

BY-LAWS OF THE MIDWEST DISTRICT  
OF THE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF AMERICA

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SECTION 1: MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES

1.100 Any church in Nebraska, Kansas, or an adjacent area desiring to join this organization and who is in agreement with its statement of faith, constitution, principles, and practices, may make application to the District Superintendent. Together with the District Board, he shall investigate their application according to the procedures adopted by the District Board. Upon successful completion of those procedures they shall be recommended to the Conference, where a three-fourths (3/4) favorable vote shall admit them to District membership.

SECTION 2: MEETINGS

2.100 ANNUAL MEETING: The Annual Meeting of the District shall be held in the month of February, with the time and place to be decided by the District Board.

2.101 Notice of the Annual Meeting, stating time and place thereof, shall be given to each member church at least thirty days prior to the meeting.

2.102 When not in conflict with a provision of the by-laws, Roberts Rules of Order will be a guide to conduct business at the Annual Meeting.

2.200 SPECIAL MEETING: Special meetings for any purpose(s) may be called by the chairman of the District Board. The chairman of the District Board shall call a special meeting upon written request to the District Board of at least twenty percent (20%) of the member churches of the District.

2.201 Notice of special meetings, stating time, place, and purpose(s) thereof, shall be given to each member church at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.

2.300 DELEGATES:

2.301 LAY DELEGATES: Each member church shall be entitled to three (3) delegates for the first fifty (50) members or fraction thereof, and thereafter one (1) delegate for each fifty (50) members or fraction thereof.

2.302 PASTORAL DELEGATES:

2.302.1 All full-time pastoral staff of member churches shall have delegate status.

2.302.2 Ministers who are members in good standing in the Ministerial Association of the Evangelical Free Church of America and missionaries commissioned by the Evangelical Free Church of America residing in the Midwest District shall have delegate status.

2.303 BOARD MEMBERS: All members of the boards elected at the Annual Conference shall have delegate status.

2.304 HONORARY DELEGATES: Visiting guests may be made honorary delegates by vote of the delegates at the Annual Meeting.

2.305 SUCCESSION: Delegates shall retain their delegate status for reconvened meetings until the opening of the next annual or special meeting.

2.306 QUORUM: The number of voting delegates present at any annual or special meeting shall constitute a quorum and be sufficient to transact business by majority vote, unless stipulated otherwise in these by-laws.

2.307 VOTING: Each delegate present shall be entitled to one vote on each item to be considered. In the event of a special or reconvened meeting, proxy votes (not absentee ballots) will be permitted.

SECTION 3: DISTRICT BOARD

3.100 PURPOSE: The District Board is a microcosm of the District whose function is to carry out the purpose and vision of the Annual Meeting and shall act on behalf of the membership of the Midwest District between annual or special meetings.

3.200 MEMBERSHIP:

3.201 The District Board shall consist of ten (10) members.

3.202 Nine (9) of these members shall be elected by the delegates, three (3) from each of the three regions (East, West and South).

3.203 The District Superintendent shall be a member of the District Board.

3.204 The position of treasurer shall be appointed by the District Board for a one-year term. There shall be no limit to the number of terms a treasurer may serve. The treasurer shall **not** be a voting member of the Board.

3.300 QUALIFICATIONS:

3.301 Each candidate for the District Board shall be a member in good standing of one of the member churches.

3.301.1 Said members shall be men or women of established and true Christian character and sound in faith and doctrine.

3.400 ELECTION:

3.401 District Board members will be elected at the Annual Meeting.

3.402 The number of board members elected each year shall be according to the number whose terms of office expire at the close of each Annual Meeting.

3.500 TERM OF OFFICE:

3.501 Each elected Board member shall hold office for a term of three (3) years from the close of the Annual Meeting.

3.502 Each board member may succeed him/herself one time. If a member is appointed to fill a vacancy, he/she shall hold office for the unexpired term of the vacant office. Said term shall not be considered his/her first term on the board.

3.503 VACANCY: If a vacancy occurs on the District Board, the District Board shall appoint a new member from the region where the vacancy occurs.

3.600 OFFICERS:

3.601 At the first meeting of the District Board following the regular Annual Meeting of the Conference, the officers of the District, consisting of the chairman, vice chairman and secretary shall be elected by the District Board from its members. Officers shall be elected for one year and hold office until their successors are elected.

