

BYLAWS OF THE UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

As revised at General Conference XXV, Chicago, Illinois (USA)
Effective 02 July 2013

THERE ARE **SEVEN (7) TOTAL** BYLAW PROPOSALS INCLUDED IN THIS BUSINESS PACKAGE:
FOUR (4) EDITORIALS -

I. GB PROPOSAL 01: EDITORIAL – ARTICLE IV.A MINISTRY – paragraph renumbering -GB

II. GB PROPOSAL 02: EDITORIAL – ARTICLE IV.B. LOCAL CHURCH PARAGRAPH REORDER –COE-GARNER

III. GB PROPOSAL 03: EDITORIAL – ARTICLE V.E.3 –ELDER – PARAGRAPH REMOVAL CLEANUP – GB

IV. GB PROPOSAL 04: EDITORIAL – ARTICLE V.E.2 –MODEERATOR – ADD PARAGRAPHS - REALIGN – GB

THREE (3) NEW CHANGES -

V. GB PROPOSAL 05: MNC MEMBER INCREASE – ARTICLE V.E.2.a – GB-MNC

VI. GB PROPOSAL 06: CSOF – ARTICLE III.A-MOVE TO NEW ADDENDUM 5- GB-CSOF SHUTLIS 0406 r1

VII. GB PROPOSAL 07: FINANCE ARTICLE IX.B.1 MOVE TO GB POLICY HANDBOOK – GB FIN CMTE 0504

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS General Conference XXVI 4-8 July 2016

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

How to read the Bylaw Amendment Proposals:

CURRENT LANGUAGE:

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

PROPOSED LANGUAGE:

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

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I. GB PROPOSAL 01: EDITORIAL – ARTICLE IV.A MINISTRY – paragraph renumbering

Current Language	Proposed Language/Rationale/Impact
ARTICLE IV – MINISTRY	ARTICLE IV – MINISTRY
<p>A. MINISTRY OF THE LAITY</p> <p>a. THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS: Lay people are the People of God, called by God and authorized by Scripture to respond to the Word, serving as Christ served, to the end that the Church may be edified and the world transformed. UFMCC affirms that this is the ministry of every lay person in the UFMCC.</p> <p>b. DEACONS: As outlined in the New Testament, their office is a historic ministry of service and aid within the Christian Church.</p>	<p>A. MINISTRY OF THE LAITY</p> <p>1. THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS: Lay people are the People of God, called by God and authorized by Scripture to respond to the Word, serving as Christ served, to the end that the Church may be edified and the world transformed. UFMCC affirms that this is the ministry of every lay person in the UFMCC.</p> <p>2. DEACONS: As outlined in the New Testament, their office is a historic ministry of service and aid within the Christian Church.</p>
	<p>Rationale: Editorial: paragraph section renumbering</p> <p>Financial Impact: N/A</p>

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II. GB PROPOSAL 02: EDITORIAL – ARTICLE IV.B. LOCAL CHURCH PARAGRAPH REORDER –COE-GARNER

Current Language	Proposed Language/Rationale/Impact
<p>CURRENT OUTLINE OF ARTICLE V.B</p> <p>V. Government, Organization, and Officers</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">B. Local Churches</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">1. Emerging Churches</p> <p style="padding-left: 120px;">a. Authorization</p> <p style="padding-left: 120px;">b. Accountability</p> <p style="padding-left: 120px;">c. Closure</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">2. Affiliated Churches</p> <p style="padding-left: 120px;">a. Associated Organizations</p> <p style="padding-left: 120px;">b. Affiliated Church Governance</p> <p style="padding-left: 160px;"><u>i. [Untitled]</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">REVISED OUTLINE OF ARTICLE V.B IF THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE ACCEPTED</p> <p>V. Government, Organization, and Officers</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">B. Local Churches</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">1. Emerging Churches</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">2. Affiliated Churches</p> <p style="padding-left: 120px;">a. Associated Organizations</p> <p style="padding-left: 120px;">b. Affiliated Church Governance</p> <p style="padding-left: 160px;">i. Structure and Systems</p> <p style="padding-left: 160px;">ii. Accountability</p>

