

**CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS of the
NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP of
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AND LOCAL PASTORS, INC.
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization shall be the National Fellowship of Associate Members & Local Pastors, herein referred to as the NFAMLP or as the National Fellowship. The Main Office of the National Fellowship shall be located at the office of the current president. The National Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors is an affiliate of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church with a Liaison Officer designated by that Board to represent our Fellowship within the General Church.

ARTICLE II DEFINITION OF TERMS

- A. The term “Associate Member” shall include all ministers received as such by an Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church in both active and retired status.
- B. The term ”Local Pastor” shall include all ministers received as such by an Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church in both active and retired status.
- C. The term “Fellowship” shall mean the National Fellowship of Associate Members & Local Pastors, Inc. and the Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members per ¶323 of the 2016 BOD
- D. The term “church” shall mean The United Methodist Church.
- E. The terms “Sustaining Member” and “Honorary Member” shall mean persons approved by the Executive Committee, and who desire to support the Fellowship, its goals, activities, and beliefs.
- F. The term “Annual Conference” shall be a recognized conference of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church.

G. The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, herein referred to as the BOD shall be the current book of discipline in effect and any changes after General Conference.

ARTICLE III PURPOSE OF THE NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AND LOCAL PASTORS.

The purpose of the Fellowship shall be to improve and promote connection among Associate Members and Local Pastors throughout the General Church and to advocate for recognition, education, and legislation supporting and strengthening the ministry of these clergy.

ARTICLE IV OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

- A. To sponsor and support lectures, consultations, workshops and conferences in the fields of continuing education and the improvement of our members and their effectiveness in the ministry.
- B. To receive, hold, and expend funds, garnered by the National Fellowship through membership dues, event registrations, donations, etc., to conduct and promote programs that are consistent with the purposes and objectives of the National Fellowship, without financial profit to any member or officer of this organization.
- C. To act as a liaison with each Annual Conference Fellowship in order that the objectives of BOD ¶323 may be carried out and coordinated. Also, when requested, the officers of the Fellowship shall, to the best of their ability, aid an Annual Conference in developing a Fellowship of Local Pastors and Associate Members.
- D. The officers of the Fellowship shall communicate with General Boards and Agencies of the Church in order to assist our members in understanding and carrying out the programs of the Boards and Agencies of The United Methodist Church.

ARTICLE V THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE FELLOWSHIP

- A. Persons currently classified as Associate Members and Local

Pastors in an Annual Conference both active and retired status.

B. Persons who desire to become “Sustaining Members” shall support the Fellowship, its goals, activities, and beliefs. Such members shall have the right to participate in full business meetings with voice but without vote or privilege of office. Sustaining membership shall be approved by 3/4 vote of the Executive Committee seated at the time said person requests membership. Dues to be paid in the same amount and manner as members of the NFAMLP.

C. There may be persons, living or posthumously, who should be nominated and named as “Honorary Members” of the NFAMLP. These must be nominated to and confirmed by at least a ¾ vote of the NFAMLP Executive Committee. These members shall be those that have demonstrated exceptional service in ministry and/or support of the Fellowship. Once confirmed these members shall have the right to participate in full business meetings with voice but without vote or privilege of office.

ARTICLE VI THE DUES OF THE FELLOWSHIP

A. Dues for the NFAMLP shall be determined annually by the Fellowship.

B. Honorary members, Past Presidents of the Fellowship, and a representative of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church shall be members of the National Fellowship without payment of dues.

C. The NFAMLP Executive Committee has the right to refuse any financial donations that do not meet the BOD guideline.

ARTICLE VII THE MEETINGS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

A. Meetings shall be of two kinds:

1. Regular or annual meetings held during the calendar year.
2. Special meetings may be called by the President, or by a majority of the Executive Officers.

B. Written notice of both regular and special meetings shall be

communicated to the membership at least ninety (90) days prior to such meetings. Notice of special meetings shall state the purpose of the meeting and only that business may be acted upon.

C. In the event of an act of war or natural disaster that affects the Annual Meeting, we will reimburse the event costs and, if possible, the event registration.

