

**BYLAWS OF THE
MICHIGAN REGION OF THE MISSIONARY CHURCH¹**

**ARTICLE 1
REGIONAL IDENTIFICATION**

- A. NAME**
The name of this corporation will be the Michigan Region of the Missionary Church, formerly known as the Michigan District of the Missionary Church.
- B. LOCATION**
The location of the corporation is the city of Burton, in the county of Genesee, State of Michigan. The address of the corporate registered office in Michigan is: 1091 Creekwood Trail, Burton, Michigan 48509-1500. This location will be known as the Michigan Regional Resource Center.
- C. RELATIONSHIP**
The Michigan Region is a subsidiary of the Missionary Church, Incorporated with offices at 3811 Vanguard Drive, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46809-3304. It is responsible for the promotion of the vision, mission, and priorities of the Missionary Church within the boundaries established for it by the parent organization. The Constitution of the Missionary Church will govern the Michigan Region in all matters concerning doctrine, policy, and practice.
- D. GOVERNMENT**
The Michigan Region will be governed by the Regional Conference that will function according to the Constitution of the Missionary Church, Inc. and the General Conference of the Missionary Church, Inc.
- E. INCORPORATION**
The corporation - formed on the basis of a merger-agreement between the members of the Michigan Conference of the United Missionary Church, a Michigan Ecclesiastical Corporation, and the Missionary Church Association, Great Lakes District, an Ohio Non-Profit Corporation, and called the Michigan District of the Missionary Church at the time of the merger - will be known in law as the Michigan Region of the Missionary Church, a Michigan Ecclesiastical Corporation. The corporation will be organized on a non-stock basis.

**ARTICLE 2
REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

- A. COMPOSITION**
The Regional Conference will consist of all credentialed ministers of the Missionary Church, Inc. resident in the Region and its districts, the Regional Oversight Council, the Regional Nominating Committee, the officers of the Michigan Missionary Loans and Investments, Inc., and one lay delegate from each full-member church within the Region and its districts for each 50 members or major fraction thereof (1-75: 1 delegate; 76-125: 2; 126-175: 3; 176-225: 4; etc.). Delegates will be elected by and from the members of each church or appointed by the church or elder board. Any change of delegate must be certified by a letter from either the Church Board or the Pastor to the Michigan Regional Resource Center before seating the delegate in the Regional Conference bar. Affiliate Churches and unorganized Church Multiplication projects may send non-voting delegates to Regional Conference. Those holding Lay Ministry Licenses in the Region are not members of Regional Conference unless he or she is sent as a delegate of a full-member church or is serving as the senior pastor of a full-member church or church multiplication project recognized by the Region or one of its districts.

¹ These Bylaws were adopted May 3, 2011 by the Michigan District Conference and went into effect July 1, 2011.

B. DUTIES

1. The Regional Conference will have the authority to exercise care and discipline over the churches and ministers within its boundaries in order to maintain integrity in doctrine, policy, and practice according to the Constitution of the Missionary Church, Inc.
2. It will elect or appoint its own officers, boards, and committees including the Regional Director, members of the Regional Oversight Council, and others as needed.
3. It will recommend to the General Oversight Council of the Missionary Church, Inc. the approval of new churches for membership in the Denomination. This responsibility will be transferred to districts when fully organized.
4. It will recommend the establishment of new districts within the Region and the guidelines governing such according to the policies established by the General Oversight Council.
5. It will license, commission, and ordain ministers in keeping with the provisions of the Constitution of the Missionary Church, and will certify them to the Missionary Church President who will issue the credentials. This responsibility will be transferred to districts when fully organized.
6. It will conduct conferences and ministries in the Region as needed. It will implement and promote the ministries of the Denomination.
7. It will receive the reports of the Regional Director and other officers, pastors, workers, boards, and committees as may be required. It will submit required reports to General Conference.
8. It will be the prerogative of the Regional Conference to make recommendations to the Missionary Church General Conference.
9. It will receive and act on resolutions from districts, churches, boards, and committees, etc. All resolutions must arrive at the Regional Resource Center at least thirty days prior to the Regional Conference in order to be considered. All resolutions, other than procedural motions, that are presented at Regional Conference will be referred to a study committee for recommendation.