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<p>c. Pastor</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i. Qualifications and Duties</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>ii. Conflict Resolution</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">iii. Removing the Pastor from Office</p> <p>d. Lay Delegate</p> <p>e. Disaffiliation</p> <p>3. Discipline of Churches</p> <p>4. Church Property</p> <p><u>5. Local Church Governance</u></p> <hr/> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. [Untitled]</p> <hr/> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b. Accountability</p> <p>6. Closure</p> <p>7. Reservation of Powers</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION 1: Article V.B.2.b.i</p> <p>Insert “Structure and Systems” as the title.</p>	<p>iii. Conflict Resolution</p> <p>c. Pastor</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i. Qualifications and Duties</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">ii. Removing the Pastor from Office</p> <p>d. Lay Delegate</p> <p>e. Disaffiliation</p> <p>3. Discipline of Churches</p> <p>4. Church Property</p> <p>5. Closure</p> <p>6. Reservation of Powers</p>
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<p>RECOMMENDATION 2: Article V.B.2.c.ii</p> <p>Remove both paragraphs of the current section ii (Conflict Resolution) and place instead as a new V.B.2.b.iii.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION 3: Article V.B.5.a</p> <p>Completely delete V.B.5.a because the identical language already appears as V.B.2.b.i.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION 4: Article V.B.5.b</p> <p>Move V.B.5.b and place as a new V.B.2.b.ii.</p> <p>RECOMMENDATION 5: Article V.B.5</p> <p>Delete completely</p>	
	<p>REVISED changes IMPLEMENTED ARTICLE V.B</p> <p>V. Government, Organization, and Officers</p>

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	<p>B. LOCAL CHURCHES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. EMERGING CHURCHES: Within the UFMCC, all worshipping and/or ministry bodies that seek to enter into the process of meeting the criteria for affiliation as established by the Council of Elders and approved by the Governing Board may apply to UFMCC for authorization as an “emerging church.” Emerging churches include parish extensions, new church starts, and existing churches that seek to affiliate with UFMCC.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. AUTHORIZATION: The Council of Elders shall establish procedures for authorization of emerging churches, procedures for authorization of the leader for each emerging church, and processes for supporting each emerging church until it achieves affiliation.b. ACCOUNTABILITY: The emerging church shall be subject to these Bylaws and to the approval or disapproval of actions by a designee of the Council of Elders. When such come to exist, the emerging church shall then also be subject to its local Articles of Incorporation, local Bylaws/Standard Operating Procedures, and any other document of legal organization.c. CLOSURE: If an emerging church other than a parish extension disbands or ceases to operate, the net assets of the church will revert to the use of the General Conference of the UFMCC. The Governing Board will decide the disposition of said property.
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| | <p>2. AFFILIATED CHURCHES: Within the UFMCC, all churches that meet the criteria as established by the Council of Elders and approved by the Governing Board qualify for affiliation and recognition as an affiliated church. The Council of Elders has the authority to approve requests for affiliation. If an affiliated church ceases to meet the criteria for affiliation, a designee of the Council of Elders may take appropriate actions of intervention, which may include removal of the church's affiliation status. The decision of the designee may be appealed to the Council of Elders.</p> <p>a. ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS: A local church shall have the authority to establish, authorize, and hold accountable special-purpose groups, ministries, and organizations.</p> <p>b. AFFILIATED CHURCH GOVERNANCE: The government of each affiliated church is vested in its Congregational Meeting which exerts the right to control all of its affairs, subject to the provisions of the UFMCC Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, or documents of legal organization, and the General Conference. The Pastor and the local church administrative body are authorized to provide spiritual and administrative leadership in the affiliated church. The officials elected by the Congregational Meeting are subject to the direction and discipline of the affiliated church and are responsible to carry out the local church policies.</p> <p>i. STRUCTURES AND SYSTEMS: The affiliated church, in consultation with UFMCC, shall determine an appropriate structure and systems for local church</p> |
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	<p>governance that is appropriate for the size of church and cultural context. The local church structure and systems shall include provision for (1) selection and discipline of the local church administrative body, (2) a pastoral search process, and (3) congregational meetings. It is incumbent upon the local church administrative body of each local church to provide that church with a set of Bylaws or standard operating procedures, subject to approval by UFMCC.</p> <p>ii. ACCOUNTABILITY: The local church administrative body shall be subject to these Bylaws, local Articles of Incorporation, local Bylaws/Standard Operating Procedures, any other documents of legal organization, and to the approval or disapproval by action of their local congregation as provided for in any of the above.</p> <p>iii. CONFLICT RESOLUTION: When there are conflicts or difficulty within a local church, including apparent irreconcilable differences between the Pastor and congregation, UFMCC shall have the authority to interface with that church, to take appropriate measures, to provide resources and support, and to attend and have voice at any meeting of the local church administrative body or Congregational Meeting. UFMCC shall be required to intervene when invited (1) by the Pastor/Interim Pastoral Leader, (2) by majority vote of the local church administrative body, or (3) as a result of a petition signed by a minimum of one-third (33%) of the members of the church.</p>
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Within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving the request for intervention, UFMCC must officially notify all parties mentioned above. Within ten (10) days of the request, UFMCC will establish the time-lines and process for the Ministry of Reconciliation, which must be implemented within thirty (30) days of the initial request.