D. The NFAMLP annual meeting shall be funded by the cost of room and board plus any all registration fees agreed upon by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII THE OFFICERS OF THE FELLOWSHIP

The officers shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Representative of Associate Members, Representative of Local Pastors, and Membership Secretary. To be eligible for election, a candidate must have attended at least two annual meetings within a 6 year period.

ARTICLE IX THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

A. The President shall be the chief executive officer with responsibility of supervising all functions and activities of the Fellowship. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and boards.

B. The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in the absence or inability to act of the President. The Vice-President shall perform such other functions as assigned by the President or by the Executive Committee. The Vice-President shall be the Chairperson of the program committee.

C. The Secretary shall be responsible for issuing notices of, and keeping the minutes of all Annual, Special, and Executive Committee meetings. The secretary shall have custody of all records not assigned to others and shall discharge such other duties as may be assigned by the President or the Executive Committee.

D. The Treasurer shall receive and have custody of all funds and shall maintain them in the name of the NFAM&LP in any bank or depository as may be designated by the Executive Committee,

and shall disburse funds as required and shall discharge any other duties as may be assigned by the President or the Executive Committee.

E. The Representatives of the Associate Members and Local Pastors shall administer programs of the Fellowship designed to answer the needs of all Associate Members and Local Pastors ~~with~~ the approval of the President and/or the Executive Committee and shall discharge any other duties as may be assigned by the President.

F. The Representative of the Local Pastor will be the contact person and liaison officer of the National Fellowship for all Annual Conferences local Fellowships and its members. This person shall be responsible for assisting the conference Fellowships in the set up and administration of their local Fellowship as directed by the BOD.

G. The Membership Secretary will have responsibility for the following:

1. Provide membership recruitment material for the Executive Committee
2. Follow-up contact with new members.
3. Supply current membership data upon request for the purpose of communication.
4. Shall maintain the Fellowship's membership data base.
5. Other duties as deemed appropriate and agreeable.

ARTICLE X THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. The Executive Committee shall be officers of the NFAMLP plus two (2) immediate past presidents that are eligible and willing to serve in the Fellowship.

B. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to act on behalf of the Fellowship between NFAMLP annual meetings. All business conducted by the Executive Committee shall be reported to the Fellowship at the next NFAMLP annual meeting.

C. The officers shall be elected or appointed at the annual meeting of the NFAMLP as follows:

1. The President, Treasurer, Representative of Associate Members, and Membership Secretary will be elected on odd years.
2. The Vice-President, Secretary, and Representative of Local Pastors will be elected on even years.
4. A representative of the Division of Ordained Ministry of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry shall be an ex officio member with voice but no vote.
5. The terms of offices begin at the conclusion of the annual meeting.

D. Terms of office for all elected officials shall be two (2) years. No person shall serve more than two elected, consecutive terms in an office. The maximum elected consecutive service on the Executive Committee shall be limited to eight (8) consecutive years. The immediate two (2) Past Presidents eligible shall be excluded from this limitation.

E. The Executive Committee meetings shall consist of those called by the President to meet. Those called shall consist of all members of the Executive Committee with proper notification prior to the meeting. Such meetings may be conducted through appropriate media venues.

F. There shall be an Executive Committee meeting immediately after the conclusion of the annual meeting conducted by the President for the coming year with the newly formed Executive Committee. Outgoing Executive Committee members shall be invited with voice but without vote.

ARTICLE XI MAKE UP OF COMMITTEES

All committees shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee, except for the Legislative committee. (see Legislative & Resolutions Committee). Each committee (standing or Ad Hoc) shall be comprised of at least three (3) persons. One person, either by appointment or election,

shall be designated as the chairperson (except the Committee on Nominations which shall elect its own) and shall be responsible to see that the Committee's work shall be done as directed by the President, Executive Committee, or the Fellowship, and shall report on a regular basis to the President and to the Fellowship at the special and/or Annual Meetings.

ARTICLE XII THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

A. At the first session of the Annual Meetings, the President in consultation with the Executive Committee shall appoint three persons from the registered attendees as the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall meet immediately following their appointment and elect a chairperson. The committee shall present the names for the office(s) designated after obtaining permission of those to be nominated.