C. MEETINGS

1. Annual Regional Conference: It will meet annually. The Regional Oversight Council will select the date, time, and location of the Annual Regional Conference and provide an advance notice of at least 90 days. Proposed bylaw amendments will be published with the notice of the meeting.
2. Quorum: A quorum will consist of those members present at a duly called meeting.
3. Special Regional Conference: The Regional Oversight Council may call a Special Regional Conference. The Regional Oversight Council will select the date, time, and location of the Special Regional Conference and provide an advance notice of at least 30 days. Its membership will consist of all those eligible to participate in the previous Annual Regional Conference.

**ARTICLE 3
REGIONAL OFFICERS**

The offices of the Michigan Region will be the Regional Director, the Vice-Chair of the Regional Oversight Council, the Regional Secretary, and the Regional Treasurer.

A. REGIONAL DIRECTOR

1. SELECTION

- a. The Regional Director will be an ordained minister in the Missionary Church nominated by a Special Nominating Committee of six, three lay members and three ordained ministers, appointed by the Regional Oversight Council. The committee will solicit input for possible nominees. All nominees for Regional Director must be selected in consultation with the President of the Missionary Church and must be ratified by the Ministry Leadership Council and the General Oversight Council of the Missionary Church.
- b. The Regional Director will be elected by the voting members of the Michigan Region for a term of four years and must operate within the authority of God's Word, the Constitution of the Missionary Church, and the Bylaws of the Michigan Region.
- c. The Regional Director must receive a 60% majority to be elected for his first two terms. After two consecutive terms in office, he must receive a 75% majority vote to continue in office for each additional term.
- d. The newly elected Regional Director will assume office on July 1 in the year of the election and will be an advisory member of all boards and committees until he assumes office.

2. ACCOUNTABILITY

- a. The Regional Director will be accountable to the Michigan Regional Conference and the Regional Oversight Council, providing both with appropriate reports regarding his ministry.
- b. The Regional Director will also be accountable to the office of the President of the Missionary Church and represent the Michigan Region on the Ministry Leadership Council of the Missionary Church. He will submit to the General Conference of the Missionary Church a full report of the work of the region, including a summarized statistical report.

3. DUTIES

- a. The Regional Director will seek to fulfill the vision, mission, and priorities of the Michigan Region and be responsible to uphold the Word of God, the Constitution of the Missionary Church, and the Michigan Region Bylaws.
- b. He will recruit, develop, and equip leaders, mission district directors, and district directors within the region and assist them in developing strategies to fulfill the vision, mission, and priorities of the Region.
- c. He will help churches with strategies for growth and multiplication and the implementation of those strategies.
- d. He will supervise all churches, districts and ministers in the Michigan Region and have authority, in consultation with the Regional Oversight Council, to visit and address local church boards or congregations to safeguard the Region's churches, districts and members.
- e. He will oversee the work of the Regional Ministries Coordinator, the Regional Resource Center, and the various ministries of the Region.
- f. He will chair the Regional Conference, the Regional Oversight Council, and the Ministry Multiplication Team.
- g. He will be an ex-officio member of all councils, boards, committees, task forces, ministry teams within the Region, its mission districts, and its Districts.

B. VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE REGIONAL OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

1. SELECTION

- a. The Vice Chairperson will be selected from the membership of the Regional Oversight Council.
- b. The Vice Chairperson will serve for a four-year term, staggered with the term of the Regional Director. The Vice Chairperson's term will begin July 1.

2. DUTIES

- a. The Vice Chairperson will chair the Regional Nominating Committee.
- b. The Vice Chairperson will chair the Regional Oversight Council and the Regional Conference at the request of or in the absence of the Regional Director.
- c. The Vice Chairperson will fulfill other duties delegated by the Regional Director and/or the Regional Oversight Council.

C. SECRETARY

1. SELECTION

- a. The Secretary will be appointed by the Regional Oversight Council.
- b. The Secretary will serve for a four-year term staggered with the term of the Regional Treasurer. The Secretary's term will begin July 1.

2. DUTIES

- a. The Secretary will record and keep the minutes of the Regional Conference and the Regional Oversight Council.
- b. The Secretary will present a report to the Regional Conference summarizing the work of the Regional Oversight Council.
- c. The Secretary will oversee the publication of the minutes and reports of the Regional Conference.
- d. The Secretary will fulfill other duties delegated by the Regional Director, the Regional Oversight Council, or the Regional Conference.

