

RESURRECTION METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

LOCAL BYLAWS

AN AFFILIATED CHURCH
OF THE
UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP
OF
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

ARTICLE I - NAME AND AFFILIATION3
ARTICLE II - PURPOSE3
ARTICLE III - DOCTRINE, SACRAMENTS AND RITES3
 DOCTRINE3
 SACRAMENTS3
 RITES 4
ARTICLE IV - MINISTRY4
 MINISTRY OF THE LAITY (THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS).....4
 MINISTRY OF THE CLERGY4
ARTICLE V - GOVERNMENT, ORGANIZATION, STRUCTURE, AND OFFICERS5
 FELLOWSHIP5
 RESURRECTION METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH.....6
 PASTOR.....7
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS7
 THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS7
 THE CORPORATE OFFICERS9
 THE TREASURER.....9
 THE CLERK9
 THE BYLAWS COMMITTEE10
 THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE.....10
 LAY DELEGATES10
ARTICLE VI - CHURCH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS11
 CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP11
 FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH.....12
ARTICLE VII - CHURCH SERVICES12
ARTICLE VIII - CHURCH MEETINGS12
ARTICLE IX - CHURCH FINANCES.....13
ARTICLE X - RESERVATION OF POWERS14
ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS14

ARTICLE I - NAME AND AFFILIATION

- A. The name of this church is Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, (hereinafter referred to as CHURCH). Except in legal documents the CHURCH may be called Resurrection MCC.
- B. The CHURCH was chartered by the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (hereinafter referred to as the FELLOWSHIP) on April 20, 1975 and incorporated on October 7, 1975 under the laws of the State of Texas.
- C. The CHURCH acknowledges the authority of the FELLOWSHIP Bylaws as adopted and/or amended by the General Conference of the FELLOWSHIP.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The objectives of the CHURCH are:

- A. To bind together individuals for the purpose of sharing in the worship of God in the Christian tradition, and to make God's will dominant in the lives of all people, individually and collectively, as set forth in the Holy Scriptures.
- B. To instruct people in theology and in allied subjects for the propagation of the teachings of the Christian faith.
- C. To instruct and encourage those who offer themselves to the teaching and philosophy accepted by the CHURCH.
- D. To do all things that are compatible with the work of a Christian Church.

ARTICLE III - DOCTRINE, SACRAMENTS AND RITES

A. DOCTRINE

Christianity is the revelation of God in Jesus Christ and is the religion set forth in the Holy Scriptures. Jesus Christ is foretold in the Old Testament, presented in the New Testament, and proclaimed by the Christian Church in every age and in every land. CHURCH was founded in the interest of offering a church home to all who confess and believe that the FELLOWSHIP and CHURCH move in the mainstream of Christianity. Our faith is based upon the principles outlined in the historic creeds, the Apostles and Nicene Creeds, as these are defined in the Bylaws of the FELLOWSHIP.

B. SACRAMENTS

The CHURCH embraces two holy Sacraments.

1. BAPTISM by water and the Spirit, as recorded in the Scriptures, shall be a sign of the dedication of each life to God and God's service. Through the words and acts of this sacrament, the recipient is identified as God's own Child. Baptism by water may be administered by immersion, pouring or sprinkling.

2. HOLY COMMUNION is the partaking of blessed (consecrated) bread and fruit of the vine in accordance with the words of Jesus, our Sovereign: "This is my body...this is my blood." (Matthew 26: 26-28). All who believe, confess and repent and seek God's love through Christ, after examining their consciences, may freely participate in the communal meal, signifying their desire to be received into community with Jesus Christ, to be saved by Jesus Christ's sacrifice, to participate in Jesus Christ's resurrection, and to commit their lives anew to the service of Jesus Christ.

The CHURCH does not specify a belief regarding the nature of the bread and fruit of the vine after consecration; however, the elements must be respected and treated with reverence.

C. RITES

The Rites of the CHURCH as performed by duly authorized ministers shall consist of the following as described in the FELLOWSHIP By Laws:

1. The Rite of Ordination.
2. The Rite of Attaining Membership (upon completion of local membership classes).
3. The Rite of Holy Union/Rite of Holy Matrimony.
4. The Rite of Funeral or Memorial Service.
5. The Rite of Laying on of Hands.
6. The Rite of Blessing.

