

# **INTERNATIONAL MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION, INC.**



## **CONSTITUTION BY LAWS**

Adopted September 28, 2006

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*"Providing today's ministers the freedom they want and the fellowship they need"*

# **INTERNATIONAL MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION, INC.**

## **(By Laws Adopted September 28, 2006)**

### **ARTICLE 1: MEMBERSHIP**

#### **SECTION 1: – RESPONSIBILITY**

1. Inasmuch as this corporation is without capital stock, and no shares are to be issued, the interest in the Association shall be in the form of membership only. Membership shall consist of all ministers holding a ministerial license issued by this association in accordance to Article 1, Section 3 of these bi-laws.
2. Members of this association shall promote fellowship among its membership, upholding the doctrinal position of this association without interference of the pulpit and churches of others.
3. Members holding a ministerial license, except exhorters, shall be privileged to vote in business sessions.

#### **SECTION 2: – APPLICATION**

1. Anyone desiring to become a member of the International Ministerial Association, Inc., shall complete an application for ministerial license as prescribed by the National Board.
2. All applications from organized districts shall be sent to the District Chairman where applicant resides.
3. Applications from unorganized districts or when an application is unable to be processed by the district chairman, applications shall be forwarded to the chairman of the National Credential Committee for consideration.

#### **SECTION 3: – MINISTERIAL LICENSE**

1. Ministerial Licenses shall consist of: Exhorter, Licensed Minister and Ordained Minister.
  - a. EXHORTER
    1. Definition; A beginner in ministry.
    2. Exhorters must be mentored by a licensed minister or ordained minister.
    3. Exhorter shall not vote in business sessions or hold office on the District or National board.
    4. Exhorters may apply for Licensed Minister or Ordained Minister after one year, by submitting a new application to the District Board for the desired license.
  - b. LICENSED MINISTER
    1. Definition; Any Minister who is not ordained who has been qualified to perform sacerdotal duties in accordance with State, Provincial, National or International Laws.
    2. Licensed Ministers may vote in business sessions and hold office at any level other than the National Board.
    3. Licensed Ministers may apply to the District Board for Ordination.
    4. Ordination ceremony must be presided over by one or more officers of the District Board.

c. **ORDAINED MINISTER**

1. Definition; One who is ordained to perform sacerdotal duties in accordance with State, Provincial, National or International Laws.
  2. Ordained Ministers may vote in business sessions and hold office at any level.
2. Sacerdotal duties shall include, but not be restricted to preaching, teaching, baptisms, weddings, funerals and all other duties as set forth by the doctrinal statements or bi-laws of the local church in which the minister serves.

**SECTION 4: – MEMBERSHIP DUES**

1. The annual membership dues shall be set by a majority vote of the members present and voting at the National Conference.
2. Membership dues shall come due on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
3. Failure to pay membership dues within ninety days of the due date shall constitute a resignation of membership and the ministerial license and may require a new application for reinstatement.

**SECTION 5: – DISCIPLINE OF MINISTERS**

1. Whenever a member shall be accused in writing by two or more members of the Association of committing some act or acts unbecoming to a minister, the same shall be reported to the District Board who shall make provision for a hearing of the charges. If the case between the accused and the accuser is not settled amicably, a panel of five, agreed upon by the accused and the accusers, shall hear the case.
2. If the decision of the panel is not satisfactory to the accused, an appeal may be made to the National Board and their decision shall be final.
3. Should the member be declared guilty of conduct unbecoming to a minister, the minister shall be asked to submit to discipline as determined by the panel. Failure to submit to the discipline will constitute a resignation of the ministerial license.
4. Any officer who shall be declared guilty of conduct unbecoming to a minister shall also be subject to removal from office by the National Board, whose decision shall be ratified by the National Conference.
5. After due process according to the Constitution of the International Ministerial Association, Inc., any member proven to be engaging in or condoning a homosexual or other immoral act shall relinquish membership in this association. (Amended 8/22/05)

## **ARTICLE 2: ANNUAL MEETINGS**

### **SECTION 1: – NATIONAL CONFERENCES**

1. The annual meeting of the Association shall be known as the National Conference and shall be held at such time and place as may be determined by the National Board.
2. An annual business meeting shall be held during the National Conference.
3. Meeting minutes shall be kept of all National Board Meetings and Annual Business Meetings and forwarded to the National Headquarters.

### **SECTION 2: – DISTRICT CONFERENCES**

1. The annual district meeting shall be called the District Conference and shall be held at such time and place as may be determined by the District Board.
2. A district business meeting shall be held during the District Conference.
3. Meeting minutes shall be kept of all District Board Meetings and District Business Meetings. Minutes of the District Business Meeting shall be forwarded to the National Headquarters.

## **ARTICLE 3: NATIONAL GOVERNMENT**

### **SECTION 1: – NATIONAL BOARD**

1. The officers of the Association shall consist of nine members to be known as the National Board.
2. The officers of the Association shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present and voting at the annual business meeting of the National Conference.

### **SECTION 2: – QUALIFICATIONS**

1. Officers must be ordained ministers and have served on a district board.
2. Officers must be nominated in writing in a manner prescribed by the National Board.

### **SECTION 3: – TERM OF OFFICE**

1. Officers are elected to a three (3) year term, not to exceed three (3) consecutive terms. After a one (1) year hiatus, they would be eligible for election to another three (3) year term, not to exceed three (3) consecutive terms.
2. In the event that an officer is unable to fulfill a term, giving rise to a vacancy, the National Board shall fill the vacancy by a majority vote. The person elected to fill the vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the term to which the officer was elected.