D. TREASURER

1. SELECTION

- a. The Treasurer will be appointed by the Regional Oversight Council.
- b. The Treasurer will serve for a four-year term staggered with the term of the Regional Secretary. The Treasurer term will begin July 1.

2. DUTIES

- a. The Treasurer will receive, hold, and disburse monies as the Region decides in keeping with its policies, directives, and budgets.
- b. The Treasurer will submit financial reports as requested by the Regional Director, the Regional Oversight Council, or the Regional Conference.
- c. The Treasurer will calculate the annual Regional ministry shares for each church according to the formula established by the Regional Conference and the requirements of the approved Regional budget and communicate that amount to each church.

ARTICLE 4

REGIONAL MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

A. SELECTION

1. The Regional Ministries Coordinator (RMC) will be nominated by the Regional Director and appointed by the Regional Oversight Council.
2. The Regional Oversight Council will decide the terms of service, salary, and benefits.

B. ACCOUNTABILITY

1. The Regional Ministries Coordinator (RMC) will be accountable to the Regional Director.
2. The RMC will serve as an advisory member of the Regional Oversight Council and the Ministry Multiplication Team.
3. The RMC will provide appropriate reports regarding his ministry to the Regional Oversight Council, the Ministry Multiplication Team, and the Michigan Regional Conference.

C. DUTIES

1. The Regional Ministries Coordinator will serve as an assistant to the Regional Director in the fulfillment of the vision, mission, and priorities of the Michigan Region.
2. The RMC will coordinate pastoral care for Regional ministers and their families in times of need, transition, and/or crisis.
3. The RMC will oversee pastoral placement in the Region, following the Regional Handbook on Policies and Procedures.
4. The RMC will oversee credentialing matters in the Region.
5. The RMC will manage the support staff and ministries of the Regional Resource Center.
6. The RMC will represent the vision, mission, and priorities of the Region in local churches and assist congregations with special occasions and services.
7. The RMC will fulfill other duties delegated to him by the Regional Director.

ARTICLE 5

REGIONAL BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

A. REGIONAL OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

1. COMPOSITION

- a. The Regional Oversight Council will have ten voting members and will be composed of the Regional Director, Regional Secretary, Regional Treasurer, and seven other members, elected for staggered four-year terms by the Regional Conference. Four of the seven are to be credentialed ministers in the Region and the other three are laypersons. In addition, the Regional Ministries Coordinator will serve as an advisory member.
- b. The Regional Director will serve as chair of the Council.
- c. The Regional Secretary and Regional Treasurer will be appointed for staggered four-year terms.
- d. The Council will select from its membership a Vice Chair who will also serve as Vice Chair of the Regional Conference.

2. DUTIES

- a. The Regional Oversight Council will seek to fulfill the vision, mission, and priorities of the Michigan Region and give oversight to all churches, mission districts, and districts within the Region. It will be the trustee of the Region and serve as its Board of Directors. It will meet regularly with a minimum of four meetings per year.
- b. It will employ ministry and support staff within the confines of the Regional budget and establish appropriate job descriptions for those employed.
- c. It will represent the interests of the Regional Conference and have full authority to transact business that may arise between the Annual Regional Conferences. It will make plans for the Regional Conference, ratify all nominees for election by the Regional Conference, and appoint and oversee the work of all necessary boards, committees, ministry teams and task forces.
- d. It will approve all credentialing matters and will annually certify to the Denomination a list of all ordained and licensed ministers under the jurisdiction of

the Region. This responsibility will be transferred to districts when fully organized.