ARTICLE IV - MINISTRY

The following article (Article IV) is as proscribed by the MCC Bylaws.

The CHURCH affirms the universal priesthood of all believers (I Peter 2:5-10). All Christians are called by God to a ministry of the Gospel of Christ in the Christian Church and in the World. The CHURCH affirms that all people shall have equality of access and opportunity which is free from discrimination on grounds of gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, age, physical challenges, HIV status, health status, gender identification, national origin, or economic status in terms of: (1) employment and practices and (2) ministry services.

B. MINISTRY OF THE LAITY (THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS)

Lay people are the People of God, called by God and authorized by Scriptures to respond to the Word, serving as Christ served, to the end that the Christian Church may be edified and the World transformed. The CHURCH affirms that this is the ministry of every lay person in the CHURCH.

B. MINISTRY OF THE CLERGY

Clergy are People of God, called by God, authorized and legally recognized by the FELLOWSHIP to serve as professional ministers of the Word and Sacraments.

1. RESPONSIBILITIES: In accordance with their call, clergy shall administer the Rites and Sacraments of the FELLOWSHIP and be teachers and preachers of the faith to the end that the World may believe and the Christian Church might be renewed, equipped, and strengthened in its ministry.

2. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Clergy are those persons of professed and demonstrated call to be professional Christian ministers who meet the qualifications established by the BOARD of Elders of the FELLOWSHIP.
3. **ORDINATION:** Persons who have met the academic standards and qualifications as established by the BOARD of Elders of the FELLOWSHIP may then be ordained. A person who is ordained cannot function as a FELLOWSHIP clergy person until he/she is licensed.
4. **DISCIPLINE:** The FELLOWSHIP and the CHURCH will not condone disloyalty, unbecoming conduct, or dereliction of duty. Disciplinary procedures are prescribed in an addendum to the FELLOWSHIP Bylaws.

ARTICLE V - GOVERNMENT, ORGANIZATION, STRUCTURE, AND OFFICERS

C. FELLOWSHIP

The following article (Article V.A) is as proscribed by the MCC Bylaws.

1. The government of the FELLOWSHIP is vested in the General Conference, its Regional Conferences, and Congregational Meetings, subject to the provisions of the FELLOWSHIP Articles of Incorporation, its Bylaws, or documents of legal organization. The officers elected by the General and Regional Conferences and Congregational Meetings are subject to the direction and discipline of their respective bodies and are responsible to carry out their policies. The FELLOWSHIP is accountable to no outside ecclesiastical jurisdiction, but accepts the obligation of mutual consent and cooperation involved in the free fellowship of other churches, and pledges itself to share in their common aims and endeavors subject to the expressed approval of its membership. REGIONS are those defined bodies, which are created by the BOARD of Elders in accordance with the Bylaws of the FELLOWSHIP.
2. Local Churches, REGIONS, Regional Conferences, and the General Conference as defined by the FELLOWSHIP Bylaws, are set forth for the purposes of Christian fellowship, witness, and service, borne in the cooperation, program development, and implementation of their Bylaws, Standard Operating Policies and Procedures.
3. A Local Church of the FELLOWSHIP is a church that subscribes to the Government and Doctrine of the FELLOWSHIP, meets the criteria as established by the BOARD of Elders and approved by the General Conference for affiliation and recognition as a church. The Elder serving a REGION has the authority to approve requests for affiliation. If a church ceases to meet the criteria for affiliation, the Elder serving the REGION may take appropriate actions of intervention, which may include removal of the church's affiliation status. The decision of the regional Elder may be appealed to the FELLOWSHIP BOARD of Elders.
4. The Government of a local church is vested in its Congregational Meeting, which exists to control all of its affairs, subject to the provisions of: (1) the FELLOWSHIP Articles of

Incorporation, Bylaws, or documents of legal organization, the General Conference, and its Regional Conferences; (2) the local CHURCH Articles of Incorporation Bylaws, and Congregational Meeting. The PASTOR and the local church board of directors are authorized to provide spiritual and administrative leadership in the local church. All FELLOWSHIP churches are to be led by Pastors or Interim Pastoral Leaders.

