



**CENTRAL  
REGION**

**MCUSA**

Regional Bylaws

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## **ARTICLE I – NAME**

- 1.1 The name of this organization shall be the Missionary Church Central Region Inc., hereinafter referred to as Central Region.

## **ARTICLE II -- PURPOSE STATEMENT**

- 2.1 The Central Region is a fellowship of local Missionary Churches functioning within the confines of the Missionary Church, Inc., working together to fulfill the great commission; providing jointly the leadership, services, resources, and ministries that local churches could not provide separately; helping each church fulfill its mission; and participating actively in church growth and in church planting.

## **ARTICLE III – VISION STATEMENT**

- 3.1 We will not rest until every community within our boundaries has been strategically influenced by the Missionary Church because we are doing our part to advance God's Kingdom in that place.

## **ARTICLE IV – AFFILIATION**

- 4.1 The Central Region, as incorporated, is a subsidiary of the Missionary Church, Inc. with headquarters at 3811 Vanguard Dr., Fort Wayne, IN 46809, and as such shares all the privileges, benefits, and responsibilities of that affiliation and is responsible for the promotion of the work and objectives of the parent organization within the confines known as the Central Region. It shall be governed in all matters pertaining to doctrine, polity and practice by the Constitution and Bylaws of the parent organization.

## **ARTICLE V -- LOCATION**

- 5.1 REGION - The boundaries of the Central Region shall include all churches in the states of Wisconsin and Illinois; and in Indiana south of this boundary: from east to west, US. Highway 6 from the Indiana/Ohio state line to Indiana SR. 13, south to Indiana SR. 14, west to Indiana SR. 15, south to US Highway 24, west to Indiana/Illinois border.
- 5.2 The regional office is located at Covington Creek Professional Village, 3282 Mallard Cove Lane, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46804, with the mailing address being the same.

## **ARTICLE VI – GOVERNANCE – REGIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

- 6.1 The Central Region shall be governed by an annual conference at a time and place decided by the Regional Executive Board. In addition to the conference location, this conference, and any special regional conference, may be accessed remotely at the discretion of the Regional Executive Board as long as two-way communication is possible. Video access will be provided if available. It shall function in accordance with the authority delegated to it by the Constitution and National Conference of the Missionary Church, Inc., and by the Central Region Bylaws. All conferences shall be governed according to Robert's Rules of Order.
- 6.2 **COMPOSITION:** The Regional Conference shall include all Central Region member churches and institutions within its boundaries, the denominational President, members ex officio, all ordained and licensed ministers resident in the region, members of the Regional Executive Board, a representative of Bethel College, any missionaries on Home Ministry Assignment living in the region, one lay delegate for each 50 members or fraction thereof from each full member church, and all members of regional committees.
- 6.3 Lay delegates must be members of the local church they are representing.

## **ARTICLE VII – FUNCTIONS OF REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

- 7.1 The Regional Conference shall elect by ballot its own officers and committees including the Regional Director, the Vice-Regional Director, the Secretary, additional members of the Executive Board, and such other officers, boards, and committees as may be deemed necessary. A majority of the votes cast shall be required for election.
- 7.2 It shall ratify the appointment of the Regional Treasurer for a term of two years.
- 7.3 It shall approve new churches for membership in the Missionary Church, Inc., and shall certify such to the denominational office.
- 7.4 It shall receive any reports required and requested by the Regional Executive Board and shall submit to the National Conference such reports as may be required.
- 7.5 It shall be the prerogative of the Regional Conference to make recommendations to the National Conference.

## **ARTICLE VIII – SPECIAL CONFERENCE**

- 8.1 A special conference may be called by a two-third majority vote of the Regional Executive Board. The membership of the Special Conference shall be the same as the membership of the previous annual Regional Conference.

## **ARTICLE IX -- OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS**

### **9.1 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

The Executive Officers of the Central Region shall consist of a Regional Director, Vice-Regional Director, Secretary, and Treasurer. All officers must be members in good standing of a full member Central Region Missionary Church.

### **9.2 REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

- a. The Regional Director shall be elected for a term of four years by the Regional Conference from among the ordained ministers of the Missionary Church with preference given to ordained ministers of the Central Region.
- b. In the last year of a term, if the present Regional Director is willing to continue in the office and has the support of the Regional Executive Board, the Vice Regional Director and Secretary will communicate with all licensed ministers inviting a written response. The Regional Executive Board will then evaluate the responses to determine the appropriate action.
- c. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Regional Director due to retirement, resignation, termination, or at the recommendation of the Regional Executive Board, a Search Committee will be established.
- d. The Search Committee shall consist of five people from the Region, chaired by the Vice Regional Director with no more than a total of two Regional Executive Board members.
- e. The Search Committee will communicate in due time with all licensed ministers in the Region requesting names to be considered for the office of Regional Director. After an evaluation process, the Search Committee will then recommend one name to the Regional Executive Board for approval and subsequent presentation to the Regional Conference. The candidate's name will be communicated to the churches at least 30 days prior to Regional Conference.
- f. The candidate shall communicate to the Regional Conference his ministry experience and how he intends to fulfill the position of Regional Director, with time given for questions, prior to a vote being taken.
- g. The affirmation vote for Regional Director must be at least 75% for the candidate to be elected.

h. In the event of no election, referral is made back to the Search Committee and the Regional Executive Board to bring a recommendation to Regional Conference.

