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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
FOR
PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

OFFICIAL MAY 1, 1997
REVISED 1980
AMENDED 1981
REVISED 1986
AMENDED 1988
AMENDED 1995
AMENDED 1998
AMENDED 2012
REVISED 2014

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PREAMBLE

20 Preliminary to any plan of district church organization is an understanding of the
21 Mission of the church and the place and function of the district in that mission.
22

23 The mission of the church is set forth in the Great Commission of our Lord in Matthew
24 28:18-20. Although never fully understood, it seems clearly to have an inner and an
25 outer direction. The inner mission of the church is to nurture its members that they may
26 grow more and more into the stature of maturity in Christ. The outer mission of the
27 church is to be related as God’s instrument to the problems and needs of the world.
28 The two major functions of the church are effective to the extent that they are
29 undergirded by stewardship of time, talent, and treasurer on the part of the membership.
30

31 The Pacific Northwest District of the Church of the Brethren, hereafter called the District,
32 is a group of congregations located in geographic proximity to each other and having
33 common purposes. The District enables the member congregations to do together what
34 they cannot do separately and helps them to carry out in better fashion their major
35 functions. The organizational structure of the District ~~should~~ *shall* reflect as much as
36 possible the purposes of the District. Above all, the organization ~~should~~ *shall* be shaped
37 to achieve the District’s goals and fulfill its functions.
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39
40

CONSTITUTION

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ARTICLE I. INCORPORATION

43 The name shall be the Pacific Northwest District, Church of the Brethren (*fka* Oregon-
44 Washington District, Church of the Brethren). The principle place of business (district
45 office) shall be in an appropriate location for the District Executive *Team*. The affairs of
46 the District (corporation) shall be managed by the District Board, whose Moderator,
47 Board Chair, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer shall be the legal officers of the
48 District.

49

50 **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE OF THE DISTRICT**

51

52 The purpose of the District shall be to administer and coordinate the religious and
53 business activities of the Church of the Brethren within the bounds of the District. The
54 District shall have power to own and convey real estate and to be trustee of property
55 and of endowment and other funds. The District shall send a delegate to the Standing
56 Committee of the Annual Conference of The Church of the Brethren, hereinafter called
57 Annual Conference, and may appoint representatives to cooperative religious bodies as
58 need and opportunity allow.

59

60 *The District recognizes the following among its further directives in serving its member*
61 *congregations and camps:*

62

63 *1. Facilitate connection among member congregations and camps within the district.*

64

65 *2. Support member congregations and camps in building denominational*
66 *connections.*

67

68 *3. Organize district-wide materials and program options for spiritual and community*
69 *edification.*

70

71 *4. Support member congregations and camps in their individual ministries and*
72 *operations.*

73

74 **ARTICLE III. RELATION TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

75

76 Unless herein specified otherwise, the polity *and policies* of the District shall, *as much*
77 *as is possible, agree harmonize* with the ~~decisions~~ *directions* of the Annual Conference
78 of the Church of the Brethren.

79

80 **ARTICLE IV. MEMBER CHURCHES**

81

82 All Church of the Brethren congregations which are *based geographically in Oregon or*
83 *Washington or virtually and* recognized by the District as organized churches ~~in Oregon~~
84 ~~and Washington~~ shall be member churches of the Pacific Northwest District. A new
85 church development shall be called a “fellowship” until it has fifty or more members and
86 is chartered as a member church.

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88 **ARTICLE V. DISTRICT CONFERENCE**

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1. Purpose of District Conference

District Conference is a mass meeting to which delegates and others interested *attending members* from the member District congregations come in business sessions to give implementation to district purpose. District Conference is the final authority of the District on polity, program, and procedure. Although worship and fellowship are important parts of District Conference, the following agenda is indicative of its principle business function:

- a. To review achievements
- b. To analyze procedures and results
- c. To survey continuing opportunities and needs
- d. To outline objectives, determine priorities, and set goals
- e. To approve strategy and adopt policy
- f. To organize for action and delegate responsibility
- g. To dedicate resources
- h. To go forth in service

2. Conference Delegate Body

- a. All *attending members who are active, informed, and committed members* of the *a churches and or fellowships* of the District shall have the privilege *and responsibility* of *moving and discussing of joining in the discernment and consensus-based decision-making* the business of District Conference.