- e. It will approve new churches for membership in the Missionary Church and will certify such to the Denomination. This responsibility will be transferred to districts when fully organized.
- f. It will ratify the Ministry Multiplication Team decisions regarding ministry policies, strategies, and organizational structures, including the formation and funding of mission districts and full districts. It is recommended that the Council meets at least twice a year with the Ministry Multiplication Team for prayer and consultation.
- g. It will assume all fiduciary responsibilities for the Region including such duties as the Regional budget preparations and annual Regional shared ministries, matters of stewardship, and general economic oversight. It will be authorized to:
 - Receive and to hold in trust monies, gifts, and legacies
 - Acquire, loan, or borrow money
 - Purchase, sell, improve, convey, or exchange real estate held by the Region or other property such as stocks, bonds, mortgages, and other securities
 - Serve as the trustees for estates and gifts in conformity with the laws of the state
 - Approve all special financial appeals to the churches
 - Authorize any two of its officers to negotiate loans and mortgages it approves and sign appropriate documents on behalf of the Region. Such approval will be subject to satisfactory arrangements concerning Region shared ministries funds.
 - Approve a local church's purchase or selling of real estate, building or remodeling projects, and/or borrowing of money at a value greater than 20% of the church's average annual income (less bequests) for the preceding three years. It may authorize representatives from the Region to meet with local church leaders for review of plans and consultation.
- h. It will have full authority to handle all emergency matters related to all churches, ministers, and districts within the Region. By a two-thirds vote, it will have authority to take appropriate steps to address the problem(s) and, if necessary, exercise discipline over churches or ministers in order to maintain the integrity of the Missionary Church and preserve the unity and testimony of the churches, ministers, and districts within the Region. It will represent the Region as the arbitrator in all appeals related to due process as outlined in the Missionary Church Constitution.
- i. It will assume the supervision and governance of a local church if its membership falls below 15 baptized adult members (16 years or older). This arrangement will continue as long as the Council deems necessary. This responsibility will be transferred to districts when full organized.
- j. It will conduct an annual review of the Regional Director. If the Regional Director can no longer serve, resigns, or is removed for disciplinary reasons, it is empowered to appoint an interim director until the next Regional Conference.

B. MINISTRY MULTIPLICATION TEAM

1. COMPOSITION

- a. The Ministry Multiplication Team will be composed of the Regional Director, district directors, mission district directors and other members appointed by the Regional Oversight Council. In addition, the Regional Ministries Coordinator will serve as an advisory member.
- b. The Regional Director will chair the team.

2. DUTIES

- a. The Ministry Multiplication Team will seek to fulfill the vision, mission and priorities of the Michigan Region and be primarily responsible for leadership development, strengthening the local church, and church/district multiplication.
- b. It will recruit and develop leaders for the Region and the districts within its geographic area. This will include pastors, church planters, and district and Regional leaders.
- c. It will formulate strategies and ministry resources for strengthening the local church.
- d. It will be responsible for planning and guiding strategies, implementation, and structural support for the formation of mission districts and districts.
- e. It will be accountable to the Regional Oversight Council and make appropriate recommendations to them regarding leadership development, strengthening the local church, and church/district multiplication. It is recommended that the two groups meet together at least twice a year for prayer and consultation.

C. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

1. COMPOSITION

- a. The Nominating Committee will be composed of the Vice Chair of the Regional Oversight Council and six members, three lay members and three credentialed ministers, appointed by the Regional Oversight Council.
- b. The Vice Chair of the Regional Oversight Council will chair the committee.

2. DUTIES

- a. The Nominating Committee will prepare the Regional Conference ballot for the election of members to the Regional Oversight Council.
- b. It will prepare the ballot for the annual meeting of Michigan Missionary Loans and Investments, Inc., in consultation with their President.
- c. It will also prepare any additional ballots for other boards and committees as determined by the Regional Conference or Regional Oversight Council.

D. OTHER MINISTRY TEAMS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

The Regional Conference and the Regional Oversight Council may add other boards, committees, ministry teams and task forces to fulfill the vision, mission and priorities of the Region. The Regional Oversight Council will determine composition, selection process (appointment or election), and duties for such groups.

ARTICLE 6

REGIONAL FINANCES

- A.** The Michigan Region will be self-supporting in its operation. Its fiscal year will be January 1-December 31.
- B.** The Regional Oversight Council will prepare and present an annual budget for the approval of the Annual Regional Conference.
- C.** The Regional Treasurer will calculate the annual Regional ministry shares for each church according to the established formula approved by the Regional Oversight Council, the Regional Conference, and the requirements of the approved Regional budget and will communicate that amount to each church.
- D.** The Regional Oversight Council, in consultation with the Ministry Multiplication Team, will approve financial guidelines for churches in mission districts.
- E.** Churches in full districts will give a percentage of their ministry shares as determined by the Regional Oversight Council to the Region with the balance remaining in the district.