9.3 VICE-REGIONAL DIRECTOR

The Vice-Regional Director shall be elected for a term of two years by the Regional Conference from among its ordained ministers.

9.4 SECRETARY

The Secretary of the Region shall be elected for a term of two years by the Regional Conference.

9.5 TREASURER

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

9.6 SUPPORT STAFF

The support staff of the Region shall be appointed by the Regional Director in consultation with and by ratification of the Regional Executive Board, and they shall serve at the discretion of the Regional Director in consultation with the Regional Executive Board.

9.7 ELECTIONS

The election of the Regional Director and the appointment of the Treasurer shall occur in odd numbered years, and the election of the Vice-Regional Director and the Secretary shall occur on even numbered years.

9.8 ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE

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

9.9 VACANCIES

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

## **ARTICLE X -- DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

### **10.1 REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

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

### **10.2 VICE-REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

The Vice-Regional Director shall perform such duties as are delegated to him by the Regional Director. In case of the death, resignation, or removal of the Regional Director, the Vice-Regional Director shall act as the Regional Director until the next Regional Conference.

### **10.3 SECRETARY**

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

### **10.4 TREASURER**

The Treasurer or his designee shall receive such monies as the Regional Conference shall determine and make payments in keeping with its policies and directives. He shall submit such reports as the Regional Conference, Regional Executive Board and Regional Director shall require.

### **10.4 SUPPORT STAFF**

Support staff shall have duties clearly defined by the Regional Director in consultation with the Regional Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE XI -- REGIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD**

### **11.1 COMPOSITION**

- a. The Regional Executive Board shall be composed of the Regional Director, the Vice-Regional Director, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and four elected members. Of these four elected members, one pastor and one layman shall be elected each year for a two-year term.
- b. Following Regional Conference any district or mission district not represented on the Regional Executive Board may have a pastor or layman appointed by the Regional Executive Board for a two-year term. Once districts or mission districts are officially organized, they may choose their own representative to the Regional Executive Board in consultation with the Regional Director.
- c. The Support Staff may serve as advisory members of the Executive Board if the Regional Director and Regional Executive Board so desire. Other advisory members may be appointed to the Regional Executive Board at the discretion of the Regional Director and the Regional Executive Board for a two-year term.
- d. All Executive Board members must be members in good standing of a full member Central Region Missionary Church.
- e. At no point shall the Regional Executive Board exceed twelve voting members.

### **11.2 QUORUM**

A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, provided reasonable notice of the meeting has been given. Unless any member objects, a meeting may be convened by any means of communication by which all persons participating in the meeting are able to communicate with one another.

### **11.3 DUTIES**

- a. It shall be the responsibility of the Regional Executive Board to conduct the necessary business of the Regional Conference in the intervals between conferences. It shall deal with all emergency matters and shall call a special session of the Regional Conference when necessary.
- b. **MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE**  
The Regional Executive Board shall serve as a Ministerial Committee and shall approve ministerial candidates and recommend the licensing and ordination of ministers. It may appoint a committee to examine ministerial candidates. It shall certify to the denominational headquarters annually a list of all ordained and licensed ministers under the jurisdiction of the Region.



c. **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- The Executive Board shall serve as the Board of Directors of the Regional Conference and shall hold in trust any properties owned by the Regional Conference and have authority to receive and hold in trust monies, gifts and legacies; to acquire, loan or borrow money; to purchase, sell, improve, convey or exchange real estate or other property such as stocks, bonds, mortgages, and other securities held by the Regional Conference; to issue annuity agreements; and to serve as the trustees for estates and gifts in conformity with civil laws of the several states in keeping with the authority delegated by the Regional Conference. The Board may designate certain of its officers to serve as agents to carry out any of the foregoing authorizations.
- d. The Executive Board shall appoint such committees or positions as are necessary to fulfill the purpose and vision of the Region.
- e. The Executive Board shall act as the resolutions committee as needed.

**ARTICLE XII -- REGIONAL COMMITTEES**

12.1 **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- a. The Executive Committee of the Regional Executive Board shall be composed of the Regional Director, Vice-Regional Director, Secretary and Treasurer.
- b. The Regional Executive Committee shall be authorized to conduct the business of the Region between meetings of the Regional Executive Board and Regional Conferences subject to ratification by the Regional Executive Board. The Executive Committee shall be accountable to the Regional Executive Board which shall be accountable to the Regional Conference.