- c. PASTOR: The Pastor of an affiliated church is a duly ordained clergy person who has been licensed to practice. Though there are a variety of pastoral roles, in a local congregation the Pastor is elected to be responsible for the duties of teacher, preacher, and spiritual leader. If no duly credentialed UFMCC clergy person is available, an Interim Pastoral Leader may be appointed annually by UFMCC. All UFMCC churches are led by Pastors or Interim Pastoral Leaders.
 - i. QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES: Pastors must be credentialed clergy in the UFMCC. The Pastor of the church shall have the authority for ordering all worship services of the church. The Pastor is a voting member of the local church administrative body.

Associate and/or Assistant Pastor(s) and other personnel, uncompensated or compensated, shall be appointed by the Pastor subject to the approval of the local church administrative body. The Pastor shall act as personnel director of the local church staff, shall have the authority to delegate such responsibilities and duties as seems wise, and shall, with the approval of the local

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	<p>church administrative body, determine compensation, vacation periods, and titles of office of the staff.</p> <p>ii. REMOVING THE PASTOR FROM OFFICE: When irreconcilable differences exist between the Pastor and congregation, the Pastor and congregation may choose to terminate their relationship through mutual agreement. No petition for removal of the Pastor based on irreconcilable differences is valid unless preceded by the process of conflict resolution, as contained within the UFMCC Bylaws Article. V.B.2.c.ii. Unilateral failure to renew a pastoral contract does not constitute removal of the Pastor from office.</p> <p>The process of removing the Pastor from office for disloyalty, unbecoming conduct, dereliction of duty or when irreconcilable differences arise between Pastor and congregation may be initiated by a petition submitted to the duly authorized church officer as designated by the local Bylaws/Standard Operating Procedures, or documents of legal organization, and signed by at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the members in good standing; or by a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the full Board of Directors /local church administrative body. Within three (3) days, the Pastor and UFMCC must be sent a copy of the completed petition or motion of the local church administrative body by the designated church officer. After UFMCC and the designated local church officer have validated the</p>
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	<p>number of members who have signed the petition and the clarity of the petition or validated the votes of the members of the local church administrative body and the clarity of the motion, UFMCC may place the Pastor on inactive status, but the Pastor remains fully compensated until the final action of the congregation. Upon validating the petition, a representative of UFMCC and the local church administrative body will set the time and place of a special congregational meeting to determine whether the Pastor shall remain in office. The date of the meeting shall occur within thirty (30) days of the date the petition is submitted to the designated church officer or the date the motion of the local church administrative body is received by UFMCC.</p> <p>The Pastor has the right to appear on his/her own behalf before the congregational meeting and may have an advocate of his/her own choice present. The action of the congregation is final. If a special meeting is called to remove a Pastor, UFMCC must be given notice that such action is being taken. A representative of UFMCC shall attend as an impartial observer who shall moderate the meeting. If the Pastor is removed, the local church administrative body will meet immediately after the meeting with the representative of UFMCC to arrange for pastoral leadership until the pulpit is filled. The local church administrative body may confer with UFMCC as to available candidates for the office of Pastor.</p>
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- d. LAY DELEGATE: Each affiliated church shall have one (1) vote for every one hundred (100) members in good standing or portion thereof and shall elect one (1) Lay Delegate for each vote. Each Lay Delegate shall carry one (1) vote. Each Lay Delegate shall be a member in good standing of the congregation that he/she represents, should be elected at the first congregational meeting following each General Conference and shall serve a term of three (3) years. The duties of the Lay Delegate shall include, but not be limited to, representation of the congregation at General Conferences and to be informed of the UFMCC concerns and policies.

