

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1 NAME AND ADDRESS

A. The Name shall be called "*The Ohio East Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors.*"

B. The Address The main office shall be located at the address of the current President.

ARTICLE 2 DEFINITION OF TERMS

A. The term "Associate Member" shall include all pastors received as such by the Ohio East Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

B. The term "Local Pastor" shall include all pastors received as such by the Ohio East Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

C. The term "Fellowship" shall mean the OHIO EAST FELLOWSHIP OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS & LOCAL PASTORS.

D. The "Board" shall refer to the group of elected directors who shall have responsibility for the on-going operations of the *fellowship.*"

ARTICLE PURPOSES

The purpose of *The Ohio East Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors* is:

1. to provide for regular gatherings of Associate Members and Local Pastors for continuing formation in the relationship to Jesus Christ and the United Methodist Church.
2. to encourage theological exploration in vocational identity and leadership.
3. to provide opportunities for study, fellowship, and times of spiritual renewal.
4. to instill a sense of belonging to the larger fellowship of sister and brother pastors of the United Methodist Church.
5. to enable the creation of relationships among members that allow support and trust.
6. to hold accountable our constituents in their relationship to Jesus Christ, the United Methodist Church, and the "*Fellowship.*"
7. To be an advocate for our constituents and important issues effecting their ministry.

ARTICLE 3 MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership in the *Fellowship* shall be open to all Associate Members and

Local Pastors as appointed by the Bishop of the Ohio East Conference; to include full time, part time, student Local Pastors and Associate Members, And any of the above in retired relationship.

B. Membership may include persons so honored by the *Fellowship* as honorary members who are outside the above mentioned positions.

C. All members shall have voting privileges.

ARTICLE 4 OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTIONS

A. The Board of Directors shall consist of no more than nine members, chosen from the twelve (12) districts of the Ohio East Conference. Commencing in the year 2001, no district shall have more than two (2) representatives at any given time.

B. The Board may, at their discretion, choose an Elder of the United Methodist Church or a person from the Conference Staff to be an advisory member to the Committee.

C. Officers will be elected from within the membership of the Board. These officers will include President, Vice-President, and Secretary. As the association changes and/or grows, a Treasurer and/or other officers may be elected.

D. Commencing in the year 2001, elected terms of office for members representing the *Fellowship* shall be a three year term, with classes elected each year. Terms of office for the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Board of Directors shall be no more than three (3) consecutive years. A two (2) year period must exist between the end of the term and election again to Board of Directors. the

E. Terms of office for Board of Directors and Officers shall follow the Annual Conference calendar—July 1st. to June 30th.

F. Each year the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee prior to the Local Pastor Retreat, composed of three (3) voting members. They will be charged with the responsibility of presenting three (3) new Board of Director candidates for the coming year. Those candidates, along with any persons nominated from the floor, will be voted on at the Annual Conference Luncheon of the *Fellowship*.

G. The Board will appoint annually three (3) representatives to the subcommittee of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry; at least one (1) of the representatives shall be a member of the Board of Directors of the *Fellowship*.

ARTICLE 5 VACANCIES

A Board of Director's position shall be declared vacant for the following reasons:

1. The resignation or death of that Board member.
2. The Board member ceases to be eligible for membership in the *Fellowship*.
3. The Board declares it vacant for reasons they deem proper, and have

- received a two-thirds ^(2/3) vote of the members present and voting.
4. Vacancies in the Board may be filled by appointment by the President, with prior approval of the Board members.
 5. Vacancies in Standing and Ad Hoc committees may be filled by appointment by the President.
 6. All "vacancy" appointments are temporary. Those appointed will serve only until the next annual election.

ARTICLE 6 MEETINGS

- A. *The Ohio East Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors* shall meet two (2) times during each year; at Annual Conference in the early summer and at the winter Local Pastor's Retreat.
- B. The Board of Directors and/or Officers shall meet as necessary to provide for fulfillment of the purposes of the Fellowship. Meetings shall be of two kinds:
 1. Regular or annual meetings held during the calendar year.
 2. Special meetings called by the President or by a majority of the Board members.

ARTICLE 7 QUORUMS

For the transaction of business there must be a simple majority of any authorized committee of the *Fellowship* duly assembled and qualified to act, unless otherwise stated in these bylaws.

ARTICLE 8 AMENDMENTS

The articles of this Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present, after notice to all members at least one (1) month prior to the vote.

BYLAWS

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ARTICLE 1 RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The Board of Directors shall advise and consent in the selection of those to serve the *Fellowship*. They shall perform these duties in a manner that will be acceptable in the sight of the God we serve.
- B. The Board shall provide spiritual direction and guidance for all of the membership in accordance with the purposes of the *Fellowship*.
- C. The Board shall, in cooperation with the officers elected, create job descriptions for each of the officer positions.
- D. An annual evaluation of the process and programming shall be conducted each year, as a part of the agenda of the Local Pastor's Retreat, for the purpose of determining the effectiveness in meeting the purposes of the *Fellowship*.

E. As districts change and the *Fellowship* changes it is the Board of Director's responsibility to see that adjustments are made that will bring benefit to all of the *Fellowship* members.

ARTICLE 2 FINANCIAL CONCERNS

It shall be the duty of the Board to determine if, and when, financial considerations are to be dealt with in the *Fellowship*, and how those needs will be met.

ARTICLE 3 BASIC CONVICTIONS - MAJOR PREMISES

1. The "call" of the Associate Members and Local Pastors to the ministry of the Church of Jesus Christ is as honorable as other members of the clergy.
2. The ever-increasing professional requirements of the church should be met, in part, through church sponsored programs of in-service preparation and continuing education.
3. All pastors need additional proficiency in professional skills. The church should provide ways and means for its pastors to continue their training and to develop new skills for new tasks.

ARTICLE 4 A STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE OHIO EAST FELLOWSHIP OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AND LOCAL PASTORS, THE ORDER OF PERMANENT DEACONS, DIACONALS, THE ORDER OF ELDERS, AND THE OHIO EAST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

There are basic responsibilities of all persons in service to God's people and to God's kingdom. We have all felt the need to gather with persons of similar gifts and callings to share in common bond, and to draw from the experiences that others have had. The encouragement and camaraderie that is gained by gathering together for Bible study or retreats is just as important to the local pastorate as it is to the ordained ministry.

The formation of a *Fellowship of associate Members and Local Pastors* does not come out of a desire to be puffed-up, but a need to be built-up, together. As Christians, we all are a part of the body. We will function as a Fellowship, but with the same goal as all Christians and Christian organizations: to fulfill the "great commission" of presenting the Gospel to all people. Only together, as Laity and as Associate Members, Local Pastors, Deacons, and Elders, can we, and will we, be effective in our efforts to bring purpose and unity to the mission and ministry of the United Methodist Church to the world

The Constitution and Bylaws are effective and the rule for conduct of the business of *The Ohio East Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors* and stand as written and/or amended at the:

Fellowship Organizational Session

Local Pastor Retreat

March 12, 1999 Bethesda, OH

Fellowship Session

Ratified at
Annual Conference

June 16, 1999 Lakeside, OH