~~However, only the official delegates of the member churches shall be queried for consensus.~~

- ~~b. There shall be four delegates for each member church with 200 members or fewer. Larger churches shall have one delegate more for each additional 100 members or major fraction thereof.~~
- ~~c. The pastor and church board chairperson of each church shall serve as delegates by virtue of their offices. Each church shall select the remaining quota of its delegates from its membership at large. If a pastor is serving more than one Church of the Brethren congregation, as in a yoked parish, the churches shall select additional delegates to fill the quota.~~
- ~~d. Delegates serving from the membership at large shall be elected for a two-year term and, if the church has more that one elected delegate, half of the number shall be selected each year.~~

3. Conference Officers

- a. The officers of the District Conference shall be the Moderator, Board Chair, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer.

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b. The Moderator and Board Chair shall be called every two years by the District Conference in alternating years. Each position is eligible for a second two year term. The Treasurer and Recording Secretary shall serve for three-year terms and are eligible to serve a second three-year term.

c. A slate listing the above four officers shall be prepared by ~~the Gifts and Discernment Committee~~ *the Board*, and presented to the Board for confirmation prior to confirmation by District Conference. The Board shall present the slate to the District Conference for confirmation.

~~4. District Conference Committees~~

~~a. Gifts Discernment Committee~~

~~i. There shall be a Gifts Discernment Committee composed of five members serving staggered three-year terms. They shall be called by District Conference for one three-year term and shall not be eligible to succeed themselves. The chairperson shall be one of the members of the Committee with longer tenure. The Pastor-at-large on the Board will serve on the committee.~~

~~B. Program and Arrangements Committee~~

~~i. There shall be a District Conference Program and Arrangements Committee of five members, three of whom shall serve staggered three-year terms. The Moderator, together with the Board Chair, shall serve as the other two members of the committee and the Moderator will serve as chair of the committee.~~

ARTICLE VI. DISTRICT BOARD

1. Purpose of the Board

The District Board, hereafter referred to as the Board, shall manage and administer the work of the District as authorized by the District Conference. The Board is the legal agent of the District and shall be empowered to act on behalf of the District Conference ad interim, except for those actions specifically reserved for the District Conference as set forth in this Constitution and By-Laws.

2. Board Members

There shall be a Board consisting of ~~one pastor-at-large~~, the officers of the District Conference, the standing committee delegate for the District, any persons from the District who are serving on the Mission and Ministry Board, ~~and~~ the District Ministry *Executive Team members, the District Administrative Assistant*, leaders *and District Area Ministers*.

183
184 Those members of the incoming District Board shall be presented to the District
185 Conference either in person or by name and there shall be, as part of the
186 conference program, an installation service for the incoming Board to denote
187 acceptance by the Board of their respective offices and responsibilities and the
188 acceptance of the District Conference of the Board as the agent of the District
189 Conference to perform the duties given the Board in the Constitution and By-Laws.

190
191 3. Board Officers and Organization

192
193 The Board shall be organized annually immediately following District Conference.
194 The officers of the District Conference shall also serve as the officers of the
195 Board.

196
197 ~~The District Executive shall serve as the executive officer of The Board.~~

198
199 4. Board Responsibilities

200
201 The Board shall recommend to the District *Conference* a District
202 Executive *Team* and shall counsel with ~~him/her~~ *team members* regarding ~~his/her~~
203 *their individual* responsibilities and record of agreement.

204
205 It shall be the duty of the Board to appoint an auditor annually to audit the financial
206 records of the District and submit a report to the Board and District Conference.
207 The Board shall be responsible for appointing members to any ad hoc committee
208 or team as required.