Each voting church may, in accordance with that local church's Bylaws or Standard Operating Procedures, elect at least one (1) Alternate Lay Delegate for each Lay Delegate elected. The Alternate Delegate(s) so elected shall, in accordance with procedures set forth in the local church Bylaws or Standard Operating Procedures, be empowered to assume the duties of any Lay Delegate who is unable or unwilling to perform the duties of Lay Delegate, including but not limited to representation of the congregation at General Conferences.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">e. DISAFFILIATION: Disaffiliated congregations may not continue to use the name Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) or in any manner hold themselves out as being associated with UFMCC or as being an MCC church. i. DISAFFILIATION BY AN AFFILIATED CHURCH: Should a local church desire to disaffiliate from the UFMCC, a representative or representatives appointed by the Moderator must be allowed to meet with the congregation and shall have voice at the Congregational Meeting called for the purpose of disaffiliating. The decision to disaffiliate must receive a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Members present at a duly called Congregational Meeting called for the purpose of disaffiliating. ii. NOTIFICATION TO UFMCC: At least sixty (60) calendar days prior to a Congregational Meeting called for the purpose of disaffiliating, the local church shall notify the Moderator in writing that such a Congregational Meeting will be held. The written notification to the Moderator shall include: (a) the date, time, and place of the Congregational Meeting; and (b) a copy of the local church membership list. Except in the event of the death
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	<p>or resignation of a listed Member, no Members may thereafter be removed from membership in the local church and no Members may be added to the membership in the local church until after the Congregational Meeting called for the purpose of disaffiliating.</p> <p>iii. NOTIFICATION TO MEMBERS: At least thirty (30) calendar days prior to a Congregational Meeting called for the purpose of disaffiliating, all Members of the local church must be notified in writing at their last known address on the membership list of the date, time, place, and purpose of the Congregational Meeting called for the purpose of disaffiliating. A copy of the notification to members shall be simultaneously submitted to the Moderator.</p> <p>iv. VOTING PROCESS: Voting at the Congregational Meeting called for the purpose of disaffiliating shall be done by secret ballot.</p>
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	<p>v. CONTINUING AFFILIATION: In the event that a congregation votes to disaffiliate, those members of the congregation wishing to continue affiliation with UFMCC may be designated by the Moderator as the continuing Metropolitan Community Church affiliated with the UFMCC.</p> <p>vi. DISPOSITION OF ASSETS: After existing financial obligations to the UFMCC are met, the disaffiliating local church has the right to net assets.</p> <p>vii. NOTIFICATION TO AFFECTED THIRD PARTIES: In the event that a congregation votes to disaffiliate, the UFMCC shall notify affected third parties that the disaffiliated congregation is no longer associated with the UFMCC and that the disaffiliated congregation may not hold itself out as being an MCC church. Affected third parties include, but are not limited to, banks, creditors, and government agencies that issued corporation/registration status to the disaffiliated church.</p>
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	<p>3. DISCIPLINE OF CHURCHES: If any emerging or affiliated church shall fail to abide by the Articles of Incorporation of the UFMCC, these Bylaws, or documents of legal organization, the Moderator or a representative of the Moderator shall take appropriate action to require compliance. The Moderator shall report any such action to the church involved and to the Governing Board.</p> <p>4. CHURCH PROPERTY: In every nation where UFMCC comes to exist and where permitted by local or national laws, the local church’s documents of legal organization must name the UFMCC as the successor not-for-profit corporation/non-governmental organization designated to receive the church’s property in the event of (1) the dissolution or abandonment of the church, or (2) failure to abide by the process for disaffiliation from the UFMCC by the local church as contained in the UFMCC Bylaws.</p> <p>5. CLOSURE: When a church disbands or ceases to operate, the net assets of the church will revert to the use of the General Conference of the UFMCC. The Governing Board will decide the disposition of said property.</p> <p>6. RESERVATION OF POWERS: Any specific matters of congregational approval not covered herein are left to local church option</p>
	<p>Rationale: Editorial/ paragraph section renumbering for ease of use. Eliminated redundancy</p>

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	Financial Impact: N/A
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III. GB PROPOSAL 03: EDITORIAL – ARTICLE V.E.3 – ELDER – PARAGRAPH REMOVAL CLEANUP – GB

Current Language	Proposed Language/Rationale/Impact
<p align="center">ARTICLE V – GOVERNMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND OFFICERS</p> <p><u>(Article V.3.C.(2).(a))</u></p> <p>E. FELLOWSHIP: 3. COUNCIL OF ELDERS: (2). DISCIPLINE: The Elder must be given written notice of a complaint and shall remain in position until final disposition of the complaint.</p> <p><u>(a) DISCIPLINE OF THE MODERATOR: Complaints about the Moderator must be submitted to the Governing Board in written form and must be signed by a minimum of one (1) member of the clergy from each of ten (10) different churches and by the Lay Delegates representing the majority of the Lay Delegate votes from each of ten (10) different churches, and may be initiated by either the clergy or Lay Delegates. The Governing Board shall establish and publish its procedure for considering complaints about the Moderator.</u></p> <p>(b) DISCIPLINE OF AN ELDER: Complaints about an Elder other than the Moderator must be submitted to the Moderator in written form and be signed by a member of UFMCC. The Moderator shall determine whether to refer the complaint to the Council of Elders for</p>	<p align="center">ARTICLE V – GOVERNMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND OFFICERS</p> <p><u>(Article V.3.C.(2).(a))</u></p> <p>E. FELLOWSHIP: 3. COUNCIL OF ELDERS: (2). DISCIPLINE: The Elder must be given written notice of a complaint and shall remain in position until final disposition of the complaint.</p> <p align="center"><u>DELETE</u></p> <p>(a) DISCIPLINE OF AN ELDER: Complaints about an Elder other than the Moderator must be submitted to the Moderator in written form and be signed by a member of UFMCC. The Moderator shall determine whether to refer the complaint to the Council of Elders for</p>

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resolution or to seek resolution of the matter in another appropriate way. The Council of Elders shall establish and publish its procedure for considering complaints about an Elder.