- F.** When a church requests signatures from the Regional Oversight Council as security for borrowing money, that church will make satisfactory arrangements to pay past ministry shares (for the current and preceding year) and agree to pay future ministry shares on time.

**ARTICLE 7
DISSOLUTION**

In the event of dissolution, the assets of the Region will be distributed to the Missionary Church, Inc.

**ARTICLE 8
PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised will govern the Regional Conference in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order the Regional Conference may adopt. In the same manner, each local church and all other entities of the Michigan Region will be governed by Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

**ARTICLE 9
AMENDMENTS**

These Bylaws may be amended by the Regional Conference by a two-thirds vote of the Regional Conference members, providing that these amendments do not conflict with the Constitution of the Missionary Church.

**BYLAWS OF MICHIGAN MISSIONARY LOANS
AND INVESTMENTS, INC.**

ARTICLE I

Purpose

The purpose for which the MICHIGAN MISSIONARY LOANS AND INVESTMENTS, INC., an ecclesiastical, non-profit corporation exists is to advance the Kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, by financially assisting Michigan Region Missionary Churches to grow by providing loans for land acquisition, construction, expansion, or remodeling of church buildings, or parsonages.

In all of its operations, the business of the corporation shall be so conducted that no individual member of the corporation shall realize any profit from the corporation's activities, but all profits, if any, shall be used for the purposes set forth in the Articles of Incorporation.¹

ARTICLE II

Office

The corporate office shall be located at 1091 S. Creekwood Trail, Burton, Michigan, 48509.

ARTICLE III

Board of Directors

- A. The Board of Directors shall be elected at an annual meeting of the members, which shall be held at the same time and place as the Michigan Region Missionary Church Conference is held. The Directors shall be elected by a majority vote of the members of the corporation. Membership of the Board shall consist of four (4) ministers and eight (8) laymen, elected for staggered three (3) year terms.
- B. The Nominating Committee of the Michigan Region Missionary Church Conference shall be the Nominating Committee of the Michigan Missionary Loans and Investments, Inc. to bring nominations for the Board of Directors whose terms expire.
- C. All Directors shall serve without pay except that a Director who is also an employee of the corporation may receive such salary as the Board may determine. The Board may make provision for the payment of travel expenses and other expenses incurred by Directors in attending Board meetings or otherwise performing their duties.
- D. Vacancies on the Board caused by death, resignation, etc., shall be filled by the remaining members of the Board.

ARTICLE IV

Meeting of the Board of Directors

- A. The regular annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held at the office of the corporation at Burton, Michigan, within 30 days after the annual meeting of the members. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President and Secretary or a majority of the Board, with a ten (10) day written notice.
- B. A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

¹See MICHIGAN ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION of Michigan United Missionary Loans and Investments, Inc., filed with the Michigan Corporation & Securities Commission, December 15, 1958; ARTICLE V-b, 1-6.

ARTICLE V
Officers

The Board of Directors at its annual meeting shall elect from its members a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, each of whom shall serve for a term on one (1) year. At the discretion of the Board, the Secretary, and the Treasurer may be one and the same person.

ARTICLE VI
Duties of the Officers

- A. President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the members. He shall be the chief executive officer of the corporation and shall be responsible for the general welfare of the corporation under the direction of the Board of Directors. He shall have such other duties as the Board may designate.
- B. Vice President. The Vice President shall preside at all meetings of the members and the Board of Directors in the absence of the President. In case of death, resignation, or disqualification of the President, he shall perform all the duties pertaining to the office of President until the election of a new President.
- C. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep the records of the proceedings of the meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors and perform such other duties as the Board may designate. He shall, under order of the President, give all notices of annual and special meetings of both the members and the Board of Directors.
- D. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall keep, in the name of the corporation, an accurate account of all monies received and disbursed. He shall make a detailed report at the annual meeting of the members and at such other times as the Board of Directors may request of the funds received and disbursed. He shall also submit an audited annual report to the annual meeting of the members. His books shall be open at all times to the inspection of the Board of Directors or any member thereof. The annual audit of the Treasurer's books shall be made by a qualified auditor to be selected by the Board.
- E. Vacancies. Vacancies in unexpired terms shall be filled by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII
Committees