209
210 **ARTICLE VII. MINISTRY TEAMS**

211
212 1. The work of the Board shall be implemented by ~~the following three teams:~~ *a*
213 *combination of continuing and ad hoc committees. The Ministry Team, a*
214 *continuing committee, will be responsible for the identification and credentialing of*
215 *ministers, conflict mediation, and the support of Area Ministers. Ad hoc*
216 *committees may be called and formed by the Board to address specific tasks*
217 *identified and directed by the District Conference or the Board.*

- 218
219 ~~a. Ministry Team~~
220 ~~b. Congregational Connections Team~~
221 ~~c. Faithful Response Team~~

- 222
223 ~~2. Areas of focus for the Ministry Team~~
224
225 ~~a. Identification and credentialing of ministers~~
226 ~~b. Conflict Mediation~~
227 ~~c. Support of Area Ministers~~

- 228
229 ~~3. Areas of focus for the Congregational Connections Team~~

- 230
 231 — a. ~~Facilitating ways for congregations to connect/relate~~
 232 — b. ~~Congregational revitalization~~
 233 — c. ~~New church development~~
 234 — d. ~~District Gatherings non-business “Big Event”~~
 235 — e. ~~Camps connections (Camp Koinonia and Camp Myrtlewood)~~
 236
 237 — 4. ~~Areas of focus for the Faithful Response Team~~
 238
 239 — a. ~~Service ministries~~
 240 — b. ~~“Shalom, Peace, and Justice” ministries~~
 241 — c. ~~On Earth Peace~~
 242 — d. ~~Brethren Disaster Ministries~~
 243 — e. ~~Global Mission Partnerships~~
 244 — f. ~~Work Camps~~
 245 — g. ~~Stewardship of life (treasure, talents, time, Creation, gospel)~~
 246
 247 2. Each *The* Ministry Team leader *chair* will be called and confirmed to a two-year
 248 term at the District Conference. *The* Ministry Team leaders *chair* may serve two
 249 *consecutive* terms. Additional Ministry Team members ~~are appointed~~ *shall be*
 250 *appointed by the Board* as required.

252 **ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES**

254 1. Other Committees

255
 256 The District Conference and/or the Board may constitute or authorize such other
 257 continuing or short term committees as necessary to assist with the ongoing work
 258 of the District. When specific assignment of a committee is achieved, the
 259 committee shall be dismissed.

261 2. Historian

262
 263 There shall be an historian appointed by the Board. The historian shall be
 264 concerned with all matters of historic interest to the District and shall collect,
 265 preserve, write, and, as authorized, publish such materials.

267 **ARTICLE IX. RELATED INSTITUTIONS AND INTEREST GROUPS**

- 268
 269 1. The District may enter into relationship with separately organized and incorporated
 270 Church of the Brethren institutions or interdenominational ministries such as
 271 camps, homes for the aged, colleges, and other bodies of interest to the District.
 272 In each instance there shall be mutual agreement between the District and the
 273 body as to the nature of the relationship. The involvement of the District in terms
 274 of financial support, selection of trustees, program endorsement, receiving of
 275 reports, etc. shall be subject to the District Conference action.

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2. As requested or as need arises, the Board shall authorize the formation of special interest or age groups within the District. All such organizations shall exist to aid in fulfilling the mission of the church at large in the District and shall be subject to the oversight and direction of the Board ~~or its respective Ministry Teams~~. Any such group which elects its own officers shall submit a roster of its elected personnel to the next District Conference to be accepted and entered into its minutes.

ARTICLE X. AREA MINISTER PLAN

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1. The District may designate within its boundaries workable units, geographically and/or numerically in order to facilitate the organization and administration of district affairs through Area Ministers.
2. The size of an area may vary according to prevailing circumstances. Where possible an area shall include about five churches within a geographic radius that allows for travel and sufficient time for a meeting in one day.
3. The Area Ministers minister to the pastors of the congregations in the District. They come alongside the pastors for counsel, encouragement, support in ministry, training, and help with resources for congregational revitalization and service. An Area Minister reports to the Ministry Team chair and works closely with the District Executive *Team* and the Board.