(Article V.3.C.(3).(a))

(3) REMOVAL:

~~**(a) REMOVAL OF THE MODERATOR: If the Governing Board determines that the Moderator is unable or unwilling to fulfill the responsibilities of the position, the Governing Board may, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the full Governing Board, remove the Moderator from the position. Such action shall be reported to the General Conference within five (5) business days. The Governing Board may elect someone who meets the qualifications to serve as Interim Moderator until the next General Conference, when an election shall be conducted to fill the vacancy.**~~

(b) REMOVAL OF AN ELDER:

- (i) The Moderator may remove an Elder at any time, with or without cause.
- (ii) If the Council of Elders determines that an Elder is unable or unwilling to fulfill the responsibilities of the position, the Council of Elders may, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of

resolution or to seek resolution of the matter in another appropriate way. The Council of Elders shall establish and publish its procedure for considering complaints about an Elder.

(Article V.3.C.(3).(a))

(3) REMOVAL:

~~**DELETE.**~~

(a) REMOVAL OF AN ELDER:

- (i) The Moderator may remove an Elder at any time, with or without cause.
- (ii) If the Council of Elders determines that an Elder is unable or unwilling to fulfill the responsibilities of the position, the Council of Elders may, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the full Council of Elders,

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<p>the full Council of Elders, recommend that the Moderator remove that Elder from the position.</p> <p>(iii) Such action shall be reported to the Governing Board.</p>	<p>recommend that the Moderator remove that Elder from the position.</p> <p>(iii) Such action shall be reported to the Governing Board.</p>
	<p>Rationale: Editorial – paragraph realignment.</p> <p>Financial Impact: N/A</p>

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IV. GB PROPOSAL 04: EDITORIAL – ARTICLE V.E.2 –MODERATOR – ADD PARAGRAPHS - REALIGN – GB

Current Language	Proposed Language/Rationale/Impact
<p>ARTICLE V – GOVERNMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND OFFICERS</p> <p><u>(ARTICLE V.E.2)</u></p> <p>E. FELLOWSHIP: MODERATOR: 2. MODERATOR: The Moderator is elected by General Conference to serve as the primary visionary and futurist in order to advance the mission and vision of UFMCC worldwide through the exercise of prophetic challenge, creativity, spiritual and pastoral authority, and leadership. As the primary UFMCC spokesperson, an Elder, and the Chief Executive Officer, the Moderator is a voting member and moderates meetings of the Governing Board and of the Council of Elders; moderates General Conference; appoints Elders; and supervises UFMCC senior staff. The Moderator shall be responsible for leading the visioning process for the Fellowship, having a presence at global events, teaching and training, engaging in continuous learning, community relations, visitation and assistance in churches, ecumenical relations, and global social justice. The term of office of the Moderator shall be six (6) years.</p> <p>a. MODERATOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The Governing Board shall appoint a Moderator Nominating Committee of three (3) persons. The responsibility of the Moderator Nominating Committee is to actively solicit candidates for the</p>	<p>ARTICLE V – GOVERNMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND OFFICERS</p> <p><u>(ARTICLE V.E.2)</u></p> <p>E. FELLOWSHIP: MODERATOR: 2. MODERATOR: The Moderator is elected by General Conference to serve as the primary visionary and futurist in order to advance the mission and vision of UFMCC worldwide through the exercise of prophetic challenge, creativity, spiritual and pastoral authority, and leadership. As the primary UFMCC spokesperson, an Elder, and the Chief Executive Officer, the Moderator is a voting member and moderates meetings of the Governing Board and of the Council of Elders; moderates General Conference; appoints Elders; and supervises UFMCC senior staff. The Moderator shall be responsible for leading the visioning process for the Fellowship, having a presence at global events, teaching and training, engaging in continuous learning, community relations, visitation and assistance in churches, ecumenical relations, and global social justice. The term of office of the Moderator shall be six (6) years.</p> <p>a. MODERATOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The Governing Board shall appoint a Moderator Nominating Committee of three (3) persons. The responsibility of the Moderator Nominating Committee is to actively solicit candidates for the</p>

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position, review any and all applications, and select up to five (5) qualified candidates. The qualified candidates shall be presented by the Governing Board to the General Conference for election.

position, review any and all applications, and select up to five (5) qualified candidates. The qualified candidates shall be presented by the Governing Board to the General Conference for election.