- A. An Executive Committee shall be elected by the Board of Directors which shall act for the Board between Board Meetings. The officers are members of the Executive Committee by virtue of the office and one additional member is to be elected by the Board. In case the Secretary and the Treasurer are one and the same person, two additional members are to be elected by the Board.
- B. A Promotional Committee shall be elected by the Board whose duties shall be the representation of the organization to the constituency of the Missionary Church and to friends and interested parties outside the Church. They shall prepare appropriate promotional literature setting forth the purpose and objectives of the Michigan Missionary Loans and Investments, Inc.
- C. An Application Review Committee of not less than three members shall be elected from and by the Board who shall receive and review applications for loans.

ARTICLE VIII
Contributions

- A. Contributions for Investments.

1. Contributions may be received by Michigan Missionary Loans and Investments, Inc. from any interested party.
 2. Contributions that are not designated shall become capital assets of the organization.
 3. Designated contributions shall be used for loans for projects as designated. When such designated projects are completed and monies repaid it will be capital assets of the corporation and may be used as directed by the Board.
- B. Contributions for Special Gifts.
1. Michigan Missionary Loans and Investments, Inc. may act as a depository for funds to be used as special gifts as designated by the depositor. Such monies that are designated within 90 days shall be added to capital assets. No interest shall be paid on such deposits.
 2. In case of the death of the depositor any undesignated balance shall be added to the capital assets of the Michigan Missionary Loans and Investments, Inc.
- C. Annuities. Annuities will be considered by Michigan Missionary Loans and Investments, Inc. on an individual basis.
- D. Bequests. Michigan Missionary Loans and Investments, Inc. is authorized to receive bequests.
- E. Estate Note. Estate Notes will be considered by the Michigan Missionary Loans and Investments, Inc. and chosen on an individual basis.

ARTICLE IX

Securing of Deposits and Loans

Deposits and loans shall be secured at the lowest possible rate of interest.

ARTICLE X

General Policy of Corporate Operation

- A. Money shall be loaned in keeping with the purpose of the organization only for approved projects as follows:
1. Eligibility for loans. Churches approved by the Board of Directors.
 2. Amounts to be loaned.
 - a. Short term.
 - (1). Shall not exceed \$100,000 unless approved by the Board.
 - (2). Shall be paid under terms acceptable to the Board.
 - b. Long term.
 - (1). Loans not to exceed \$250,000 in aggregate to any one church unless approved by the Board.
 - (2). A loan minimum of \$ 5,000 per loan. (Exceptions may be made by the Executive Committee).
 - (3). Repayment. Interest shall be paid monthly or as directed by the Executive Committee on the entire amount borrowed on the interest bearing date.
 - (4). Interest. Shall be charged at a rate not to exceed 2 percent above that paid to investors.
 - c. Use and Restrictions.
 - (1). Church to have building fund, property, or other assets equal to at least 25 percent of amount they seek to borrow.

- (2). Church must have received a two-thirds majority vote in favor of borrowing funds taken at a duly convened Local Conference Business Meeting² before approval for a loan is granted.
 - (3). Church must use money on own property.
 3. Collateral. Loans may be secured or unsecured as approved by the Board.
 4. Services. Fees for services may be charged in accordance with Board approval.
- B. In the event of a delinquency in repayment by any borrower to the corporation of funds previously loaned by the corporation to such borrower, the Board of Directors shall have the power to work out such terms of repayment as mutually agreed by the Board and the borrower.

ARTICLE XI

Corporate Seal

The corporate seal shall have a circular disk on the outer margin on which shall appear the corporate name and the State of Michigan with the words “corporate seal” through the center, so mounted that it may be used to impress these words in raised letters upon paper. The seal shall be in the custody of the Secretary.

ARTICLE XII

Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall be the calendar year.

ARTICLE XIII

Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended at an annual meeting of the corporation by a two-thirds vote, provided that these amendments do not conflict with the Constitution of the Missionary Church, the Bylaws of the Michigan Region Missionary Church, or the Articles of Incorporation.

² In the event the government of a local Missionary Church operates with an Eldership form of government, then a two-thirds majority vote of the Elder Board shall be recognized for loan approval. However, where possible, the Local Conference Business Meeting is preferable.