BY-LAWS

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ARTICLE I. PERSONNEL SELECTION AND TENURE

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1. The ~~Gifts Discernment Committee~~ *Board* shall prepare a slate for the use of District Conference in the calling and confirmation of:
 - a. Officers of the District Conference including Moderator, Board Chair, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and others as determined by the Board and confirmed by The District Conference.
 - b. Members of the District Conference committees
 - c. Standing Committee delegate
 - d. ~~Pastor-at-large for Board membership; the Gifts Discernment Committee shall nominate one pastor for the pastor-at-large position. The term of office for a pastor-at-large position shall be two years, with a limit of two consecutive terms.~~
 - e. ~~Such other officers as are to be selected by District Conference.~~ *Any other*

322 *officers authorized by District Conference.*

- 323
- 324 2. The term of office for all called or appointed personnel shall be three years unless
- 325 otherwise stated in the Constitution and By-Laws. No one shall be eligible to
- 326 serve more than two terms in succession (maximum, six years). An officer who
- 327 does not fill ~~his/her~~ *their* position in a responsible way and/or is absent from
- 328 meetings
- 329 for six months may have ~~her/his~~ *their* office declared vacant by the Board.
- 330
- 331 3. Approximately one-third of the membership of the Board and continuing
- 332 committees shall be selected in any one year.
- 333
- 334 4. The prepared slate shall include only the names of persons who have consented to
- 335 be nominees. Prior to calling, information about each nominee shall be given to
- 336 the ~~delegates~~ *District Conference*. Immediately following affirmation, a letter shall
- 337 be sent by the District Executive *Team* to each nominee reporting the results.
- 338
- 339 5. For the aid of those groups making nominations and appointments, the District
- 340 Office, ~~in cooperation with the Gifts Discernment Committee~~, shall maintain a file
- 341 indicating the training, interest, and record of service of persons showing promise
- 342 of district leadership.
- 343

344 **ARTICLE II. INDEMNIFICATION**

345

346 All persons now or hereafter Trustees or officers of the District (and their heirs,

347 executors, and administrators) shall be indemnified by the District against all liabilities

348 and expenses, including attorney's fees, reasonably incurred in connection with any

349 claim to which they are parties by reason of being or having been Trustees or officers of

350 the Corporation except in relation to matters as to which such persons shall have been

351 adjudged to be liable for gross negligence or willful misconduct in the performance of

352 duties as such Trustees or officers.

353

354 **ARTICLE III. EMPLOYED STAFF - DISTRICT EXECUTIVE *TEAM***

- 355
- 356 1. The District shall ~~employ~~ *call* a District Executive *Team* to give executive
- 357 guidance to the District. *The composition of the District Executive Team shall be*
- 358 *decided by the District Conference and may include a single employed executive,*
- 359 *multiple individuals serving on a volunteer basis, or other constituencies as chosen*
- 360 *and called by the District Conference. The members of the District Executive*
- 361 *Team* shall be a ~~person~~ qualified by training, experience and personal dedication
- 362 to
- 363 Christ and the church to guide, counsel, and encourage district and local church
- 364 workers in the development of needed church programs.
- 365
- 366 2. ~~This person shall be Executive Officer of~~ *Members of the District Executive Team*
- 367 *shall serve on* the Board and shall give general oversight to the

368 implementation of district work. ~~He/she shall be an ex officio~~
369 ~~member of: The Board, Ministry Teams, and committees of The District.~~ She/he
370 *District Executive Team members* shall work in a liaison capacity with the staff of
371 the Mission and Ministry Board on denominational programs.

- 372
- 373 3. ~~This person~~ *The District Executive Team* shall have basic responsibility for pastoral
374 placement in the District and shall be available to coordinate with the Ministry
375 Team for giving guidance and counsel to district pastors and congregations.
 - 376
 - 377 4. A job description shall be kept on file in the District ~~Executive's~~ office.