B. Officers are to be elected as required, by the body at large at an Annual NFAMLP Meeting after receiving the nominations from the Nominating Committee and from the floor.

ARTICLE XIII THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

At the first business session of the Annual Meetings, the president shall appoint three persons as the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee shall audit the books of the Treasurer of the NFAMLP at the Annual NFAMLP Meeting. The audit is to be completed prior to the final plenary session of the Annual Meeting and be received and acted upon by the body. In the event there is a need for an audit between annual meetings, the President or Executive Committee shall appoint an interim audit committee.

ARTICLE XIV THE LEGISLATIVE AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The NFAMLP president shall appoint with consultation with the Executive committee a person to serve as chairperson of this committee two (2) years prior to any General Conference. The appointed chairperson shall ask three persons who have been NFAMLP members for at least one year to serve on this committee. The legislative chairperson, for the duration of their tenure, shall be and ex-officio member of the NFAMLP Executive

Committee. The Legislative and Resolutions Committee shall draft legislative proposals and/or resolutions consistent with the purposes and objectives of the Fellowship. The Committee will receive recommendations from Fellowship members and from within the Committee. The Committee will recommend to the Executive Committee their concurrence or non-concurrence of any suggested legislation, petitions or resolutions. The Committee shall then draft, in proper form, legislative petitions or resolutions as required by the action of the Fellowship.

ARTICLE XV PROGRAM COMMITTEE

A. The Program Committee shall be chaired by the Vice President with additional help selected by the Vice President and approved by the Executive Committee as needed.

B. The Liaison Officer of the GBHEM shall be an ex-officio member of the Program Committee.

ARTICLE XVI OTHER COMMITTEES

The President may establish and appoint persons to committees at any time during the year with the approval of Executive Committee members.

ARTICLE XVII VACANCIES

An office shall be declared vacant for the following:

A. The resignation or death of that officer.

B. The officer ceases to be eligible for full membership in the Fellowship.

C. The Executive Committee declares it vacant for reasons they deem proper and have received a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting.

D. In the Executive Committee may be filled by appointment by the President and with the approval of the Executive Committee.

E. Vacancies in Standing and AD Hoc Committees may be filled by appointment by the President.

ARTICLE XVIII 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 by-laws.

ARTICLE XIX THE FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Fellowship shall be September 1 to August 31.

ARTICLE XX THE DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS

In the event of final liquidation of the National Fellowship of Associate Members and Local Pastors, its assets are to be given to the General Council on Finance and Administration of The United Methodist Church.

ARTICLE XXI

The NFAMLP will assist all Annual Conferences in the formation of Annual Conference Fellowships, as per BOD. Annual Conference Fellowship members are encouraged to become members of the National Fellowship and participate in National Fellowship activities.

ARTICLE XXII AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION & BY LAWS

Amendments to the Constitution and By-laws may be made only after a third reading of the proposed changes and by an affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3) of the paid-up members present and voting. Readings may only be made at an Annual NFAMLP Meeting. Final approval can only be given at the Annual Meeting of the NFAMLP.

NOTE: The Constitution and By-laws are effective and the rule for the conduct of the business of the NFAMLP and stand as written and amended by the:

Annual Fellowship November 11, 1969, Nashville, TN

Annual Fellowship January 10, 1976, Oklahoma City, OK
Annual Fellowship January 21, 1981, Lake Junaluska, NC
Annual Fellowship September 21, 1982, Syracuse, IN
Annual Fellowship September 23, 1985, St. Simons, GA
Annual Fellowship September 24, 1991, New Windsor, MD
Annual Fellowship September, 28, 1992, Belleville, IL
Annual Fellowship September 29, 1993, Lebanon, PA
Annual Fellowship September 28, 1995, Belleville, IL
Annual Fellowship September 13, 1996, Colorado Springs, CO
Annual Fellowship September 10, 1997, Boone, NC
Annual Fellowship September 17, 1998, Branson, MO
Annual Fellowship September 21, 2001, DeGray Lake, AR.
Annual Fellowship September 15, 2005, Glorieta, NM
Annual Fellowship September 17, 2009, Branson, MO
Annual Fellowship September 16, 2016, Port Arthur, TX