5. A local church, in consultation with the Elder serving the REGION, shall determine the appropriate structure and systems for local church governance that are appropriate for the size of the church and cultural context. The local church structural systems shall include provision for selection and discipline of the local church board of directors, a pastoral search process, and congregational meetings. It is the responsibility of the local church to provide that church with Bylaws and operating policies/procedures subject to the approval of the Elder serving the REGION. The local church board of directors shall be subject to the FELLOWSHIP Bylaws/Standard Operating Procedures, and other documents of legal organization, and to the approval or disapproval by action of their local congregation as provided for in the FELLOWSHIP Bylaws/Standard Operating Procedures.
6. If there are conflicts or difficulty within a local church, including apparent irreconcilable differences between the PASTOR and the Congregation, the Elder serving the REGION shall have the authority to interface with that church to take appropriate measures as provided in the FELLOWSHIP Bylaws. PASTORS may be removed from office only in accordance with the provisions of the FELLOWSHIP Bylaws.
7. Should the CHURCH desire to disaffiliate from the FELLOWSHIP, the CHURCH shall notify the Elder serving the REGION. A FELLOWSHIP representative must be allowed to meet with the congregation. The decision to disaffiliate must receive a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at a duly called Congregational Meeting called for the purpose of disaffiliating. After existing financial obligations to the FELLOWSHIP are met, the disaffiliating members of the CHURCH have the right to net assets equivalent to the percentage of votes received. The remaining balance of assets shall stay with the members of the CHURCH who choose to remain with the FELLOWSHIP. If a church attempts to disaffiliate but does not follow the procedure as stated above, the net assets of the church will revert to the use of the General Conference of the FELLOWSHIP. The BOARD of Elders will decide the disposition of said property. Disaffiliated congregations may not continue to use the name Metropolitan Community Church (MCC).
8. Should the CHURCH disband or close, the net assets of the CHURCH will revert to the use of the General Conference of the FELLOWSHIP. The BOARD of Elders will decide the disposition of said property.
9. Any specific matters of congregational approval not covered herein are left to the option of the CHURCH.

B. RESURRECTION METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

These provisions supplement and complement the FELLOWSHIP Bylaws with respect to government, organization and officers.

1. PASTOR

The PASTOR is a duly ordained and licensed clergy person of the FELLOWSHIP who has been elected by the Congregation of the CHURCH at a Congregational Meeting to be the President and Chief Executive Officer of the corporation and to be responsible for the duties of teacher, preacher, spiritual leader and spiritual counselor. If no duly credentialed FELLOWSHIP clergy person is available, the Elder serving the REGION may appoint an Interim Pastoral Leader annually.

- a. The PASTOR has the authority for ordering all worship services; is a voting member of the BOARD; subject to the BOARD'S approval, appoints staff and delegates such responsibilities and duties as may seem wise; serves as the MODERATOR/Chair Person of the BOARD and Congregational Meetings; serves as personnel director; and determines subject to the BOARD'S approval compensation, vacation periods, and titles.
- b. The PASTOR shall have authority for issuing operating policies to implement the operating policies issued by the BOARD.

2. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

a. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The BOARD of Directors (hereinafter referred to as BOARD) shall have charge of all matters pertaining to the Articles of Incorporation or documents of legal organization, CHURCH property, and physical and financial affairs of the CHURCH. The BOARD shall consist of ten (10) members elected for staggered terms plus the PASTOR, who shall serve as the MODERATOR of the BOARD and of Congregational Meetings. BOARD Members, excluding the MODERATOR, must have been Members In Good Standing prior to their election and shall serve for a term of two (2) years. BOARD Members may serve not more than four (4) full terms consecutively. All BOARD Members must have passed a background check as well as proven to be able to be bonded prior to election and assumption of duties. Compensated employees of Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church shall not hold a seat on the CHURCH'S BOARD. Any member of the BOARD who wishes to become a compensated employee must first resign their position on the BOARD.

1. In the event of a vacancy on the BOARD, the BOARD may appoint a qualified person to serve until the next Congregational Meeting when an election will be held to fill the unexpired term.
2. The BOARD is accountable for managing the collection and disbursement of funds, maintenance of CHURCH records, managing the cash flow (as provided for in ARTICLE IX (E)), and reporting to the Congregation and the FELLOWSHIP.
3. The BOARD shall also have the responsibility and authority for issuing operating policies.

