

THE MINISTERIAL FELLOWSHIP of
THE ASSOCIATION OF THE CHURCHES OF GOD IN OREGON AND SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I – Name

The name of this fellowship shall be “THE MINISTERIAL FELLOWSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE CHURCHES OF GOD IN OREGON AND S.W. WASHINGTON.”

ARTICLE II – Purpose

The purpose of this fellowship shall be to provide for credentialing and to encourage a closer spiritual and working fellowship for ministers and churches throughout the Association. It shall conduct such business as may apply in particular to the ministers. It shall also establish and oversee the work of the Credentials and Advisory Board.

ARTICLE III – Membership

The membership of this fellowship shall be open to all ordained and licensed ministers of the Association whose credentials are in good standing. Members of this fellowship are expected to be present at least once per calendar year at an official meeting of the fellowship.

ARTICLE IV – Officers

Section 1 – Executive Committee

- a. The officers of the fellowship shall be chairman, vice chairman and secretary.
- b. One member of the Credentials and Advisory Board
- c. All officers shall be duly ordained ministers, in good standing with the Association.

Section 2 – Manner of Election

- a. The chairman, vice-chairman and secretary shall be ratified at the annual business meeting of the fellowship during the Oregon State Campmeeting.
- b. They shall serve for no more than two consecutive terms of three years each. Terms shall be arranged so that only one officer is ratified each year.
- c. Credentials and Advisory Board shall appoint one member annually.
- d. In the event of a vacancy in any office of the Ministerial Fellowship, the Executive Committee shall appoint a replacement until the next annual business meeting.

Section 3 – Nominating Committee

All nominations for the Ministerial Fellowship and the Credentials and Advisory Board shall be made by a Nominating Committee of three persons, appointed by the Executive Committee. They shall meet by the May Annual Association Meeting and consult with the Association State Executive Coordinator for most suitable nominees; as to availability and work load in other Association positions.

Section 4 – Duties of Officers

- a. Chairman: The duty of the chairman shall be to preside at all meetings of this fellowship. He shall also represent the Ministerial Fellowship as a member of the Association General Council and Association Executive Committee.
- b. Vice-Chairman: The vice-chairman shall, in the case of the absence of the chairman, or his inability to serve, perform the duties of the chairman.
- c. Secretary: It is the duty of the secretary to keep the records of the proceedings of the fellowship.
- d. The Ministerial Fellowship Executive Committee shall serve as the “Board of Appeals” for all matters referred to them by the Credentials and Advisory Board. The Executive Committee’s decision shall be final, except in cases it determines should be referred to the full Ministerial Fellowship.

ARTICLE V – Meetings

Section 1 – Official Meetings

This body shall meet during: The Ministers & Spouse Retreat, The Annual State Association Meeting and the Oregon State Campmeeting. The time of such meetings shall be determined by the chairman in harmony with the programs.

Section 2 – Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the chairman as deemed necessary. Such meetings shall be considered official providing that notice of the meeting is given one week in advance.

ARTICLE VI – Committees

Section 1 – Credentials and Advisory Board

- a. It shall be seven (7) in number, members being elected for a term of three (3) years with no more than three (3) expiring in any one year. Nominations for positions on this board will come from the Nominating Committee (see Article IV, Section 3).
- b. It shall elect its own officers annually from among its members.
- c. The chairman of the Credentials and Advisory Board shall serve as a member of the Association General Council.
- d. This board shall operate by the Credentials Manual of the Church of God, as approved by the Ministerial Fellowship.
- e. It shall be the duty of this board to inquire into the qualifications and worthiness of all persons recommended for credentialing.
- f. It shall compile a complete list of all approved ministers (ordained, licensed and recognized), as well as the congregations within the state to be certified to the Registrar of the Church of God Yearbook. This report shall be submitted to the Ministerial Fellowship for its approval at the annual business session.
- g. It shall arrange for the ordination of all persons approved by the Ministerial Fellowship for this purpose and shall issue licenses to those approved for licensing.
- h. It shall assist and advise congregations in securing pastors and assist ministers in securing locations.

- i. It shall seek to bring resolution to problems that may arise affecting ministers or congregations, and shall be authorized to invoke probation, suspension or revocation of credentials. Such action shall be reported to the Ministerial Fellowship at their next meeting. The disciplined minister or congregation shall be advised of the right of appeal. Requests for appeals shall be submitted in writing to the Chairman of the Credentials and Advisory Board and the Chairman of the Ministerial Fellowship, who shall then call a meeting of the Ministerial Fellowship Executive Committee.
- j. It shall encourage and assist worthy ministers and seek to restrain any who may be deemed unworthy.
- k. It is recommended that ministers contemplating resignation from a pastorate contact this board before taking any such action.
- l. For their own well-being, it is recommended that congregations confer with this board when in need of a pastor before a call is issued to the prospective candidate.
- m. In all its activities, this board shall prepare a budget which shall be presented to the Association General Council for approval.

Section 2 – Standing / Ad Hoc Committees

This fellowship shall have the power to appoint or elect such standing and special committees as it deems necessary to carry out its purpose. The purpose of the committee, the length of term and the manner in which it is to be chosen may be determined when the committee is formed.

ARTICLE VII – Quorum

A quorum for business sessions of the Ministerial Fellowship shall consist of a number equivalent to 1/2 (one-half) of the congregations on the Association approved list.

ARTICLE VII – Amendments

These By-laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Ministerial Fellowship by a two-thirds vote of the members present. All such proposed amendments must be submitted to the Chairman of the Ministerial Fellowship, in writing, at least one week in advance of the vote.