

MCKK – MEMBERSHIP ARTICLE – BYLAW AMENDMENTS

RATIONALE:

- To eliminate confusion between active, inactive, and former member status
- To acknowledge our annual Membership Covenant Renewal process and eliminate the annual review by the Board
- To acknowledge that members do not need to be geographically local
- To clean up and simplify

Original

- A. Criteria for Membership – Any baptized Christian who has completed a membership class may become a Member by participating in the Rite of Membership. A Member in good standing is a Member who registers their attendance, provides identifiable financial support, definite service contribution, and demonstrates interest.

PROPOSED REVISION

- A. Criteria for Membership – Any baptized Christian who has completed a membership class may become a Member by participating in the Rite of Membership. A Member in good standing is a Member who over the past year has a record of attendance (onsite or online), financial and service contributions, as well as demonstrated interest by signing the annual Membership Covenant Renewal. Membership is not restricted by geographical location.

ORIGINAL 1. Membership List – The list of Members in good standing shall be maintained by the church staff, who shall report changes at the Board Meeting prior to a Congregational Meeting and the Board Meeting that deals with Membership Review.

PROPOSED REVISION

1. Membership List – The list of Members in good standing shall be maintained by the Clerk of the Board, who shall report changes at regularly scheduled Board Meetings. At the Board Meeting prior to a Congregational Meeting, the Membership List shall be reviewed to confirm the total number of Members and the number required for quorum.

ORIGINAL

2. **(Strike original)** Membership Review – The Board shall seek to review the membership list once in a twelve month period.
- a. **Strike original** – A Member who does not have registered attendance, identified support, definitive service contribution, and demonstrated interest

within the preceding six (6) months to one (1) year may be removed from the list of Members in good standing and placed on a list of inactive Members.

- b. **Strike original** - The Board shall notify this Member in writing that the Member has been placed on a list of inactive Members and is not eligible to vote at any business meeting of the church.
- c. **Strike original** - If the inactive Member has not attended, provided identifiable financial support, and demonstrated further interest for a period of two (2) months immediately following notification, the Board shall have the authority, at its discretion, to drop any such Member from the local church membership roll. Upon request a person may remain on the inactive roll for an indefinite period of time.
- d. **Strike original** - The inactive Member may be restored to the list of Members in good standing by a vote of the Board without a public reception into membership.
- e. **Strike original** - The inactive Membership who is not restored during the period of two months immediately following notification or has not requested to remain on the inactive list shall be considered a former Member.
- f. **Strike original** - A former Member may be restored to the list of Members in good standing after completing a membership class and participating in the Rite of Membership.

PROPOSED REVISION

2. Membership Covenant Renewal – During the season of Lent, Members will be asked to prayerfully consider their membership covenants and to submit their annual Membership Covenant Renewal. Information about this process and the Membership Covenant Renewal form will be communicated multiple times via the church's communication tools (example: newsletter, social media, website) and in worship announcements.

- a) Around Easter, there will be a renewal of Membership Covenants in a worship service. This shall serve as a public commitment to one another and a public witness to those who are not members.
- b) During the month following Easter, the Pastor shall arrange for follow-up with those members who have not signed a Membership Covenant Renewal.
- c) Having been contacted by the means available to the Church (example: email, phone, mail) and not receiving a signed membership covenant renewal or response (**within 60 days of Easter**), **the Board shall consider that person to be a former member.** ~~that person shall be considered a former member.~~

- d) A former Member may be restored to the list of Members in good standing after meeting with the Pastor, completing a membership class update (at the Pastor's discretion), and signing the Membership Covenant. Depending on the length of time the person has been a former member, they may or may not be required (at the Pastor's discretion) to participate in the Rite of Membership.
- e) Should someone decide not to renew their membership covenants and informs the Church, they may choose to remain a Friend of the Church or become a former member.

Original

3. Right to Appeal – A decision by the Board to drop an inactive Member from the local church membership roll is not subject to appeal.

PROPOSED STRIKE ORIGINAL

PROPOSED ADDITION

Transfer Members

Individuals may transfer their membership from another church within or beyond MCC. Those transferring from other MCC's may be required to do a modified Membership Class (since they may not be familiar with our local history). Transfers from other denominations will require attendance at a Membership Class. All persons transferring membership are still required to complete a Membership Covenant and participate in the Rite of Membership.

Original

- B. **Friends of the Church** – A person who, for one reason or another, feels unable to become a Member but who supports the goals of the church and wants to be a part of the work of the church may be designated as a Friend of the Church.
 1. List of Friends of the Church – The list of the Friends of the Church shall be maintained by the church staff.
 2. Limitations on Friends of the Church – Friends may serve on appointed committees and may participate in all activities of the church. Friends may not vote at Congregational Meetings or serve on the Board of Directors. Friends shall not be considered in determining the number of Lay Delegates.

Proposed Revision

- In B.1. strike “the church staff.” Replace with “the Clerk of the Board.”

Original

C. Discipline of Members and Friends – The church cannot condone disloyalty or unbecoming conduct on the part of any Member or Friend. The Board is empowered to remove by majority vote any Member or Friend or take other appropriate disciplinary action.

PROPOSED REVISION

C. **Discipline of Members and Friends** – The church cannot condone disloyalty or unbecoming conduct (as defined by UFMCC) on the part of any Member or Friend. The Board is empowered to remove by majority vote any Member or Friend or take other appropriate disciplinary action.

Original

1. Right to Appeal – The action of the Board may be appealed to the next regular Congregational Meeting or a Special Congregational Meeting called for that purpose. The decision of the Congregational Meeting is final. Pending the outcome of the appeal of discipline, the disciplined Member or Friend shall remain under discipline and shall retain the right to vote at regular and Special Congregational Meetings, including the Congregational Meeting held to consider the appeal.

PROPOSED REVISION

~~1.~~ **Right to Appeal** – The action of the Board may be appealed to the next regular meeting of the Board and/or regular Congregational Meeting or a Special Congregational Meeting called for that purpose. The decision of the Congregational Meeting is final.

Original

a) Appeal Process – The request for an appeal shall be submitted to the Clerk of the Board within thirty (30) days following the date when the inactive Member was dropped from the local church membership roll.

PROPOSED REVISION

a) Appeal Process – The request for an appeal shall be submitted to the Clerk of the Board within thirty (30) days following the date when the ~~inactive~~ Member was dropped from the local church membership roll.

b) The Board may consider the appeal and reverse its earlier decision without taking the matter to the Congregational Meeting. [*no change*]

Original

c) Should the Board sustain its earlier decision and the inactive Member wishes the appeal to continue, the request shall be included as an agenda item for the next regular Congregational Meeting or a Special Congregational Meeting called for the purpose of considering the appeal.

PROPOSED REVISION

Remove section c as it duplicates in essence what is in #1.