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**CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS
of the**

**EAST OHIO
FELLOWSHIP of ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
and LOCAL PASTORS**

**of the
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**As Revised 6/10/2019
EAST OHIO FELLOWSHIP OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AND LOCAL PASTORS
CONSTITUTION**

ARTICLE 1 NAME AND ADDRESS

- A The name shall be called "*The East Ohio 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 East Ohio Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

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

- C The term "Fellowship" shall mean the EAST OHIO 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* together with the "ex officio" members who will have "voice" and "vote."

ARTICLE 3 PURPOSES

- A The purpose of the *East Ohio 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 affecting their Ministry.

ARTICLE 4 MEMBERSHIP

- A Membership in the *Fellowship* shall be open to all Associate Members and Local Pastors as appointed by the Bishop of the East Ohio 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 5 OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTIONS

- A The Board of Directors shall consist of no more than **ten** (10) members, (not including the president) chosen, one from each district, of the East Ohio Conference, plus up to ~~two~~ three "At Large Members" and two "ex officio" members as stipulated in Article 5. J. No district shall have more than two (2) district representatives, not including "At Large Members", at the time of the election.
- B The Board may, at its 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 Vice-President, and Secretary. As the association changes and/or grows, a Treasurer and/or other officers may be elected.
- D Elected terms of officers for Directors representing the *Fellowship* shall be a three (3) year term, with classes elected each year. If any Director is nominated to serve beyond a three (3) year term, that Director may serve an additional term of up to three (3) years. A 2/3 majority of voting members is necessary for approval of any extension. This vote is to occur at the annual conference meeting in June. A Director can serve a maximum of six (6) years except in "VACANCY APPOINTMENTS" as noted in article 6-A, 6. Terms of office of Vice President and Secretary shall be determined annually by the Board of Directors, but shall not exceed three (3) consecutive years.
- E In the year prior to the new quadrennium, names for nominations for President of FAMLP will be submitted by the FAMLP Board of Directors to the conference Board of Ministry for their approval. The Local Pastor Registrar will certify the election.
- F The position of President of the East Ohio Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors shall be elected by a majority vote of all Associate Pastors and Local Pastors in the East Ohio Conference and the person elected will serve a four-year term in accordance with the quadrennium.
- G By General Conference 2008 action, the president of FAMLP will also be appointed by the Bishop to serve as a member of the Conference Board of Ministry and its executive committee.

- H Terms of office for Board of Directors and Officers shall follow the Annual Conference Calendar- July 1st to June 30th.
- I 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 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, meeting of the *Fellowship*.
- J The Fellowship Board will annually recognize the Local Pastors and/or Associate Members appointed by the Bishop of the Conference Board of Ministry as "ex officio" members of the Fellowship Board with "voice" and "vote". It is expected that the "ex-officio" members would be in regular attendance at the meetings of both the Conference Board of Ministry and the Fellowship Board to effectively liaison between the two Boards.

ARTICLE 6 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 7 MEETINGS

- A *The East Ohio Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors* shall meet two (2) times during each year: at Annual Conference and the Local Pastor's Reunion.
- B The Board of Director's and/or Officers shall meet as necessary to provide for fulfillment of the purpose 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 majority of the Board Members.

ARTICLE 8 **QUORUMS**

- A A quorum for all meetings of the Board and any sub-committees duly assembled and authorized to act shall be "those members present and voting."

ARTICLE 9 **AMENDMENTS**

- A The articles of this Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of members Present, after notice to all members at least one (1) month prior to the vote.

East Ohio Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors
BYLAWS

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 purpose 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 for the purpose of determining the effectiveness in meeting the purpose 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**

- A 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**

- A 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.
- B The ever-increasing professional requirements of the church should be met, in part, through church sponsored programs of in-service preparation and continuing education.

- C 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 EAST OHIO FELLOWSHIP OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AND LOCAL PASTORS, THE ORDER OF PERMANENT DEACONS, DIACONALS, THE ORDER OF ELDERS, AND THE EAST OHIO 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 experience that others have had. The encouragement and camaraderie that is gained by gathering together for Bible study or retreats are just as important to the local pastorate as it is to the ordained ministry.

As Christians we are all part of the body of Christ. 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 East Ohio Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors* and stand as written and/or amended at the:

<u>Fellowship Organizational session</u>		
Executive meeting Area Center	April 7, 2005	North Canton, Ohio
<u>Fellowship session</u>		
Ratified at Annual Conference	June 22, 2005	Lakeside, Ohio
<u>Fellowship session</u>		
FAMLP Constitution Amended and Approved	June 16, 2010	Lakeside Ohio
<u>Fellowship session</u>		
FAMLP Constitution Amended and Approved	June 18, 2012	Lakeside Ohio
<u>Fellowship session</u>		
FAMLP Constitution Amended and Approved	June 13, 2016	Lakeside Ohio
<u>Fellowship session</u>		
FAMLP Constitution Amended and Approved	June 11, 2018	Lakeside Ohio
<u>Fellowship session</u>		
FAMLP Constitution Amended and Approved	June 10, 2019	Lakeside Ohio