378 **ARTICLE IV. STAFF EMPLOYMENT PROCEDURES**

379 The selection and employment of a ~~District Executive and other professional staff~~
380 *professional staff approved by the District Conference*, as well as the termination of
381 such services, shall be the responsibility of the Board in keeping with approved
382 denominational pastoral placement procedures in consultation with the Director of
383 Ministry.

384 **ARTICLE V. CONFERENCE OFFICERS AND DELEGATE** 385 **QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES**

- 386
- 387 1. All *District Conference* officers and delegates shall be members in good standing
388 of a member church *or fellowship* and shall serve faithfully in their respective
389 offices.
 - 390
 - 391 2. The Moderator shall preside at business sessions of the District Conference. The
392 Moderator shall study the needs of the District and give ~~her/his~~ *their* interpretation
393 and counsel regarding them to the District Conference, and to any other
394 appropriate district agency. ~~He/she shall serve as leader of the District Conference~~
395 ~~Program and Arrangements committee.~~
 - 396
 - 397 3. The Board Chair is chairperson of the Board and will work closely with the District
398 Executive *Team* to lead the Board in carrying out decisions mandated by the
399 District Conference. They shall study the needs of the District and give ~~her/his~~
400 *their* interpretation and counsel regarding them to the Board. ~~He/she shall be a~~
401 ~~member of the District Conference Program and Arrangements Committee.~~
 - 402
 - 403 4. The Recording Secretary shall record the minutes of District Conference and
404 District Board meetings and shall, in cooperation with the District Executive *Team*,
405 prepare them for publication and distribution.
 - 406
 - 407 5. The Treasurer shall be custodian of all District funds, disbursing them as
408 authorized by the District Conference and the Board. The Treasurer shall be a
409 member of the Board and shall be a resource to the Faithful Response Team. The
410 Treasurer shall make quarterly written reports to the Board and to the District
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414 Conference as requested and submit the accounts for an annual audit.
415
416 ~~6. Congregational Delegates to District Conference shall be selected only from the~~
417 ~~active, informed, and committed membership of the church. Delegates shall be~~
418 ~~expected to attend all business sessions of District Conference and all meetings of~~
419 ~~the delegate body. They shall report and communicate actions and concerns from~~
420 ~~The District to their church boards, congregations and vice versa.~~
421
422 ~~a. Delegates shall strive to be alert to the work and opportunities of the Church of~~
423 ~~the Brethren at all levels of its organization and program. A delegate shall be~~
424 ~~expected to attend business meetings of his/her congregation.~~
425
426 ~~b. Delegates shall be selected at the time of general elections in the churches and~~
427 ~~shall serve year-round when elected; delegates' names and addresses shall be~~
428 ~~included on the mailing list for newsletters, financial reports and other pertinent~~
429 ~~information. Delegates shall register at District Conference to indicate their~~
430 ~~presence.~~

431 **ARTICLE VI. DISTRICT BOARD FUNCTIONS**

432
433 The Board shall:

- 434 1. Fulfill the directives of the District Conference and make an annual report to the
435 Conference.
- 436 2. Assign, supervise, and coordinate the work of the ministry teams *all District*
437 *committees.*
- 438 3. Interpret the rules of procedure for teams and committees,
439
- 440 4. Study the member congregations and strive to help them meet their needs and
441 fulfill their mission.
- 442 5. Project long-range planning, set goals, and initiate new programs.
443
- 444 6. Promote, administer, and supervise, ~~through District Teams,~~ the denominational
445 program in the District.
- 446 7. ~~Employ~~ *Call* and direct the work of the District Executive *Team* and
447 such other personnel as may be authorized by the District Conference.
448
- 449 8. Make all appointments for which the Board is responsible.
450
- 451 9. Fill vacancies in elective district offices occurring between district conferences and
452 fill such other vacancies not provided for otherwise.
453
- 454 10. Have custody of all District capital funds, endowments, and annuities, and hold title
455
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460