4. In the MODERATOR'S absence, the authority to serve as Acting Moderator shall be granted first to the Clerk and second to the Treasurer. In the absence of the Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer, the BOARD may select any other member of the BOARD to serve as Acting MODERATOR until such time as the MODERATOR, Clerk, or Treasurer is no longer absent.
5. A quorum shall consist of the MODERATOR or Acting Moderator and six (6) other members of the BOARD. A simple majority of the members present and voting shall determine all issues except as otherwise provided for in these Bylaws.
6. The BOARD shall meet at least once a month. Upon agreement of three (3) members of the BOARD, a special meeting may be called. All members must be notified, and the majority of active members must agree on a date and time. Special BOARD meetings may also be called by the MODERATOR. All BOARD members must be notified.
7. The approved minutes of all BOARD meetings must be made available to the Congregation upon request.
8. The BOARD shall elect the corporate officers of Clerk and Treasurer and whatever other BOARD officers it deems appropriate.
9. The CHURCH cannot condone disloyalty, unbecoming conduct, or dereliction of duty on the part of any member of the BOARD and, therefore, makes the following provisions for discipline or removal: If the BOARD determines that one of its members is unable or unwilling to fulfill the responsibilities of the position, the BOARD may, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the BOARD, recommend that the BOARD remove that member from position. A petition presented to the BOARD and signed by twenty-five percent (25%) of the Members In Good Standing of the Congregation may also initiate such a procedure. The member must be given written notice of the charges and, at that time, becomes inactive. The member has the right to appear and present his/her own defense before the BOARD on his/her own behalf. The BOARD will then review the charges, and, upon majority vote of the BOARD, may remove the member of the BOARD or take such other action as it may deem appropriate. The decision of the BOARD shall be final.
10. All BOARD Members must be able to be bonded. Should a BOARD Member no longer be able to be bonded, that individual shall in writing inform the Clerk of the BOARD that he/she is resigning FROM the BOARD immediately.
11. RESIGNATIONS
 - a. ACTUAL RESIGNATIONS: Any member of the BOARD, excluding the MODERATOR, who wishes to relinquish their position, shall submit, in writing, their request for acceptance of their resignation to the MODERATOR of the BOARD, stating reasons for the action, effective date and any other pertinent facts or information. This letter shall be submitted prior to the

effective date of the resignation. The MODERATOR will inform the BOARD at the next regular BOARD meeting. The person resigning may or may not, at that person's sole discretion, be present at the meeting of the BOARD.

- b. ASSUMED RESIGNATIONS: If any member of the BOARD, excluding the MODERATOR, fails to attend two (2) consecutive monthly meetings, that person may have their resignation assumed. By a majority vote of the BOARD a letter will be sent by the Clerk to notify the individual that absence from the next meeting will automatically indicate their resignation. If the next meeting is missed, by a majority vote of the BOARD a letter will be sent by the Clerk to the individual stating that the individual's implied resignation is regretfully accepted. Past services should be acknowledged with gratitude in this final letter.

b. THE CORPORATE OFFICERS

THE TREASURER

Elected from and by the BOARD, shall be responsible for ensuring the receipt and safekeeping of all funds of the CHURCH, including all subsidiary and deposited accounts, and that all monies are disbursed only in accordance with the Operating Budget approved by the Congregational Meeting or as revised by the BOARD. The Treasurer shall ensure that whenever possible, all funds shall be disbursed by bank checks, which checks shall bear two (2) authorized signatures. The Treasurer shall prepare or cause to be prepared and presented at the March Congregational meeting, a financial report covering all CHURCH funds and accounts, including a statement of funds on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year, amounts received and disbursed, and amounts on hand in each of such funds at the close of the fiscal year.

The CHURCH financial records shall be reviewed annually by an Internal Review Committee appointed by the BOARD or an independent auditor named by the BOARD. The Treasurer shall perform such additional duties as may be assigned by the BOARD.