### **SECTION 4: – DUTIES OF THE NATIONAL BOARD**

1. A quorum shall consist of a majority of five or more members of the National Board present.
2. To arrange for a National Conference each year.
3. To attend all National Board Meetings and National Conferences.
4. To act as trustees for the corporation and care for all National business.
5. To assist in any sectional or district meetings when called upon by the district or section for assistance.
6. To appoint a Representative as needed for each state, province or nation until such time as said territory is organized into a district.
7. To allow all District Board members present at the National Conference to participate in an advisory capacity at all the meetings of the General Board, except when the National Board deems it necessary to request a meeting without the district officers.
8. To assist local churches when officially called upon by the pastor who shall be a member of the I.M.A.

## **SECTION 5: – DUTIES OF THE NATIONAL BOARD CHAIRMAN**

1. The National Board shall elect one member of the National Board to serve as Chairman of the National Board for a one (1) year term, not to exceed six (6) consecutive terms. After a one (1) year hiatus, he/she would again be eligible for election to the Chairmanship.
2. To preside over all legal matters of the Association.
3. To preside over all meetings of the National Conference and the National Board.
4. To delegate responsibility to the members of the National Board and personnel.
5. To create national committees and appoint members to the national committees.

## **ARTICLE 4: DISTRICT GOVERNMENT**

### **SECTION 1 – DISTRICT BOARD**

1. The officers of the district shall consist of five or more members to be known as the District Board.
2. The officers of the district shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present and voting at the annual business meeting of the district conference.

### **SECTION 2 - TERMS OF OFFICE**

1. Officers are elected to a three (3) year term, not to exceed three (3) consecutive terms. After a one (1) year hiatus, they would be eligible for election to another three (3) year term, not to exceed three (3) consecutive terms.
2. In the event that an officer is unable to fulfill a term, giving rise to a vacancy, the District Board shall fill the vacancy by a majority vote. The person elected to fill the vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the term to which the officer was elected.

### **SECTION 3 – DUTIES OF DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS**

1. To familiarize himself with the I.M.A. By-laws and District Guidelines.
2. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members of the District Board.
3. To arrange for a District Conference each year.
4. To attend district meetings and district conferences.
5. To act as trustees of the district and care for all district business.
6. To promote fellowship between all ministers in your District.
7. To assist local churches within the district when officially called upon by the pastor who shall be a member of the I.M.A.

### **SECTION 4 – DUTIES OF THE DISTRICT CHAIRMAN**

1. The District Board shall elect one member of the District Board to serve as Chairman of the District Board for a one (1) year term, not to exceed six (6) consecutive terms. After a one (1) year hiatus, he/she would again be eligible for election to the chairmanship.
2. To preside over all legal matters of the district.
3. To preside over all meetings of the District Conference and District Board.
4. To delegate responsibility to the members of the District Board and personnel.
5. To create district committees and appoint members to the district committees.

## **ARTICLE 5: CHURCHES**

### **SECTION 1: – SOVEREIGNTY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH**

Each church shall be considered sovereign and the pastor is the bishop of his own church or churches.

### **SECTION 2: – APPLICATION FOR AFFILIATED CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

1. Any church desiring Affiliated Church Membership in order to be recognized by the federal government, as a subordinate 501(c) 3, non-profit church shall complete an application for Affiliated Church Membership, as prescribed by the National Board.
2. The recognized pastor of any church desiring Affiliated Church Membership must be a Licensed Minister or Ordained Minister with the International Ministerial Association.
3. Applications for Affiliated Church Membership within organized districts shall be sent to the District Chairman where applicant resides.
4. Applications from unorganized districts or when an application is unable to be processed by the District Chairman, applications shall be forwarded to the National Headquarters for consideration.

### **SECTION 3: – AFFILIATED CHURCH MEMBERSHIP DUES**

1. The annual Affiliated Church Membership dues shall be set by a majority vote of the members present and voting at the National Conference.
2. Affiliated Church Membership dues shall come due on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
3. Failure to pay the Affiliated Church Membership dues within ninety days of the due date shall constitute a resignation of Affiliated Church Membership and may be required to complete a new application for reinstatement.
4. In order to renew an Affiliated Church Membership status, the recognized pastor must continue as a Licensed or Ordained Minister of the International Ministerial Association without resignation.

## **ARTICLE 6: OUR SCRUPLES WITH REGARD TO WAR**

1. We recognize human laws as being of divine origin (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-15). Therefore, we should be loyal citizens in whatever nation we abide. However, we take a definite position relative to the bearing of arms or the taking of life. (Daniel 6: 6-10; Acts 4:18 and 19).
2. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Peter said Christ left us an example, and we are to follow His steps. Jesus said, "If a man loves me, he will keep my words"; and John said, "His commandments are not grievous." Jesus said, "Resist not evil." (Matthew 5:38 and 39). See also Matt. 5:43,44 and Matt 26: 52. In Heb. 12:14, we are admonished to "Follow peace with all men." Love is a more powerful weapon than the sword. And prayer is an effective means of maintaining peace (1 Tim. 2:1-3). Solomon, under whose reign Israel had unusual rest from war, left us this inspired counsel: "When a man's ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him." (Proverbs 16:7). Our efforts as Christians should be primarily efforts to persuade men to please the Lord and to live at peace one with another. A Christian's warfare should be spiritual, rather than carnal. (2 Corinthians 10:3,4). Other pertinent scriptures are: Eccl. 9:18; Matt. 5: 9; Romans 12:17, 19-21.

## **ARTICLE 7: OFFICIAL HEADQUARTERS**

The National Board shall determine the location of the official headquarters of the International Ministerial Association and it's staff.

## **ARTICLE 8: AMENDMENT TO BY-LAW.**

1. No By-Law of this Constitution may be changed except by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting in the National Conference.