard Operating Procedures, and any other document of legal organization,
 - c. **CLOSURE:** If an emerging church disbands or ceases to operate, the net assets of the church will revert to the use of the General Conference of the UFMCC. The Governing Board will decide the disposition of said property.

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<p>V.B.2. AFFILIATION: Within the UFMCC, all churches that meet the criteria as established by the Council of Elders and approved by the Governing Board qualify for affiliation and recognition as “church.” An Elder has the authority to approve requests for affiliation. If a church ceases to meet the criteria for affiliation, an Elder may take appropriate actions of intervention, which may include removal of the church’s affiliation status. The decision of the Elder may be appealed to the Council of Elders.</p>	<p>12. AFFILIATED CHURCHES: Within the UFMCC, all churches that meet the criteria as established by the Council of Elders and approved by the Governing Board qualify for affiliation and recognition as an affiliated church. The Council of Elders has the authority to approve requests for affiliation. If an affiliated church ceases to meet the criteria for affiliation, a designee of the Council of Elders may take appropriate actions of intervention, which may include removal of the church’s affiliation status. The decision of the designee may be appealed to the Council of Elders.</p>
<p>V.B.3. ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS: A local church shall have the authority to establish, authorize, and hold accountable special-purpose groups, ministries, and organizations. <u>When the mission of the UFMCC would be best served by a special-purpose group, ministry, or organization being accountable to the denomination, the Governing Board shall have the authority to establish, authorize, and hold accountable such special-purpose group, ministry, or organization-</u></p>	<p>a. ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS: A local church shall have the authority to establish, authorize, and hold accountable special-purpose groups, ministries, and organizations.</p>
<p>V.B.LOCAL CHURCHES: INTRODUCTION: The government of each local church is vested in its Congregational Meeting which exerts the right to control all of its affairs, subject to the provisions of the UFMCC Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, or documents of legal organization, and the General Conference. The Pastor and the local church administrative body are authorized to provide spiritual and administrative leadership in the local church. The officials elected by the Congregational Meeting are subject to the direction and discipline of the local church and are responsible to carry out the local church policies.</p>	<p>b. AFFILIATED CHURCH GOVERNANCE: The government of each affiliated church is vested in its Congregational Meeting which exerts the right to control all of its affairs, subject to the provisions of the UFMCC Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, or documents of legal organization, and the General Conference. The Pastor and the local church administrative body are authorized to provide spiritual and administrative leadership in the affiliated church. The officials elected by the Congregational Meeting are subject to the direction and discipline of the affiliated church and are responsible to carry out the local</p>

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	church policies.
<p>V.B.5. LOCAL CHURCH GOVERNANCE</p> <p>a. The <u>local</u> church, in consultation with <u>an Elder</u>, shall determine an appropriate structure and systems for <u>local</u> church governance that is appropriate for the size of church and cultural context. The local church structure and systems shall include provision for (1) selection and discipline of the local church administrative body, (2) a pastoral search process, and (3) congregational meetings. It is incumbent upon the local church administrative body of each local church to provide that church with a set of Bylaws or standard operating procedures, subject to approval by <u>an Elder</u>.</p>	<p>i. The affiliated church, in consultation with UFMCC, shall determine an appropriate structure and systems for local church governance that is appropriate for the size of church and cultural context. The local church structure and systems shall include provision for (1) selection and discipline of the local church administrative body, (2) a pastoral search process, and (3) congregational meetings. It is incumbent upon the local church administrative body of each local church to provide that church with a set of Bylaws or standard operating procedures, subject to approval by UFMCC.</p>
<p>V.B.4. PASTOR: The Pastor is a duly ordained clergy person who has been licensed to practice. Though there are a variety of pastoral roles, in a local congregation the Pastor is elected to be responsible for the duties of teacher, preacher, and spiritual leader. If no duly credentialed UFMCC clergy person is available, an Interim Pastoral Leader may be appointed annually by <u>an Elder</u>. All UFMCC churches are led by Pastors or Interim Pastoral Leaders.</p>	<p>c. PASTOR: The Pastor of an affiliated church is a duly ordained clergy person who has been licensed to practice. Though there are a variety of pastoral roles, in a local congregation the Pastor is elected to be responsible for the duties of teacher, preacher, and spiritual leader. If no duly credentialed UFMCC clergy person is available, an Interim Pastoral Leader may be appointed annually by UFMCC. All UFMCC churches are led by Pastors or Interim Pastoral Leaders.</p>
<p>i. CONFLICT RESOLUTION: When there are conflicts or difficulty within a local church, including apparent irreconcilable differences between the Pastor and congregation, <u>an Elder</u> shall have the authority to interface</p>	<p>ii. CONFLICT RESOLUTION: When there are conflicts or difficulty within a local church, including apparent irreconcilable differences between the Pastor and congregation,</p>

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with that church, to take appropriate measures, to provide resources and support, and to attend and have voice at any meeting of the local church administrative body or Congregational Meeting. **An Elder** shall be required to intervene when invited (1) by the Pastor/Interim Pastoral Leader, (2) by majority vote of the local church administrative body, or (3) as a result of a petition signed by a minimum of one-third (33%) of the members of the church.