MICHIGAN REGION MISSION DISTRICT GUIDELINES

How New Districts Begin in the Michigan Region

The Missionary Church and the Michigan Region are committed to the multiplication of disciples – and church multiplication is one of the most effective means of reaching people with the message of the gospel. One of the goals of establishing the Michigan Region is to see multiple districts developed within the Region. These districts, in turn, will make it their purpose to see new churches planted and established. These guidelines provide some of the policies and structure for implementing our Regional vision for new districts.

We understand that these guidelines may need to be adapted and changed as new situations arise and as multiple districts develop and mature in the Region. Regional and district leadership will seek to keep in step with God's Spirit as new challenges and opportunities present themselves. Furthermore, we will not tolerate any spirit of competition between the Region and the districts within it. Our single purpose is to glorify Jesus Christ our Lord.

How are Mission Districts Formed?

A leader, a church, groups of leaders or churches, or Regional leadership may propose the establishment of a mission district. This proposal will always be done in consultation with Regional leadership and within the Regional guidelines. A written proposal for the formation of a mission district is to be submitted to the Regional Oversight Council outlining the boundaries, members, and objectives of the proposed mission district.

When a mission district has 5-10 churches or church plants, a steering committee will be selected in consultation with Regional leadership. As the mission district moves toward full district status, district leadership may develop working by-laws, incorporate (if appropriate), conduct its own district events and ministries, and establish its budget and ministry shares under the direction and with the approval of the Regional leadership.

- ***Key characteristics for recognition as a mission district:***
 - a. A visionary leader who is able to recruit 15-20 dynamic leaders and church planters;
 - b. Demonstrated missional behavior by the entity proposing the mission district, meaning they have already planted or are involved in planting at least one new church;
 - c. A committed group of pastors or planters or churches who will partner together to formulate and pursue the goals of the mission district.

- ***Provisional status***

Existing churches or groups of churches (usually 1-5 churches) that desire to form a mission district can be given provisional status until they fulfill the criteria to become a mission district.

How are Mission Districts Funded?

- ***Guidelines for Written Proposal***

A written proposal must be submitted to the Regional Oversight Council for the formation of a mission district. This proposal will include an annual budget that details its projected expenses and sources of income. The Regional Oversight Council will determine what percentage of ministry shares from existing churches will be set aside for mission district development and church planting.

- ***Guidelines for Mission District Funding***

Funding for mission districts will be come from the following sources:

- a. New church plants: 75% of the total ministry shares from new churches will remain in the mission district, while 25% of ministry shares will be given to the Region.
- b. Existing churches in the district: A percentage of ministry shares received by the Region from existing churches (10-30%) will be returned to the mission district based upon need.
- c. Contributions from existing churches in the district: Established churches may give directly to the mission district above the amount of their ministry shares.
- d. Other sources of support may come from Regional asset funds, grants or gifts from other entities, organizations or individuals.

- ***Guidelines for Ministry Shares from Existing Churches***

The ministry shares of existing churches that individually or collectively desire and are approved to become a mission district will be divided as follows:

- a. While there are 1-5 churches/plants in the new mission district (provisional status), 100% of the existing church ministry shares will go to the Region (with the understanding that a percentage of that money will be made available to be returned to the mission district based upon need);
- b. When there are 6-10 churches/plants in the mission district, 90% of existing church ministry shares will go to the Region (with a percentage made available to be returned to the mission district based upon need); 10% of existing church ministry shares remains in the mission district;
- c. When there are 11-15 churches/plants in the mission district, 80% of originally existing church ministry shares will go to the Region (with a percentage made available to the mission district based upon need); 20% of existing church ministry shares remains in the mission district.
- d. Once a mission district transitions into a full district, all churches and all new churches in that district will give 25% of their ministry shares to the Region and 75% will remain in the district.

- ***Guidelines for Ministry Shares from New Church Plants***

New church plants or adopted churches in a mission district will be expected to pay ministry shares from the time of their establishment or adoption. The new plants/churches will pay 25% of their ministry shares to the Region and 75% will remain in the mission district. Only the churches that existed when the mission district was formed will be subject to the changing percentage formulas above.

