

NORTH GEORGIA BLACK METHODISTS FOR CHURCH RENEWAL (NGBMCR)

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization shall be **North Georgia Black Methodists for Church Renewal** hereinafter referred to as NGBMCR.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION

The purpose of NGBMCR is:

To empower Black Methodists for effective witness and service among pastors, laity in local United Methodist churches, conferences and schools, and the larger community.

To encourage and involve Black Methodists and others in the struggle for economic and social justice.

To expose latent and overt forms of racism in all local and regional agencies and institutions of The North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church.

To act as an agitating conscience on all local agencies of the North Georgia Conference in order to keep them sensitive to the needs and expressions of a genuinely inclusive and relevant Church.

To keep before the United Methodist Church and the North Georgia Conference the crucial issues facing us by initiating action and supporting Black United Methodist Church congregations which realistically deal with the needs of Black people and the issues spelled out in “**The Findings of Black Methodists for Church Renewal**,” and other occasional documents adopted by BMCR, Inc.

To initiate, develop, and implement strategies and instruments for the development, the maintenance, and the growth of strong Black local United Methodist Churches.

To provide an instrument through which we can educate and cultivate the Black constituency of the United Methodist Church and the North Georgia Conference toward a greater knowledge of missions within the North Georgia Conference.

ARTICLE III FIELD OF OPERATION

The field of operation of NGBMCR shall be the North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church.

ARTICLE IV
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Annual Membership of NGBMCR shall be composed of those persons of Black ancestry and who subscribe to the purpose of NGBMCR, who comply with the provisions of the membership regulations as prescribed from time to time by BMCR, Inc. and NGBMCR, and support the NGBMCR by paying the annual NGBMCR membership fees.

Section 2. Member(s) in Good Standing. NGBMCR Members in Good Standing shall be those persons who have paid required membership fees as prescribed periodically by NGBMCR. A voting member shall be a NGBMCR Member in Good Standing and is entitled to one vote on each issue presented at General Membership meetings of NGBMCR.

Section 3. There may be Associate Members of NGBMCR who are not of Black ancestry but who subscribe to BMCR's purpose, attend meetings and who will have voice and no vote. Associate Members shall pay the required membership fees of Member(s) in Good Standing as described in Section 2 above.

ARTICLE V
AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

Any provision of this Constitution may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Members in Good Standing present at a General Membership Meeting of NGBMCR. Written notice of intention to amend such provisions shall be sent electronically to the full membership thirty (30) days prior to said meeting.

North Georgia Black Methodists for Church Renewal

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I OFFICERS DUTIES

Section 1. Elected Officers shall have said powers and authorities normally delegated to said Officers.

Section 2. The NGBMCR will have a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 3. The **Chairperson** shall preside over meetings and enforce the observations of the Constitution and Bylaws of NGBMCR; decide parliamentary questions; offer consideration of motions; and perform such other duties as the office may require. The Chairperson shall serve as Chairperson of the Executive Committee and as Ex-Officio member to all Standing Committees except the Nominations Committee.

Section 4. The **Vice-Chairperson** shall assist the Chairperson in the performance of his/her duties and will preside during the absence of the Chairperson. It shall be the duty of the Vice-Chairperson to serve as Vice-Chairperson of the Program Committee.

Section 5. The **Secretary** shall be responsible for the recording and preparation of the minutes at each meeting, as well as the minutes of the Executive Committee. A list of all approved actions should be submitted to the Chairperson to be acted on and to be included in the appropriate mailings. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to: keep a roster of the Officers and members; record members' attendance; keep the proper records of all proceedings.

Section 6. The **Treasurer** shall have oversight of the financial transactions of the organization. The Treasurer shall also provide monthly financial summaries, disburse approved funds, collect and deposit monies collected through membership fees, fundraisers and donations.

Section 7. **Election of Officers:** The term of office for NGBMCR is for one (1) year. The NGBMCR Officers may be re-elected to serve a maximum of four (4) consecutive years in any given office, and will be elected at the Annual Meeting of NGBMCR in November, and will take office on January 1 of the following year.

ARTICLE II DISBURSEMENTS OF FUNDS

All accounts shall be opened in the name of **North Georgia Black Methodists for Church Renewal** (NGBMCR) and funds shall be disbursed through the administration of the Treasurer.

ARTICLE III MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meeting: The annual meeting of NGBMCR shall be held in November of each year and may be held at such time and place as the Chairperson, or the Officers in lieu of action by the Chairperson, may designate.

Section 2. Regular Meetings: Regular Meetings of NGBMCR shall be held **quarterly**.