461 to District church properties. Distribute District current funds and invest permanent
462 funds as authorized by the District Conference. Negotiate the purchase and sale
463 of property, and the borrowing and lending of money on behalf of the District.
464

- 465 11. Prepare the District budget for presentation at District Conference.
- 466
- 467 12. Provide for an annual audit.
- 468
- 469 13. Allocate and define authority with respect to the establishment of bank accounts
470 and the signing of checks and other legal documents.
- 471
- 472 14. Arrange for bonding for the District Treasurer.
- 473
- 474 15. Receive, consider, and make disposition of concerns brought by any persons or
475 church group.
- 476
- 477 16. Coordinate the District program and prepare the District calendar.
- 478
- 479 17. Bring queries or other business to the District Conference and process queries
480 from local churches for District Conference action.
- 481
- 482 18. Plan or otherwise provide in-service training opportunities for Board members,
483 employed staff, and other District personnel.
- 484
- 485 19. Actively promote the extension of the church in the District.
- 486
- 487 20. ~~Provide for~~ *Discern* the licensing, ordination, and discipline of ministers ~~in accord~~
488 ~~with~~ *consideration of the decisions of Annual Conference* *Annual Conference*
489 *Directions and the District commitment to building the beloved community.*
490

491 **ARTICLE VII. DISTRICT MINISTRY TEAMS FUNCTIONS**

- 492
- 493 1. Ministry Team shall provide for:
 - 494
 - 495 a. Identification and credentialing of ministers.
 - 496
 - 497 b. Conflict mediation.
 - 498
 - 499 c. Support Area Ministers
 - 500

501 The Ministry Team shall give counsel and guidance to all ministerial affairs in the
502 District, directly and through Area Ministers. This Team shall seek ways to
503 strengthen the relationships and understandings between congregations and
504 pastors, provide training for local ministerial commissions, encourage pastors in
505 their professional growth, and in various ways strive to increase the joy and
506 effectiveness of the pastoral ministry. This Team shall counsel and assist churches
507 and individuals in the various phases of extending and receiving a call to the

508 ministry, becoming equipped and trained for the ministry, and licensing and
509 ordaining ministers. This Team shall review the ministerial list periodically and shall
510 make recommendations to the Board regarding those ministers who no longer
511 appear to show interest or dedication to their ministerial calling.

512
513 ~~2. Congregational Connections Team shall provide for:~~

514
515 ~~a. Focus on finding ways for congregations to connect.~~

516
517 ~~b. Congregational revitalization.~~

518
519 ~~c. New church development.~~

520
521 ~~d. District gatherings – non-business “Big Event”~~

522
523 ~~e. Camp connections~~

524
525 ~~The Congregational Connections Team shall initiate and emphasize such programs~~
526 ~~and work in the churches to foster the spiritual growth and development of church~~
527 ~~persons. This Team shall stimulate the congregations to have a vital encounter~~

528 ~~with~~
529 ~~God, promote the total cause of congregational revitalization, provide opportunities~~
530 ~~for training church leaders and workers, counsel and coordinate age and interest~~
531 ~~groups, maintain audiovisual and book libraries, and do whatever else may nurture~~
532 ~~the inner life of the church. This Team will focus energy on developing ways for~~
533 ~~The District congregations to connect through special District gatherings and~~
534 ~~church camps. This Team shall direct the work of church extension through the~~
535 ~~development of new congregations and the growth of existing ones. When needed,~~
536 ~~guidance shall be given to the merging or disorganizing of churches.~~

537
538 ~~—3. Faithful Response Team shall provide for:~~

539
540 ~~a. Service ministries.~~

541
542 ~~b. “Shalom, Peace & Justice” ministries.~~

543
544 ~~i. On Earth Peace~~

545
546 ~~ii. Brethren Disaster Ministries~~

547
548 ~~iii. Global Missions Partnerships~~

549
550 ~~iv. Work Camps~~

551
552 ~~e. Stewardship of life (treasure, talents, time, Creation, Gospel).~~

553
554 ~~The Faithful Response Team shall also be responsible for directing and~~