3.602 The chairman shall be an ex-officio member of all boards and committees of the District.

3.700 MEETINGS:

3.701 The District Board shall meet regularly (a minimum of five (5) times annually). The time, place, and manner of such meetings shall be determined by the Board.

3.702 Special meetings may be called by the chairman. Special meetings shall be called by the chairman upon written request of fifty percent (50%) of the members of the Board. Two weeks notice shall be given to each Board member prior to the meeting.

3.703 A majority of members of the Board shall constitute a quorum and be sufficient to transact business.

3.800 RESPONSIBILITIES:

3.801 TO THE SUPERINTENDENT:

3.801.1 The District Board shall provide counsel and supervision for the District Superintendent, and shall review his performance annually.

3.801.2 The District Board shall oversee the search process for the position of Superintendent.

3.802 FINANCIAL REVIEW: The District Board shall annually appoint a financial review committee of at least two (2) members outside the District Board to review all financial records of the District.

3.803 NOMINATION COMMITTEE: The District Board shall oversee the nomination process.

3.803.1 Committee Selection: The District Board shall choose at least three (3) members from the District Board not up for election to serve on the Nominating Committee. These board members may recruit one or more non-board members from their region to assist in the nomination process.

3.803.2 Nominations: The committee shall present to the District Board a recommended slate of nominees for all positions to be filled. The District Board shall then approve a ballot for the elections.

3.804 CREDENTIALING: An individual may be credentialed as a minister of the gospel by the Midwest District after the candidate has met the qualifications

for a Ministerial credential.

These qualifications may include, but are not limited to, education, experience and training. The qualifications will be determined by the Board of Directors of the Midwest District.

#### SECTION 4: DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

4.100 PURPOSE: The District Superintendent shall implement the purpose and vision of the Midwest District.

4.101 The District Superintendent shall provide continuity and accountability of administrative leadership for the District toward the ends established by the District Board.

4.102 A job description approved by the Board of Directors provides direction for the position.

4.200 QUALIFICATIONS: The District Superintendent shall be a man of established and true Christian character, sound in faith and doctrine, and qualified to preach and teach the Word of God.

4.300 ELECTION:

4.301 Candidate(s) for District Superintendent shall be recommended by the District Board at the Annual Meeting or a special meeting. Election shall be by written ballot, and requires two-thirds (2/3) majority of the delegates present and voting.

4.302 Each term of office shall begin one month after election, and shall continue for three (3) successive years until one month after the annual meeting in the third successive year. There shall be no restrictions on the number of terms a man may serve.

4.303 Initial salary and other compensations shall be recommended by the District Board and approved by the Conference delegates.

4.400 RESPONSIBILITIES:

4.401 He shall fulfill his job description in accordance with the governance policies established by the District Board and in keeping with any directives approved by the Annual Meeting of the District.

4.402 He shall be an ex-officio member of all other boards and committees of

the District.

4.500 RELATIONSHIPS:

4.501 He shall be accountable to the Annual Meeting through the direct supervision of the District Board and shall plan, implement, and promote the purpose, values, and vision of the District.

4.502 He shall be available to individuals, pastors, church boards, and church bodies for advice or guidance, pursuant to guidelines adopted by the District Board.

SECTION 5: BOARD OF MINISTERIAL STANDING

5.100 PURPOSE: Each region of the Midwest District shall have its own Board of Ministerial Standing whose responsibilities shall be as follows: (1) Process all requests for licensing and ordination; (2) Provide assistance and counsel to the District Superintendent in handling discipline situations of credentialed persons; (3) Give oversight to the nurture of pastors within the District; (4) Give oversight to the recovery program.

5.200 MEMBERSHIP: These boards shall be comprised of six (6) men from each region, three (3) laymen and three (3) EFCA ordained pastors. Each regional board, through its chairman, shall appoint at least four (4) other non-permanent members, two (2) laymen and two (2) pastors, to serve each time that board meets so as to fulfill the requirements of the National EFCA's Committee on Ministerial Standing.

5.300 QUALIFICATION AND ELECTION:

5.301 Qualifications for membership and procedure for election shall be the same as the members of the District Board

5.400 ORDINATION: When a candidate meets with a regional board for ordination questioning his church shall be notified to provide up to three (3) church members to sit on the board. They shall have full rights and privileges of the Board during the meeting with their pastor. The candidate may also choose up to three (3) ordained members of the Evangelical Free Church of America Ministerial Association to attend and participate in the questioning. They shall have full rights and privileges of the Board during the meeting with the candidates.