THE CLERK

Elected from and by the BOARD, shall perform the duties as Secretary of the Corporation and such duties as may be assigned by the BOARD. The Clerk shall be responsible for ensuring; (1) that there is proper notice of all authorized meetings of the CHURCH, including the meetings of the Congregational Meetings and the BOARD; (2) recording minutes of all business transacted at such meetings; and (3) that a complete record of all Members and Friends is maintained, showing time and mode of admission and other personal data. The Clerk shall also be responsible for ensuring that a record of Baptisms, Holy Unions, deaths, etc. is maintained. The BOARD may delegate the performance of duties of the Clerk, as it deems appropriate.

3. THE BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Shall be appointed by the BOARD and shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the BOARD. The Committee shall review the CHURCH Bylaws for consistency and ensure conformity of the CHURCH Bylaws and Operating Procedures with FELLOWSHIP Bylaws. It shall prepare for BOARD review proposed changes and statements of rationale and communicate these proposed changes to the Bylaws, if any, to the Congregation for final approval. The make-up of the Committee shall be: one (1) member who shall be a BOARD member and who shall act as liaison to and from the BOARD; three (3) members from the Congregation at large, one (1) of whom shall be Chair; and one (1) staff member who shall be appointed by the PASTOR. Additional non-voting members may serve on the Committee at the discretion of the Chair. The term of office shall be two (2) years.

4. THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee develops and oversees procedures for the election of the members of the BOARD and for positions of Lay Delegate. The Nominating Committee shall ensure a pool of qualified candidates be offered to the Congregation. The BOARD, with input from the PASTOR and the Congregation, shall appoint seven (7) Members In Good Standing to serve as the Nominating Committee. These appointments shall be reviewed annually.

The following individuals shall not be eligible to serve on the Nominating Committee:

- a. More than one individual from the same household, family, or committed relationship.
- b. An employee of the CHURCH.
- c. A clergy candidate.
- d. A member of the BOARD.

During the first meeting following the appointment, the Nominating Committee shall elect an individual from among its members as its Chair. The voting for the chair shall be held annually. In order to avoid having newly elected members of the BOARD responsible for making the appointments following their initial terms of office, the terms of office of the Nominating Committee shall be June 1 through May 31 of the following year.

5. LAY DELEGATES

One (1) Lay Delegate shall be elected at the first Congregational Meeting following the General Conference of the FELLOWSHIP for every one hundred (100) Members In Good Standing or portion thereof. Lay Delegates shall serve for three (3) years. The duties of the Lay Delegate shall include, but not be limited to, representation of the Congregation at General and Regional Conferences and to be informed of the local, Regional, and UFMCC concerns and issues. Lay Delegates shall have been Members In Good Standing at the CHURCH for at least one (1) year. Nominees who receive votes, but are not elected as Lay Delegates, shall be considered as Alternate Lay Delegates and shall fill vacant Lay Delegate positions according to the priority established by the number of votes received. Lay Delegates shall elect from among themselves a leader, known as the Chair. The Lay Delegate receiving the largest number of votes cast shall serve as

Interim Chair and shall call an organizational meeting for the purpose of electing the Chair. The Chair shall be responsible for ensuring that all Lay Delegates are kept aware of their responsibilities, of meetings and conference dates and agendas, and shall ensure that a report of all conferences and meetings is presented to the BOARD and the Congregation in a timely manner. In the event that elected Lay Delegates or Alternates are unable to attend a particular conference, the BOARD may appoint a substitute for that conference only. In the event that the elected Lay Delegates or Alternates are unable or unwilling to perform the duties of Lay Delegate, including but not limited to, representation of the Congregation at General and Regional Conferences, the BOARD may appoint a qualified person to serve until the next Congregational Meeting when an election will be held to fill the unexpired term.

- a. **DISCIPLINE:** The church cannot condone disloyalty, unbecoming conduct, or dereliction of duty on the part of any Lay Delegate or Alternate Lay Delegate. Therefore, the BOARD may remove by a majority vote of the full BOARD any Lay Delegate or Alternate Lay Delegate guilty of the above. A petition presented to the BOARD and signed by twenty-five percent (25%) of the Members In Good Standing of the Congregation may also initiate such a procedure.
- b. **APPEAL OF DISCIPLINE:** A disciplined Lay Delegate or Alternate Lay Delegate may appeal the action to the Congregation at its next regular Congregational Meeting or at a special Congregational Meeting which may be called for the purpose. The decision of the Congregational Meeting is final. Until the Congregational Meeting to consider the appeal, the position held by the disciplined Lay Delegate shall be filled by an Alternate Lay Delegate.