Within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving the request for intervention, **the Elder** must officially notify all parties mentioned above. Within ten (10) days of the request, **the Elder or the person appointed by the Elder** will establish the time-lines and process for the Ministry of Reconciliation, which must be implemented within thirty (30) days of the initial request.

- c. REMOVING THE PASTOR FROM OFFICE: When irreconcilable differences exist between the Pastor and congregation, the Pastor and congregation may choose to terminate their relationship through mutual agreement. No petition for removal of the Pastor based on irreconcilable differences is valid unless preceded by the process of conflict resolution, as contained within the UFMCC Bylaws **Article V.B.4.b**. Unilateral failure to renew a pastoral contract does not constitute removal of the Pastor from office.

UFMCC shall have the authority to interface with that church, to take appropriate measures, to provide resources and support, and to attend and have voice at any meeting of the local church administrative body or Congregational Meeting. **UFMCC** shall be required to intervene when invited (1) by the Pastor/Interim Pastoral Leader, (2) by majority vote of the local church administrative body, or (3) as a result of a petition signed by a minimum of one-third (33%) of the members of the church.

Within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving the request for intervention, **UFMCC** must officially notify all parties mentioned above. Within ten (10) days of the request, **UFMCC** will establish the time-lines and process for the Ministry of Reconciliation, which must be implemented within thirty (30) days of the initial request.

- iii. REMOVING THE PASTOR FROM OFFICE: When irreconcilable differences exist between the Pastor and congregation, the Pastor and congregation may choose to terminate their relationship through mutual agreement. No petition for removal of the Pastor based on irreconcilable differences is valid unless preceded by the process of conflict resolution, as contained within the UFMCC Bylaws Article **V.B.2.b.ii**. Unilateral failure to renew a pastoral contract does not constitute removal of the Pastor from office. The process of removing the Pastor from office for disloyalty, unbecoming conduct, dereliction of duty or

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The process of removing the Pastor from office for disloyalty, unbecoming conduct, dereliction of duty or when irreconcilable differences arise between Pastor and congregation may be initiated by a petition submitted to the duly authorized church officer as designated by the local Bylaws/Standard Operating Procedures, or documents of legal organization, and signed by at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the members in good standing; or by a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the full Board of Directors /local church administrative body. Within three (3) days, the Pastor and the Elder must be sent a copy of the completed petition or motion of the local church administrative body by the designated church officer. After the Elder and **designated** local church officer have validated the number of members who have signed the petition and the clarity of the petition or validated the votes of the members of the local church administrative body and the clarity of the motion, the Elder may place the Pastor on inactive status, but the Pastor remains fully compensated until the final action of the congregation. Upon validating the petition, the Elder and the local church administrative body will set the time and place of a special congregational meeting to determine whether the Pastor shall remain in office. The date of the meeting shall occur within thirty (30) days of the date the petition is submitted to the designated church officer or the date the motion of the local church administrative body is received by the Elder.

when irreconcilable differences arise between Pastor and congregation may be initiated by a petition submitted to the duly authorized church officer as designated by the local Bylaws/Standard Operating Procedures, or documents of legal organization, and signed by at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the members in good standing; or by a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the full Board of Directors /local church administrative body. Within three (3) days, the Pastor and **UFMCC** must be sent a copy of the completed petition or motion of the local church administrative body by the designated church officer. After **UFMCC** and **the** designated local church officer have validated the number of members who have signed the petition and the clarity of the petition or validated the votes of the members of the local church administrative body and the clarity of the motion, **UFMCC** may place the Pastor on inactive status, but the Pastor remains fully compensated until the final action of the congregation. Upon validating the petition, the Elder and the local church administrative body will set the time and place of a special congregational meeting to determine whether the Pastor shall remain in office. The date of the meeting shall occur within thirty (30) days of the date the petition is submitted to the designated church officer or the date the motion of the local church administrative body is received by **UFMCC**. The Pastor has the right to appear on his/her own behalf before the congregational meeting and may

