

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN MINISTERS ASSOCIATION OF THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

Constitution

ARTICLE I

Name

Section 1.1 The name of this organization shall be the African American Ministers Association (the “AAMA”). It is a specialized ministry association of the Ministerium of the Evangelical Covenant Church (the “Covenant”), in accordance with Article 11, Section 2.1 of the Ministerium Bylaws.

ARTICLE II

Purpose

Section 2.1 The purpose of the AAMA is to support African American credentialed clergy and African American seminary students who desire is to transition to ministries requiring clergy credentials.

Section 2.2 The AAMA is a partner in pursuing the goals of the Covenant and its vision to impact the world for Christ.

ARTICLE III

Mission

Section 3.1 The mission of the AAMA is to partner with the Covenant and its regional conferences on issues that affect African American ministers and the ministries they lead.

ARTICLE IV

Membership

Section 4.1 Membership in the AAMA is open to African American credentialed clergy who are in *good standing* according to Section 4.2 and 4.3 and the Covenant’s ministerium and the payment of annual membership dues,.

Section 4.2 Annual membership dues are due at the time of the AAMA’s annual business meeting held during the Covenant’s Midwinter Conference.

Section 4.3 In order to be a *member in good standing*, membership dues to the AAMA must be paid by the time of the Covenant's Annual Meeting, in the year preceding the AAMA's annual business meeting.

Section 4.4 Full membership of the AAMA shall be limited to African Americans who hold or are seeking credentials in the Covenant.

Section 4.5 All *members in good standing* shall have a right to vote.

ARTICLE V

Officers and Executive Committee

Section 5.1 Officers of the association shall be a president, vice-president, second vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

Section 5.2 Only members in good standing are eligible to be officers of the AAMA.

Section 5.3 The executive committee of the AAMA shall consist of the officers.

ARTICLE VI

Meetings of Members

Section 6.1 The annual business meeting of the AAMA shall be held during the Midwinter Conference of the Covenant. Its purpose shall be to provide opportunity for the transaction of business, including the election of officers.

Section 6.2 AAMA business meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 6.3 All members in good standing who are present in a duly called business session of the AAMA shall constitute a quorum.

Section 6.4 Special meetings of the AAMA may be called by the executive committee or by not less than 50% of the AAMA membership.

ARTICLE VII

Dissolution

Section 7.1 Upon dissolution of the AAMA, no member shall be entitled to any distribution or division of the AAMA's remaining money and property, or the proceeds thereof,

Section 7.2 The executive committee shall, after paying or making provisions for payment of all debts and obligations of the AAMA, distribute all remaining money and property to the Ministers' Crisis Fund of the Covenant.

ARTICLE VIII

Office

Section 8.1 The principal office of the AAMA shall be at such place within the United States of America as its executive committee shall determine. The location of this office shall be reported to the president of the Covenant Ministerium, the executive minister of the Department of Ordered Ministry, and the president of the Covenant.

ARTICLE IX

Amendments

Section 9.1 This constitution may be amended by a two-third vote of those present and voting at an AAMA annual meeting.

Section 9.2 Amendments to the constitution must be proposed at the previous AAMA annual meeting.

BY-LAWS OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN MINISTERS ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

Nominating Committee

Section 1.1 The Executive Committee shall designate the vice president or the second vice president as the chair of the nominating committee alternating as chair for the year in which their office is not being elected.

Section 1.2 Once the chair of the nominating committee has been designated by the executive committee, a ballot shall be prepared for the election of two additional members in *good standing* to serve on the nominating committee.

Section 1.3 All recommendations for nominations should be submitted to the nominating committee of the AAMA by the Covenant Annual Meeting in the year prior to the Midwinter election.

Section 1.4 All nominees should be full members in good standing and should have been a member of the AAMA and the Covenant for at least two years. In addition, they should be active participants in both their Conference and the denomination's Ministeriums.

Section 1.5 The nominating committee shall present a printed ballot at the next annual business meeting of the AAMA, with at least one candidate for each position to be filled.

Section 1.6 Additional nomination for all positions may be made from the floor for members who meet the criteria outlined in Section 1.4 above. Nominees who are nominated from the floor must be present at the business meeting where they are being nominated to accept their nomination from the floor.

Section 1.7 Spaces for the names of additional candidates for each office being elected shall be provided for on the printed ballot.

ARTICLE II

Elections

Section 2.1 When there are more than two nominees for any position, and no candidate receives a majority vote of those present and voting on the first ballot, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes for that position shall stand as candidates on a subsequent ballot.

Section 2.2 Only members in *good standing* may vote.

Section 2.3 The number of votes from any one institution will be determined by the number of paid dues corresponding with membership status.

Section 2.4 Voting shall be done by secret ballot unless a motion is approved for election of an unopposed office by acclamation.