ARTICLE VI - CHURCH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

A. CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP

After completing the CHURCH membership classes, a baptized Christian may become a Member of the CHURCH through the Rite of Attaining Membership in the CHURCH. Members In Good Standing are members who have registered attendance, identified financial support, definite service contribution, and expressed interest and loyalty as determined by the BOARD.

The BOARD shall ensure that the membership roll is reviewed in the month of January and August of each year. A Member shall continue in membership until such time as the Member requests to be removed from the list of Members In Good Standing, until death, or until action by the BOARD to remove the Member from membership. Such action by the BOARD shall be done in accordance with the procedure as shown below:

1. A Member who does not have registered attendance, identified financial support, definite service contribution, and demonstrated interest and loyalty within the preceding period of one (1) year may be removed from the list of Members In Good Standing and placed on a list of inactive Members.
2. The BOARD shall ensure that this Member is notified in writing that the Member has been placed on a list of inactive Members and is not eligible to vote at any business meeting of the church.

3. If the inactive Member has not attended, provided identifiable financial support, and demonstrated further interest or loyalty for a period of two (2) months immediately following notification, the BOARD shall have the authority, at its discretion, to drop any such Member from the local church membership roll.
4. The inactive Member may be restored to the list of Members In Good Standing by a vote of the BOARD without a public reception into membership.

B. FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

A person who, for one reason or another, feels unable to become a Member but who supports the goals of the church and wants to be a part of the work of the church may be designated as a "Friend of the Church."

1. The church shall not maintain a list of Friends of the Church.
2. Limitations on Friends of the Church – Friends may serve on appointed committees and may participate in all activities of the church. Friends may not vote at Congregational Meetings or serve on the BOARD. Friends shall not be considered in determining the number of Lay Delegates.

C. DISCIPLINE

The church cannot condone disloyalty or unbecoming conduct on the part of any Member or Friend. The BOARD is empowered to remove by majority vote any Member or Friend or take other appropriate disciplinary action.

RIGHT TO APPEAL: The action of the Board may be appealed to the next regular Congregational Meeting or a Special Congregational Meeting called for that purpose. The decision of the Congregational Meeting is final. Pending the outcome of the appeal of discipline, the disciplined Member shall remain under discipline and shall retain the right to vote at regular and Special Congregational Meetings, including the Congregational Meeting held to consider the appeal. Pending the outcome of the appeal of discipline, the disciplined Friend shall remain under discipline until a decision is reached at the next regular Congregational Meeting or a Special Congregational Meeting called for that purpose.

1. Appeal Process - The request for an appeal shall be submitted to the Clerk of the BOARD within thirty (30) days.
2. The BOARD may consider the appeal and reverse its earlier decision without taking the matter to the Congregational Meeting.
3. Should the BOARD sustain its earlier decision and the disciplined Member or Friend wishes the appeal to continue, the request shall be included as an agenda item for the next regular Congregational Meeting or a Special Congregational Meeting called for the purpose of considering the appeal.

ARTICLE VII - CHURCH SERVICES

Church Services shall be conducted as prescribed in the Fellowship Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII - CHURCH MEETINGS

Government of the CHURCH is vested in its Congregational Meeting, which exerts the right to control of its affairs, subject to the provisions of the UFMCC Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, or documents of legal organization, and the General Conference.