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<p>The Pastor has the right to appear on his/her own behalf before the congregational meeting and may have an advocate of his/her own choice present. The action of the congregation is final. If a special meeting is called to remove a Pastor, the Elder must be given notice that such action is being taken. The Elder shall attend or send a representative as an impartial observer who shall moderate the meeting. If the Pastor is removed, the local church administrative body will meet immediately after the meeting with the Elder or the representative to arrange for pastoral leadership until the pulpit is filled. The local church administrative body may confer with the Elder as to available candidates for the office of Pastor.</p>	<p>have an advocate of his/her own choice present. The action of the congregation is final. If a special meeting is called to remove a Pastor, UFMCC must be given notice that such action is being taken. A representative of UFMCC shall attend as an impartial observer who shall moderate the meeting. If the Pastor is removed, the local church administrative body will meet immediately after the meeting with the representative of UFMCC to arrange for pastoral leadership until the pulpit is filled. The local church administrative body may confer with UFMCC as to available candidates for the office of Pastor.</p>
<p>V.B.6. LAY DELEGATE:</p>	<p>d. LAY DELEGATE:</p>
<p>V.B.9.a. DISAFFILIATION BY A LOCAL CHURCH: Should a local church desire to disaffiliate from the UFMCC, a representative or representatives appointed by the Moderator must be allowed to meet with the congregation and shall have voice at the Congregational Meeting called for the purpose of disaffiliating. The decision to disaffiliate must receive a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Members present at a duly called Congregational Meeting called for the purpose of disaffiliating.</p>	<p>e. DISAFFILIATION BY AN AFFILIATED CHURCH:</p> <p>i. Should a local church desire to disaffiliate from the UFMCC, a representative or representatives appointed by the Moderator must be allowed to meet with the congregation and shall have voice at the Congregational Meeting called for the purpose of disaffiliating. The decision to disaffiliate must receive a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Members present at a duly called Congregational Meeting called for the purpose of disaffiliating.</p>

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<p>V.B.7. DISCIPLINE OF CHURCHES: If any affiliated church shall fail to abide by the Articles of Incorporation of the UFMCC, these Bylaws, or documents of legal organization, the Moderator or a representative of the Moderator shall take appropriate action to require compliance. The Moderator shall report any such action to the church involved and to the Governing Board.</p>	<p>3. DISCIPLINE OF CHURCHES: If any emerging or affiliated church shall fail to abide by the Articles of Incorporation of the UFMCC, these Bylaws, or documents of legal organization, the Moderator or a representative of the Moderator shall take appropriate action to require compliance. The Moderator shall report any such action to the church involved and to the Governing Board.</p>
<p>V.B.8. CHURCH PROPERTY: In every nation where UFMCC comes to exist and where permitted by local or national laws, the local church's documents of legal organization must name the UFMCC as the successor 501(c)(3) corporation designated to receive the church's property in the event of (1) the dissolution or abandonment of the church, or (2) failure to abide by the process for disaffiliation from the UFMCC by the local church as contained in the UFMCC Bylaws.</p>	<p>4. CHURCH PROPERTY: In every nation where UFMCC comes to exist and where permitted by local or national laws, the local church's documents of legal organization must name the UFMCC as the successor not-for-profit`corporation/non-governmental organization designated to receive the church's property in the event of (1) the dissolution or abandonment of the church, or (2) failure to abide by the process for disaffiliation from the UFMCC by the local church as contained in the UFMCC Bylaws.</p>
<p>V.B.3. ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS: A local church shall have the authority to establish, authorize, and hold accountable special-purpose groups, ministries, and organizations. When the mission of the UFMCC would be best served by a special-purpose group, ministry, or organization being accountable to the denomination, the Governing Board shall have the authority to establish, authorize, and hold accountable such special-purpose group, ministry, or organization.</p>	<p>C. ASSOCIATED NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: When the mission of the UFMCC would be best served by a special-purpose organization being accountable to the denomination, the Governing Board shall have the authority to establish, authorize, and hold accountable such special-purpose organization. Individuals from associated non-governmental organizations may participate in all activities of UFMCC.</p> <p>i. LAY DELEGATE: Each associated non-governmental organization shall have one (1) vote and shall select one (1) Lay Delegate to the UFMCC General Conference. The Lay Delegate shall serve a term of three (3) years. The duties of the Lay Delegate shall include, but not be limited to,</p>

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	<p>representation of the associated non-governmental organization at General Conferences and to be informed of the UFMCC concerns and policies.</p> <p>ii. CLOSURE: When an associated organization disbands or ceases to operate, the net assets of the associated organization will revert to the use of the General Conference of the UFMCC. The Governing Board will decide the disposition of said property.</p> <p>D. ALIGNED NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: Aligned non-governmental organizations are those organizations that support the goals of UFMCC and that are aligned with the work of UFMCC yet do not seek to become an affiliated church or associated organization. Individuals from aligned non-governmental organizations may participate in all activities of UFMCC.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. RECOGNITION: The Council of Elders shall establish the process for granting recognition to Aligned Organizations.2. OFFICIAL OBSERVER: Each aligned organization may designate a representative to serve as an Official Observer at General Conference, with voice but not vote.
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