- b. DISCIPLINE OF THE MODERATOR: Complaints about the Moderator must be submitted to the Governing Board in written form and must be signed by a minimum of one (1) member of the clergy from each of ten (10) different churches and by the Lay Delegates representing the majority of the Lay Delegate votes from each of ten (10) different churches, and may be initiated by either the clergy or Lay Delegates. The Governing Board shall establish and publish its procedure for considering complaints about the Moderator.**
- c. REMOVAL OF THE MODERATOR: If the Governing Board determines that the Moderator is unable or unwilling to fulfill the responsibilities of the position, the Governing Board may, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the full Governing Board, remove the Moderator from the position. Such action shall be reported to the General Conference within five (5) business days. The Governing Board may elect someone who meets the qualifications to serve as Interim Moderator until the next General Conference, when an election shall be conducted to fill the vacancy.**

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<p>b. VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF MODERATOR: In the event of a vacancy in the office of Moderator, the Governing Board shall elect an Interim Moderator to fill the vacancy until the next General Conference, when an election shall be held to fill the vacancy. The term of office of the Moderator elected by General Conference to fill the vacancy shall be six (6) years.</p>	<p>d. VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF MODERATOR: In the event of a vacancy in the office of Moderator, the Governing Board shall elect an Interim Moderator to fill the vacancy until the next General Conference, when an election shall be held to fill the vacancy. The term of office of the Moderator elected by General Conference to fill the vacancy shall be six (6) years.</p>
	<p>Rationale: Editorial – Moved paragraphs from elder section to Moderator sections for paragraph realignment.</p> <p>Financial Impact: N/A</p>

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V. GB PROPOSAL 05: MNC MEMBER INCREASE – ARTICLE V.E.2.a – GB-MNC

Current Language	Proposed Language/Rationale/Impact
<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE V – GOVERNMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND OFFICERS</p> <p>(Article V.E.2.a)</p> <p>E. FELLOWSHIP: 2. Moderator:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">c. MODERATOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The Governing Board shall appoint a Moderator Nominating Committee of three (3) persons. The responsibility of the Moderator Nominating Committee is to actively solicit candidates for the position, review any and all applications, and select up to five (5) qualified candidates. The qualified candidates shall be presented by the Governing Board to the General Conference for election.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE V – GOVERNMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND OFFICERS</p> <p>(Article V.E.2.a)</p> <p>E. FELLOWSHIP: 2. Moderator:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. MODERATOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The Governing Board shall appoint a Moderator Nominating Committee of five (5) persons. The responsibility of the Moderator Nominating Committee is to actively solicit candidates for the position, review any and all applications, and select up to five (5) qualified candidates. The qualified candidates shall be presented by the Governing Board to the General Conference for election.</p>
	<p>Rationale: The amount of work is best done and distributed amongst 5 rather than 3 persons as demonstrated by the GC2016 MNC team. The opportunity to have multiple, diverse voices and perspectives has proven to be invaluable throughout the MNC process leading to GC2016.</p> <p>Financial Impact: Minimal</p>

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VI. GB PROPOSAL 06: CSOF – ARTICLE III.A-MOVE TO NEW ADDENDUM 5- GB-CSOF SHUTLIS 0406 r1

Current Language	Proposed Language/Rationale/Impact
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STEP 1

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 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.~~

~~Founded in the interest of offering a church home to all who confess and believe, the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches moves in the mainstream of Christianity.~~

~~Our faith is based upon the principles outlined in the historic creeds: Apostles and Nicene.~~

~~We believe:~~

- ~~1. In one triune God, omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient, of one substance and of three persons: God, our Parent Creator; Jesus Christ, the only begotten son of~~

STEP 1

**ARTICLE III – STATEMENT OF FAITH, SACRAMENTS,
AND RITES**

A. Statement of Faith

Preamble

Metropolitan Community Churches is one chapter in the story of the Church, the Body of Christ. We are people on a journey, learning to live into our spirituality, while affirming our bodies, our genders, our sexualities. We don't all believe exactly the same things. And yet in the midst of our diversity, we build community, rooted in God's radically inclusive love for all people. We are part of an ongoing conversation on matters of belief and faith, shaped by scripture and the historic creeds, building on those who have come before us. Our chapter begins when God says to us: "Come, taste and see."

Our Faith

"Come, taste, and see." Jesus Christ, You invite all people to Your open table. You make us your people, a beloved community. You restore the joy of our relationship with God, even in the midst of loneliness, despair, and degradation. We are each unique and we all belong, a priesthood of all believers. Baptized and filled with Your Holy Spirit, You empower us to be Your healing presence in a hurting world.

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~~God, God in flesh, human, and the Holy Spirit, God as our Sustainer.~~

~~2. That the Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God, showing forth God to every person through the law and the prophets, and finally, completely and ultimately on earth in the being of Jesus Christ.~~

~~3. That Jesus...the Christ...historically recorded as living some 2,000 years before this writing, is God incarnate, of human birth, fully God and fully human, and that by being one with God, Jesus has demonstrated once and forever that all people are likewise Children of God, being spiritually made in God's image.~~

~~4. That the Holy Spirit is God making known God's love and interest to all people. The Holy Spirit is God, available to and working through all who are willing to place their welfare in God's keeping.~~

~~5. Every person is justified by grace to God through faith in Jesus Christ.~~

~~6. We are saved from loneliness, despair and degradation through God's gift of grace, as was declared by our Savior. Such grace is not earned, but is a pure gift from a God of pure love. We further commend the community of the~~

We expect to see Your reign on earth as it is in heaven as we work toward a world where everyone has enough, wars cease, and all creation lives in harmony. We affirm Your charge to all of humanity to care for the land, sea, and air. Therefore, we will actively resist systems and structures which are destroying Your creation.