- A. TIME AND PLACE: A semi-annual Congregational Meeting shall be held each year in the month of March and October. The time and place of the semi-annual Congregational Meeting shall be determined by the BOARD.
- B. NOTIFICATION: The BOARD shall ensure that Members are notified in writing at least two (2) weeks in advance.
- C. VOTING RIGHTS: Each Member In Good Standing has the right to vote. Proxy or any other form of absentee voting shall not be allowed.
- D. VOTES REQUIRED FOR APPROVAL: Decisions, including elections, requires approval by a vote of more than fifty percent (50%) of those Members present and voting, unless otherwise required by UFMCC Bylaws or otherwise stated in these local church Bylaws
- E. QUORUM: In order to transact business, no less than fifteen percent (15%) of the Members In Good Standing must be present.
- F. AGENDA: The agenda for Congregational Meetings shall be determined by the BOARD.
 - 1. CONTENT: The agenda shall include, but not be limited to, election of members to the BOARD, election of Lay Delegates in the appropriate year, presentation of financial report, approval of budget, and receiving reports from the BOARD and the PASTOR.
 - 2. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Members may request the BOARD to add agenda items by submitting additional agenda items to the Clerk no later than four (4) weeks prior to the meeting.
- G. ELECTIONS: All votes for positions shall be taken by secret ballot. Votes of affirmation from the floor are not permitted.
- H. SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS: In addition to the semi-annual Congregational Meeting, special Congregational Meetings may also be held. Special Congregational Meetings are governed by the same rules as those pertaining to the Semi-annual Congregational Meeting.
 - 1. CALLING A SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: A special Congregational Meeting may be called either by (a) majority vote of the BOARD, (b) the PASTOR, or (c) a petition signed by at least twenty percent (20%) of the Members In Good Standing and submitted to the Clerk.
 - 2. The nature and purpose of the special Congregational Meeting shall be stated in the petition and in announcements and be written into the agenda.

ARTICLE IX - CHURCH FINANCES

- A. The CHURCH adopts and teaches tithing and stewardship as prescribed in the FELLOWSHIP Bylaws.

- B. The BOARD shall ensure that all CHURCH receipts are reported each month to the FELLOWSHIP as prescribed in the FELLOWSHIP Bylaws.
- C. Whenever possible, all funds shall be disbursed by bank checks, which shall bear two (2) authorized signatures. Authorized signatories are the members of the BOARD.
- D. Annual income and expense budgets for the next fiscal year must be submitted by the BOARD to the Congregation for approval at the Fall Congregational Meeting. To fulfill their responsibility to manage the cash flow, the BOARD has authority if there is a sufficient excess of income over expenses to increase the approved annual expense budget by up to ten percent (10%) of the approved annual expense budget, or if there is insufficient income to meet budgeted annual expenses to decrease the approved expense budget. A greater increase in the approved annual expense budget shall require the approval of a simple majority vote at a Congregational Meeting.
- E. Any agreements regarding lease, purchase, sale and/or physical location of the CHURCH, must be approved by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the Members In Good Standing present at any Congregational Meeting.
- F. Should the CHURCH decide to disaffiliate from the FELLOWSHIP, the disaffiliating members of the CHURCH have the right to net assets equivalent to the percentage of votes received, after existing financial obligations to the FELLOWSHIP are met. The remaining balance of assets shall stay with the members of the CHURCH who choose to remain with the FELLOWSHIP. If the CHURCH attempts to disaffiliate but does not follow the procedure as stated previously in ARTICLE V (A) (7), the net assets of the CHURCH will revert to the use of the General Conference of the FELLOWSHIP. The BOARD of Elders will decide the disposition of said property. Disaffiliated congregations may not continue to use the name Metropolitan Community Church (MCC).
- G. When a CHURCH disbands or closes, the net assets of the CHURCH will revert to the use of the General Conference of the FELLOWSHIP. The BOARD of Elders will decide the disposition of said property.
- H. The fiscal year shall run from January 1 through December 31.

ARTICLE X - RESERVATION OF POWERS

All powers not delegated by the FELLOWSHIP Bylaws are reserved to the CHURCH. All power not delegated by these the CHURCH Bylaws are reserved to the Members In Good Standing of the CHURCH and may be exercised by the voting members in meetings of the CHURCH.

ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS

- A. **ADOPTION:** These Bylaws shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the Congregational Meeting and approval by the Regional Elder.
- B. **AMENDMENTS:** These Bylaws may be amended or repealed at any duly convened Semi-annual Congregational Meeting. Proposed amendments or repeals shall be submitted in

writing to the BOARD no later than ninety (90) days prior to the Congregational Meeting the proposal is to be considered. Adoption of the amendment or the repeal shall require approval by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote and is subject to approval by the Regional Elder. Amendments that are necessitated by amendments made to the UFMCC Bylaws shall not require approval by the congregation.