12.2 **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

- a. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of the Regional Director who shall serve as chairman; Vice-Regional Director; the Executive Officer whose term does not expire; and two additional members. It shall effect its own organization.
- b. The two additional members of the Nominating Committee shall be elected annually by Regional Conference.
- c. It shall submit nominations to the Regional Conference for the following Regional Officers, Directors, Committees, and such others as may be delegated to it: Secretary; additional members of the Regional Executive Board; additional members of the Nominating Committee.

## **ARTICLE XIII -- FINANCES**

- a. The Regional Conference shall be self-supporting in its operation. Its budget year shall be from July 1 to June 30. Our reporting year shall be from January 1 to December 31.
- b. All monies for Regional operations shall be sent to the Regional office. Regional Conference shall establish the formula for contributions from each church for Regional operations and Church Extension.

## **ARTICLE XIV -- PASTORS & OTHER MINISTRY STAFF**

- a. All pastors and ministry staff hired shall pass a background check prior to hiring.
- b. The local Church Board shall determine that any pastor and ministry staff hired shall be doctrinally compatible with the Missionary Church.
- c. All churches shall follow the requirements regarding pastors and ministry staff as outlined in the Constitution of the Missionary Church, Inc.

## **ARTICLE XV -- PASTORAL RELATIONS**

### **15.1 SELECTION**

The Senior Pastor shall be chosen by a vote of the local conference at a meeting called for this purpose after appropriate consultation with the Regional Director. He shall be chosen from among persons approved as ministers in the Missionary Church, Inc., and at least 70% of all votes cast shall be required for selection. Proxy and absentee votes shall not be permitted. The Regional Executive Board, working in cooperation with the church board, shall have the privilege, where deemed necessary, to appoint the pastor of those churches where either the Region or the Denomination subsidizes the church or pastor's salary.

### **15.2 TERM**

The term of service shall be an indefinite period of time.

### **15.3 PASTORAL REVIEW**

- a. The Church Board shall meet with the pastor at least annually to discuss the relationship between the pastor, Church Board, and the congregation. This review is for the purpose of improving the pastor-church relationship.
- b. In the absence of the pastor, if after discussion the board has interest in giving the church membership the opportunity to have a vote regarding a desire of change in pastoral leadership, the board shall vote by ballot on a motion to bring the matter to the church membership for a vote.

- c. If a majority of the board favors a membership vote regarding a desire of change in pastoral leadership, the pastor and Regional Director shall be informed immediately by the Church Board Chairman of the decision of the board. The board shall then announce to the congregation at least 10 days in advance the date and time in which the vote by the membership shall be taken. (Missionary Church Constitution Art. XIII, Section C3.)
- d. The Church Board shall review and establish pastoral salaries and benefits annually.

#### 15.4 MEMBERSHIP VOTE REGARDING A DESIRE OF CHANGE IN PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

- a. A vote regarding a desire of change in pastoral leadership may be called for by the church board or the pastor (See section C3) and shall be taken according to the sample ballot provided by the Regional Director. Announcement of a meeting for pastoral vote shall be made at least ten days prior to the vote.
- b. In addition, the Regional Director, upon recommendation of the Regional Executive Board, may call for a vote regarding a desire of change in pastoral leadership.
- c. The Church shall take the pastoral confidence vote at the time and place announced. No absentee or proxy ballots shall be permitted. The Church Board Chairman or Secretary shall immediately notify the Pastor and Regional Director of the results of the vote.
- d. If the pastor receives less than 60% of the votes cast, a desire of change in pastoral leadership shall take place. If he receives less than 70% of the votes cast, the advisability of the pastor remaining shall be determined by the Regional Director, the Church Board, and the pastor in consultation.

### **ARTICLE XVI -- AMENDMENTS**

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

## **ARTICLE XVII – DISSOLUTION AND DISASSOCIATION**

### **17.1 DISSOLUTION of the Central Region.**

For the dissolution of the Central Region a 75% majority vote of the Regional Conference is required and the officers of the Missionary Church, Inc. shall automatically become the officers of the Central Region and shall have all power and authority to execute documents to transfer assets of the organization or subsidiary to the Missionary Church, Inc.

### **17.2 DISSOLUTION of any organization or subsidiary of the Central Region.**

In the event of a dissolution a two-third majority vote of the Regional Executive Board is required and the officers of the Central Region shall automatically become the officers of the organization or subsidiary and shall have all power and authority to execute documents to transfer assets of the organization or subsidiary to the Central Region.

### **17.3 MEMBER CHURCHES.**

If a member church dissolves or desires to disassociate from the Central Region the process as stated in the Central Region Policy Manual shall be followed in full by all parties involved. In the case of disassociation from the Central Region and the vote is 75% or above to disassociate the local church will be released from the Central Region and the property and assets of the local church will remain with the local church body.