555 ~~undergirding the witness of churches to the world. This Team shall urge each~~
556 ~~congregation to share the love of God and the Gospel of Christ with all people~~
557 ~~everywhere through the work of evangelism, to support missions at home and~~
558 ~~abroad, to send and maintain service workers, to give material aid, and to proclaim~~
559 ~~and use the power of God to meet the needs of the world. In these and other~~
560 ~~outreach ministries the Team shall encourage and assist the congregations toward~~
561 ~~the fulfillment of the Great Commission of our Lord. The Team shall aid and~~
562 ~~challenge the churches and all District agencies to be good and faithful stewards of~~
563 ~~God's resources. This Team shall promote a program of general stewardship,~~
564 ~~education, and enlistment in the churches, supervise the financial interests of The~~
565 ~~District, safeguard and utilize the property of The District, assist in preparing the~~
566 ~~annual budget, and in other ways solicit support for the basic ministry work through~~
567 ~~The District.~~
568

569 **ARTICLE VIII. BUSINESS MEETING**

570 1. District Conference

- 571
- 572
- 573 a. The District Conference shall convene once a year, *whether in-person or*
574 *virtually*, at such time as to allow district organization and program to be in
575 readiness for the new church year. Special meetings may be called at the
576 discretion of the conference officers in consultation with the Board.
577 The facilities *for the meeting* should be conducive to attendance and provide
578 arrangements adequate and comfortable.
579
- 580 b. The time of week for the conference should be as free as possible from conflicts
581 with work schedules. Business sessions shall be at hours when the *delegates*
582 *attending members* are the freest to attend. Sunday meetings at the District
583 Conference should not disrupt regular church services in the churches.
584
- 585 c. ~~The District Conference Program and Arrangements Committee shall~~ *The Board*
586 *shall call a committee to be* responsible for planning the conference program,
587 obtaining leadership, determining the place of meeting, securing facilities,
588 providing for exhibits, registering delegates, and making other necessary
589 arrangements for the conference. Suggested scriptures, hymns, litanies, and
590 worship themes may be offered to the churches for their use locally on District
591 Conference Sunday.
592

593 2. The District Board shall meet *at least* three times each church year.

- 594
- 595 a. One of these meetings shall be immediately prior to the District Conference.
596
- 597 b. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the Board.
598
- 599 c. The *District Executive* Teams and any called committees shall meet regularly or
600 as the Board may direct.
601

602 d. Adequate advance notice of all business meetings shall be given to the
603 membership involved. *The Board may call Executive Sessions as necessary.*

604
605 e. *Adequate advance notice and preparatory materials of all business meetings*
606 *shall be given to the membership involved.*

607 **ARTICLE IX. QUORUM**

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609
610 1. Although it is desirable to have as many delegates *attending members* present as
611 possible for the District Conference, no quorum shall be required except as may be
612 specified by state corporation law.

613
614 2. For meetings of the Board and Teams *any committees*, a majority of the called
615 *attending members* shall constitute a quorum.

616 **ARTICLE X. RULES OF ORDER**

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619 The District Conference and District Board meetings will use consensus decision
620 making as the official rule of order. *The decision-making body of District Conference*
621 *shall comprise attending members who are active, informed, and committed members*
622 *of the churches and/or fellowships of the District. These attending members shall have*
623 *the privilege and responsibility of joining in the discernment and consensus-based*
624 *decision-making business of District Conference. The decision-making body of the*
625 *District Board meetings shall comprise the attending District Board members.*

626 627 **ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS**

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630 The Constitution and By-Laws of the District may be amended or suspended by a
631 consensus of delegates *attending members* at any regular session of the District
632 Conference. Written notice of the *any* proposed amendment shall be given with the call
633 of the meeting issued at least thirty days prior to the meeting.