Section 2.5 Prior to the election year, all positions coming up for election should be announced through the Drumbeat, the official e-newsletter of the AAMA and other channels normally used to disseminate information to AAMA members.

ARTICLE III

Officer Terms of Office

Section 3.1 Each officer shall be elected for a term of three years, and shall not succeed himself / herself in the same office after serving up to two full terms.

Section 3.2 An officer completing a term in one office may be elected to a different office or position for the following term, so long as she/he does not serve as an officer in the same office for more than two consecutive terms.

Section 3.3 The election of officers shall be staggered to provide for greater continuity in the leadership of the AAMA. The election for the offices of president and treasurer shall be held in the same year. The election for the office of second vice president shall be in the following or second year. The election for the offices of vice president and secretary shall be held in the third year. This will allow for two current office holders of the AAMA to be members of the executive committee at all times.

Section 3.4 Any vacancies in any office caused by any reason other than by vote of the membership, shall be filled by the vote of the remaining executive committee members and confirmed by the majority vote of the AAMA membership at the following business meeting of the AAMA.

Section 3.5 Each person appointed by the executive committee to fill a vacancy shall serve until the next annual business meeting of the AAMA.

Section 3.6 Notwithstanding the provision in Section 1.3, a person serving out the unexpired portion of a term to which another was originally elected shall be eligible for election to a full term.

ARTICLE IV

Officers and Executive Committee

Section 4.1 The **president** shall be the principal executive officer of the AAMA and shall preside at all meetings of the membership. The president shall annually convene a meeting of the executive committee to prepare an agenda for the AAMA's annual business meeting and an annual budget for adoption by the membership. The president shall represent the AAMA at Covenant gatherings and as ex-officio on Covenant commissions and the Executive Committee of the Covenant Ministerium. The president shall plan the continuing education and the information/connecting session of the AAMA Membership.

Section 4.2 The **vice-president** shall perform the duties of the president in the absence of the president and/or assume such assigned duties by the president of the AAMA. The vice-president shall be responsible for chairing the election process of the annual meeting in the election year of the president. The vice president shall be responsible for planning, in collaboration with the AAMA executive committee, the annual fellowship dinner of the AAMA.

Section 4.3 The second vice president shall assist the vice president in the execution of his/her duties. The second vice president shall plan, in collaboration with the AAMA executive committee, the AAMA annual reception held during the Covenant Annual Meeting each year.

Section 4.4 The **secretary** shall record all proceedings and votes of all meetings of the AAMA and executive committee. The secretary shall notify the membership of upcoming meetings of the AAMA and executive committee. This notification may be made through letters, e-mail, phone calls and/or the AAMA's e-newsletter, The Drumbeat. The secretary shall dispense minutes to the membership at all meetings and/or at the request of any of its members.

Section 4.5 The **treasurer** shall oversee, have charge of and be responsible for receipt and disbursement of all funds of the AAMA. The treasurer shall present a regular financial report to the AAMA members at the annual business meeting and shall prepare the annual budget for approval at the annual business meeting. The treasurer shall keep the official list of AAMA members who are in good standing.

ARTICLE V

Committees

Section 5.1 The executive committee shall constitute the program committee for planning any major events sponsored by the AAMA.

Section 5.2 The executive committee shall have the purview to appoint additional members for any program committee from the membership.

Section 5.3 Other committees may be appointed or elected as required or deemed necessary by the executive committee and/or decision of the membership of the AAMA.

ARTICLE VI

Dues

Section 6.1 The amount of the annual membership dues shall be set by the AAMA Membership at its annual meeting.

Section 6.2 To remain in good standing, members shall pay dues annually, unless exempt under these bylaws or by action of the executive committee.

Section 6.3 Annual dues must be paid in accordance with the provisions set forth in Article IV, section 4.3 of the AAMA constitution to remain in good standing.

Section 6.3 Individual members who have reached the age of 65 and are retired from full-time ministry are exempt from the payment of annual dues.

Section 6.4 The executive committee has the discretion to waive the requirement of paying annual dues for any member upon a showing of good cause.

Section 6.5 Individual memberships are defined as the payment of the annual dues by a specific individual and that individual must be present to vote at the annual business meeting of the AAMA.

Section 6.6 Church memberships are defined as the payment of annual dues for church membership which gives any two people from the church or ministry the right to vote at the AAMA business meeting. At no time will there be more than two votes on a church membership from any church or ministry.

ARTICLE VII

Amendments

Section 7.1 Amendments to these bylaws may be made at an annual meeting by a majority vote of those members present, in good standing and voting, provided that the amendment has been publicized and in print for perusal by the membership for at least thirty days prior to the annual business meeting of the AAMA.

Revised March 2012