- ***Guidelines for Mission Districts that form without Existing Churches***

The church plants in a new mission district where there are no existing churches will pay 25% of their ministry shares to the Region and 75% of the ministry shares will be utilized for the development of the new district and church planting within that mission district.

- ***National Ministry Shares***

All churches and church plants will pay a 2% ministry share to The Missionary Church.

How do Mission Districts function in the Region?

- ***Ministerial Credentials***

The Regional office and Regional credentialing committee will process the credential applications within the Region initially. When a mission district has 5-10 churches/plants, the Region may begin to assist the mission district leadership to form a district credentialing team. The Regional Oversight Council will handle credentialing approvals until the mission district becomes a full district.

- ***Church Membership/Incorporation***

The Regional Oversight Committee will approve the applications of churches desiring membership in the Missionary Church until a mission district becomes a full district. Full districts will then approve new churches subject to the Constitution of the Missionary Church and Michigan Regional By-laws. The Regional Oversight Committee will approve incorporation until a mission district becomes a full district.

- ***Regional Conference***

Because we value the development of relationships and in order to cultivate a spirit of unity in our Region, ministers in the Michigan Region will be expected to attend the Regional Conference. Once a mission district has 5-10 churches, that district may hold a district conference at a time that does not conflict with the Regional Conference. The leadership of all mission districts and full districts will be expected to report at the Regional Conference on the developments within their districts.

- ***District Boundaries***

While affinity through common vision will be the driving force for mission districts, we recognize that many districts will form within specific geographical boundaries within the Region. Like-minded pastors and churches in a certain area will join together to form and build a new district. No existing church will be compelled to join a district. That church will remain under Regional authority. It is our desire, however, to see all our churches within the area of a new mission district join enthusiastically in the work of that district. Situations may arise where like-minded leaders and churches desire to form a mission district that overlaps or crosses Regional or district geographical boundaries. These proposals will be pursued in a spirit of cooperation and consultation between the regions and districts involved. Denominational leaders will also be consulted.

How do Mission Districts become Full Districts?

A mission district must generally meet the following criteria to become a full district:

- ***For stability and strength as a district:***

- 15 churches and church plants (with at least 10 organized churches);
- Combined average worship of 1500 people;
- Combined church membership of 750 people;
- Capability of handling organizational and financial responsibilities.

- ***For relationships and multiplication:***

- 5-7 years of relationship as churches;
- A warm spirit of cooperation between leaders and churches;
- A vision for district growth and the multiplication of churches and disciples.

Once these milestones have been reached, the mission district may apply to the Regional Oversight Council to become a full district. In accordance with the Constitution of the Missionary Church, the Regional Conference will take formal action to establish the full district.

RULES OF ORDER
Adopted May 3, 2011

1. The Regional Ministries Coordinator or his appointee will serve as Chairman at District Conference.
2. The Chair will nominate any Conference committees not covered by the Bylaws.
3. The Conference body will elect all committees.
4. Each member will be permitted to speak for five minutes on each motion, amendment, or subject on the floor that allows debate. Each member desiring to speak will respectfully address the chair, and be recognized by the chair before speaking in debate. A member may not speak the second the second time on the same question until all others who wish to speak the first time have had an opportunity to speak. Exceptions may be granted by the Conference body by 2/3 vote, who also may by 2/3-vote limit debate to less than five minutes.
5. In order to stop debate and bring a question to a vote, a member will rise, be recognized by the chair and state, "Mr. Chairman, I call for the Question." A second, and a 2/3 vote is required to immediately end debate and vote on the question. Calls of "question" from the body, without proper recognition by the chair will be ignored.
6. The times of meetings during the District Conference Session will be established when the "Agenda" is adopted. Any deviation from the stated times will require a 2/3 vote to "Suspend the Rules".
7. All nominations from the floor will require a second to be approved.
8. The Chair will announce vote results according to Robert's Rules of Order unless the body decides to keep the numbers secret by majority vote. When there is no election for nominees for an office on a first ballot, the tally of votes will be announced, and a second ballot will be taken, containing all the names that appeared on the first ballot. If there is still no election after the second ballot, the name having the least number of votes will be dropped. After each successive ballot, one additional name of the nominees having the least number of votes will be dropped from the ballot until an election is valid.
9. The District Conference will establish the bar.