

Bylaws Ministers Council of the Greater Bay Area

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Ministers Council of the Greater Bay Area.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

Section 1 To fulfill the Gospel mission, the American Baptist Ministers Council of the Greater Bay Area gathers as an inclusive community of persons in Christian ministry for support, nurture and accountability.

Section 2 To carry out this purpose, this body shall:

- (a) Recognize the uniqueness of ministry in the Greater Bay Area, with special emphasis on cultural, ethnic, and gender inclusion within our communities.
- (b) Encourage, develop and support groups for peer relationships among ministry leaders for professional growth, personal support and accountability
- (c) Offer and promote special events for education and skill building for ministry.
- (d) Provide for communications among ministers, and between ministers and the American Baptist Churches in the USA for support, sharing concerns and advocacy.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Membership in this body is open to individuals who are ordained, commissioned, lay professionals or students in seminary. All members must be eligible for inclusion in the Directory of Ministerial Leaders of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. and pay dues. Others may become members of this local council only by recommendation of Executive Committee and the consent of the membership.

Section 2 Life membership shall be granted without payment of dues to persons listed as retired in the Directory of Ministerial Leaders of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. and who were active members of this body for at least three of the five years prior to their retirement. Life members shall not be required to pay annual dues, but may choose to do so, and shall be considered active members.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

Section 1 The officers of the Council shall be a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Senator and three at large members all of whom will serve as the executive committee of the council.

Section 2 Officers shall be elected to a two-year term. No officer shall serve more than two consecutive two-year terms. The Senator shall be elected to a four-year term and shall not succeed her or himself.

Section 3 Duties of officers:

- (a) The President shall preside at the meetings of the Council, chair the Executive Committee and be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- (b) The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the Council and the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall provide for the safekeeping of all records and official documents.
- (c) The Treasurer shall receive and disburse the funds of the Council upon order of duly authorized persons and shall submit records for an annual audit.
- (d) The Senator shall represent the Council at the National Senate of the Ministers Council of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.

Section 4 Election of Officers

- (a) Officers will be elected at the Annual Meeting
- (b) Election requires a two-thirds vote of the membership via ballot.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section 1 The Annual Meeting of the Council shall be fixed by the Executive Committee and announced at least three months prior to the meeting. A quorum will consist of 25% of the Council membership.

Section 2 The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice a year. Special meetings may be called by the president and/or any three members of the Executive Committee. 51% shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee.

Section 3 *Robert's Rules of Order* shall be the manual to guide this body in all matters of parliamentary practice not prescribed in these Bylaws or special rules that this body may adopt.

ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENTS

Section 1 These By-laws may be amended at any Annual Meeting of the Council upon a two-thirds vote of the members present by ballot, provided notice of the amendment has been submitted in writing by mail or e-mail to all members of the Council at least one month before the meeting at which action is to be taken.

Adopted 4/13/04

Amended 9/21/04