5.500 DISCIPLINE: Any person who holds credentials with the Evangelical Free Church, lives in the District, and who is involved in any theological

or moral issue that is in question or who is in conflict with the principles and practices of the Evangelical Free Church of America shall be counseled by the Board of Ministerial Standing within the region he serves, which shall make recommendations for discipline when necessary.

5.600 OFFICERS: Each regional board shall elect a chairman and a secretary from among its members.

#### SECTION 6: CHRISTIAN HOMES, INC.

6.100 Christian Homes, Inc., whose primary purpose shall be to provide housing and services to the elderly and infirm, is a Nebraska non-profit corporation, owned and controlled by the District.

6.200 GOVERNANCE: Christian Homes, Inc. shall be governed in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation and by-laws as adopted by the District. These Articles of Incorporation may be amended by the vote of at least three-fourths (3/4) of the delegates present and voting at any annual meeting or special meeting of the Midwest District provided a notice of such amendment and meeting shall be given to each member church at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

6.300 ELECTION: The Christian Homes Board places names in nomination for election at the Annual Meeting. These names are approved by the District Board.

#### SECTION 7: MIDWEST DISTRICT FOUNDATION, INC.

7.100 The Midwest District Foundation, Inc. is a Nebraska non-profit corporation organized for the purpose of providing financing for the construction, remodeling or purchase of church buildings and other projects for the member churches and institutions of the District, for emergency support for District pastors and full time personnel and any other projects related to the overall ministries of the Midwest District.

7.200 GOVERNANCE: The Midwest District Foundation, Inc. shall be governed in accordance with their Articles of Incorporation and by-laws as adopted by the District. These Articles of Incorporation may be amended by the vote of at least three-fourths (3/4) of the delegates present and voting at any Annual Meeting or special meeting of the Midwest District provided a notice of such amendment and meeting shall be given to each member church at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

7.300 ELECTION: The Foundation Board provides names to the Midwest District Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee of the Midwest District submits names for election which takes place at the Annual Meeting of the District.

#### SECTION 8: FISCAL YEAR

8.100 The fiscal year shall be from January 1 to December 31.

#### SECTION 9: DISCIPLINE AND TERMINATION

9.100 CHURCHES: The District Superintendent and the District Board shall request a meeting with any member church of this District which 1). at any time does not subscribe to its own Articles of Incorporation, by-laws, Principles, or Practices, or 2). conducts the ministry of the church in a way that appears to violate the parameters of the EFCA Statement of Faith. If a resolution to the issues is not reached, a recommendation for removal of the church's membership may be made to the next Annual Meeting or special meeting. Removal shall require a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote and shall be effective immediately.

9.200 ELECTED AND APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS: If any member of any District Board, Committee, or Team shall conduct him/herself in a manner which in the studied opinion of his/her fellow board members is not in harmony with the principles of Scripture, the purpose and organization of the District, or the stated policies of the respective board, he/she shall be interviewed and counseled by selected members of the District Board. If in their opinion further disciplinary action needs to be taken, the District Board may remove the person from ministry responsibilities and shall bring a recommendation regarding the matter before a duly called District Meeting.

9.300 DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT: The District Board shall oversee the discipline of the Superintendent using the Board of Ministerial Standing as needed.

9.301 Upon recommendation of the Board of Ministerial Standing, the District Board may suspend ministry responsibilities with pay until final disposition of the discipline.

9.302 The discipline process will be carried out in accordance with the biblical pattern prescribed in Matthew 18:15-20. This process will be specifically executed as described in the Discipline Policy established by



the Midwest District Board.

- 9.303 A two-thirds (2/3) vote by secret ballot of members present at a duly called District Meeting is required to dismiss the Superintendent.
- 9.304 The District Board Chairman shall serve as Acting District Superintendent until such time as an election may be held to fill a vacancy should one occur in that position.

#### SECTION 10: AMENDMENTS

- 10.000 The by-laws may be amended by a vote of at least three-fourths (3/4) of the members present and voting at any Annual Meeting provided a written notice of such proposed amendment(s) shall have been given to each member church at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.