With all of creation we worship You—every tribe, every language, every people, every nation. We know You by many names, Triune God, beyond comprehension, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, who invites us to the feast.

Amen.

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<p>faithful to a life of prayer; to seek genuine forgiveness for unkind, thoughtless and unloving acts; and to a committed life of Christian service.</p> <p>7. The Church serves to bring all people to God through Christ. To this end, it shall arrange for regular services of worship, prayer, interpretation of the Scriptures, and edification through the teaching and preaching of the Word.</p>	
	<p>Rationale: The MCC Commission on the Statement of Faith chartered at General Conference 2013 recommends this new language for our Statement of Faith.</p> <p>Financial Impact: N/A</p>

<p align="center"><u>STEP 2</u> Current Language</p>	<p align="center"><u>STEP 2</u> Proposed Language/Rationale/Impact</p>
<p>No current language</p>	<p>Create Addendum 5 entitled “MCC Core Documents” which outlines the process for including and amending documents considered core to MCC’s faith and work.</p> <p>MCC CORE DOCUMENTS (MCCCD) is a repository of texts that have been deemed by the denomination to be worthy of preservation.</p>

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preservation of a text serves as a map of MCC’s historic development. Preservation does not imply the force of governance. 2. Documents added to the MCCCCD will be maintained in the repository in perpetuity to preserve MCC’s history. 3. Documents added to the repository will be filed in chronological order and will note the year of their writing and the year in which they were accepted into the repository. 4. A text may appear in multiple revisions within the MCCCCD (e.g., the MCC Statement of Faith). 5. Texts will be added to the MCCCCD by a 2/3 majority vote in both the Clergy House and Lay House of General Conference.
	<p>Rationale: Keeps all MCC Core Documents together in one online location accessible to all people.</p> <p>Financial Impact: N/A</p>

<p align="center">STEP3 Current Language</p>	<p align="center">STEP 3 Proposed Language/Rationale/Impact</p>
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**ARTICLE III – STATEMENT OF FAITH, SACRAMENTS,
AND RITES**

A. Statement of Faith

Preamble

Metropolitan Community Churches is one chapter in the story of the Church, the Body of Christ. We are people on a journey, learning to live into our spirituality, while affirming our bodies, our genders, our sexualities. We don't all believe exactly the same things. And yet in the midst of our diversity, we build community, rooted in God's radically inclusive love for all people. We are part of an ongoing conversation on matters of belief and faith, shaped by scripture and the historic creeds, building on those who have come before us. Our chapter begins when God says to us: "Come, taste and see."

Our Faith

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We expect to see Your reign on earth as it is in heaven as we work toward a world where everyone has enough, wars cease,

Remove "Article III.A – Statement of Faith" from the Bylaws and into the MCC Core Documents (**described in Step 2**).

(This requires a 2/3 majority vote in both the Clergy House and Lay House of General Conference.)

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<p><u>and all creation lives in harmony. We affirm Your charge to all of humanity to care for the land, sea, and air. Therefore, we will actively resist systems and structures which are destroying Your creation.</u></p> <p><u>With all of creation we worship You—every tribe, every language, every people, every nation. We know You by many names, Triune God, beyond comprehension, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, who invites us to the feast.</u></p> <p><u>Amen.</u></p>	
	<p>Rationale: The Commission on the Statement of Faith, in consultation with a number of theologians, suggests that a statement of faith does not belong in denominational bylaws. Placing our new Statement of Faith in “MCC Core Documents” on the MCC website seems to us to be the logical repository for the Statement.</p> <p>Financial Impact: N/A</p>

<p align="center">STEP 4 Current Language</p>	<p align="center">STEP 4 Proposed Language/Rationale/Impact</p>
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**ARTICLE III – STATEMENT OF FAITH, SACRAMENTS,
AND RITES**

B. SACRAMENTS: This 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.

2. HOLY COMMUNION is the partaking of blessed 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.

C. RITES: The Rites of the Church as performed by its duly authorized ministers shall consist of the following:

1. The RITE OF ORDINATION is the setting apart of duly qualified persons for the professional ministry of this Church. It is evidenced by the laying on of hands by

Rename ARTICLE III – SACRAMENTS AND RITES

A. SACRAMENTS: This 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.

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B. RITES: The Rites of the Church as performed by its duly authorized ministers shall consist of the following:

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authorized ordained clergy or UFMCC Elders, pursuant to these Bylaws.

2. The RITE OF ATTAINING MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHURCH shall be conducted by the Pastor or Interim Pastoral Leader before a local congregation at any regular worship service. In accordance with criteria established by the local church, a baptized Christian may become a member in good standing of the local church group through a letter of transfer from a recognized Christian body or through affirmation of faith.
3. The RITE OF HOLY UNION/RITE OF HOLY MATRIMONY is the spiritual joining of two persons in a manner fitting and proper by a duly authorized clergy, Interim Pastoral Leader of the church, or UFMCC Elders. After both persons have been counseled and apprised of their responsibilities one toward the other, this rite of conferring God's blessing may be performed.
4. The RITE OF FUNERAL OR MEMORIAL SERVICE is to be fittingly conducted by the ministers of the Church for the deceased.
5. The RITE OF LAYING ON OF HANDS or prayer for the healing of the sick in mind, body or spirit is to be conducted by the ministers of the Church, at their discretion, upon request.
6. The RITE OF BLESSING may be conducted by the ministers of the Church for persons, things and relationships, when

this Church. It is evidenced by the laying on of hands by authorized ordained clergy or UFMCC Elders, pursuant to these Bylaws.

2. The RITE OF ATTAINING MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHURCH shall be conducted by the Pastor or Interim Pastoral Leader before a local congregation at any regular worship service. In accordance with criteria established by the local church, a baptized Christian may become a member in good standing of the local church group through a letter of transfer from a recognized Christian body or through affirmation of faith.
3. The RITE OF HOLY UNION/RITE OF HOLY MATRIMONY is the spiritual joining of two persons in a manner fitting and proper by a duly authorized clergy, Interim Pastoral Leader of the church, or UFMCC Elders. After both persons have been counseled and apprised of their responsibilities one toward the other, this rite of conferring God's blessing may be performed.
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<p>deemed appropriate by the minister. This includes the dedication of a church building to the glory of God.</p>	<p>6. The RITE OF BLESSING may be conducted by the ministers of the Church for persons, things and relationships, when deemed appropriate by the minister. This includes the dedication of a church building to the glory of God.</p>
	<p>Rationale: The guidelines for changing the Statement of Faith will be housed in Bylaw Addendum 5 and will continue to require a 2/3 vote of the Lay House and of the Clergy House to amend. The Statement of Faith will be housed online with the rest of the documentation called the MCC Core Documents. However change for only this one page Statement of Faith requires a 2/3 vote of both houses to be changed. The other MCC Core Documents will not require a bylaw change of the General Conference delegates.</p> <p>Financial Impact: N/A</p>

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VII. GB PROPOSAL 07: FINANCE ARTICLE IX.B.1 MOVE TO GB POLICY HANDBOOK – GB FIN CMTE 0504

Current Language	Proposed Language/Rationale/Impact
<p align="center">ARTICLE IX – CHURCH FINANCES</p> <p>B. REPORTING: Each emerging church and affiliated shall report all church receipts each month to the UFMCC and with that report shall remit a percentage of the funds reported, as determined by General Conference.</p> <p>1. EXEMPT FUNDS: Funds bequeathed and money collected for the following purposes must be reported, but may be deducted from the total receipts before calculating the amount due the UFMCC:</p> <p>a. FUNDS TO MEET THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF PERSONS IN DISTRESS: This money may only be used to cover direct services without which the recipient would be destitute or in personal danger.</p> <p>b. BUILDING FUND: This is money set aside to construct or purchase a church facility which may include worship space, meeting space, office space, kitchen facilities, classroom space, non revenue parking facilities, furniture and major equipment for these facilities. It may also be used for major renovation costs of purchased or leased/rented facilities and the payment</p>	<p align="center">ARTICLE IX – CHURCH FINANCES</p> <p>B. REPORTING: Each emerging church and affiliated shall report all church receipts each month to the UFMCC and with that report shall remit a percentage of the funds reported, as determined by General Conference.</p> <p align="center">(move to GB Policy Handbook to sit alongside assessment rate)</p>

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<p>of the principle on a building loan. Funds raised specifically to reduce the principle on a building loan are assessment exempt as part of the building fund. Rent, mortgage interest payments, utilities, minor equipment, and routine maintenance are not exempt.</p> <p>e. DELEGATES FUND: Expenses of sending the church's delegate(s) and clergy to General Conference.</p> <p>Any money transferred permanently or for a long term from any exempt fund into the General Fund must be added to the income figures for that month, and assessments paid on them. Report and remittance are due to the UFMCC on or before the tenth (10th) day of the month following the month being reported.</p>	<p>Any money transferred permanently or for a long term from any exempt fund into the General Fund must be added to the income figures for that month, and assessments paid on them. Report and remittance are due to the UFMCC on or before the tenth (10th) day of the month following the month being reported.</p>
	<p>Rationale: Article IX.B.1- PER GB REPORT TO GC; MOTION #2 - MOVE TO to Governing Board Policy Handbook to sit alongside assessment rate section.</p> <p>Financial Impact: N/A</p>

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