Section 3. Special Meetings. Special Meetings of NGBMCR shall be called by the Chairperson upon receiving the written request of three members of the Executive Committee. Such written requests shall specify the reason and objective of the meeting.

No business shall be transacted at any Special Meeting except that for which the call is issued. Notice of any Special Meeting shall be electronically sent to each member of record at least 48 hours prior to such meeting.

Section 4. Quorum. The voting members present, representing no less than five (5) members constitute a quorum.

Section 5. The Annual Meeting, Regular Meetings, and Special Meetings constitute the NGBMCR General Membership meetings as described herein.

ARTICLE IV EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Executive Committee is composed of the four (4) elected Officers, and the Standing Committee Chairpersons.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall act on behalf of NGBMCR as needed between meetings subject to review of the NGBMCR General Membership at the following Regular Meeting. It shall act on items not referred to any other committees to see that they are properly carried out. It may make recommendations to the NGBMCR General Membership regarding policy and program. It shall be responsible for oversight of the work of NGBMCR as a whole. It shall be amenable and accountable to the NGBMCR General Membership.

ARTICLE V ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES and BENEFITS shall consist of the following:

Individual - Participation in all NGBMCR General Meetings with voice and vote.

Associate - A United Methodist who is not of Black ancestry but who subscribes to BMCR's purpose. Associate Members may attend events and NGBMCR meetings, with voice but no vote. Requires payment of a NGBMCR membership fee.

Student - Youth (ages 12-18) membership fee shall be \$5.00.

Youth who are currently associated with a local congregation of The United Methodist Church may become Youth members. A youth membership includes participation with voice and vote. The youth members may wish to form youth segments of NGBMCR with an adult coordinator, who is a member of NGBMCR and approved by the Executive Committee. The youth segment may choose separate meeting times. These young persons may also plan to participate in the BMCR, Inc. Youth Harambee.

Congregational – Congregational Membership applies to local churches related to The United Methodist Church that pay the required membership assessment for this category.

Each Congregational Membership church will receive, two NGBMCR individual memberships, one of which will be for an official BMCR Ambassador at the church. Membership fees for Congregations will be determined periodically by the Membership Committee as described herein (see Article V, Section 6).

Congregational Membership Fees may be paid in installments and are renewable each year.

Language on Website

Individual

Associate

Student (12-18)

Seminary Student

Church/Organization

ARTICLE VI STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. In order to fulfill its purpose the NGBMCR, shall maintain the following standing committees:

- Program Committee
- Finance Committee
- Advocacy Committee
- Constitution and Bylaws Committee
- Membership Committee
- Nominations Committee
- Communications Committee

and, such other committees as the Executive Committee or NGBMCR General Membership may determine essential to the implementation of its several responsibilities.

The committee chairperson shall be nominated by the Nominations Committee and confirmed by NGBMCR General Membership.

Section 2. There shall be a Program Committee, which will be responsible for the development and implementation of programs, and activities that focus on critical needs and issues of NGBMCR. The Program Committee will consist of chairpersons for each program to be implemented.

Section 3. There shall be a Finance Committee, which will be responsible for NGBMCR fiscal management. It shall recommend a budget and budgetary adjustments as well as implementation of the adopted budget. The Treasurer shall be a member of the Finance Committee.

Section 4. There shall be an Advocacy Committee empowered to educate, utilize The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church, maximize use of The United Methodist resources, and eradication of racism in the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Section 5. There shall be a continuing Constitution & Bylaws Committee, charged with the responsibility for interpreting and making recommendations for Constitutional & Bylaw changes and amendments.

Section 6. There shall be a Membership Committee, which will be responsible for the development and implementation of membership recruitment models. The Committee will be responsible for reviewing the membership fees and presenting recommendations for changes to the Executive Committee and the NGBMCR General Membership for approval.

Section 7. There shall be a Nominations Committee composed of the Standing Committee chairpersons. The Committee is responsible for preparing the election slate of potential Officers and Standing Committee Chairpersons for the Annual Meeting. The Nominations Committee shall be empowered to make nominations to fill vacancies as they occur.

Section 8. There shall be a Communications Committee responsible for the NGBMCR communications, public relations, promotions and increased visibility.

Section 9. All Committees of NGBMCR shall be amenable to the NGBMCR General Membership. The Chairperson of NGBMCR is Ex-Officio on all Committees, except the Nominations Committee.

Section 10. Other Ad-Hoc committees essential to the implementation of NGBMCR responsibilities may be appointed by the Executive Committee and confirmed by NGBMCR General Membership as needed.

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Any provision in the Bylaws of NGBMCR, may be amended by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the NGBMCR Members in Good Standing present at any General Membership meeting of NGBMCR, provided that a written notice of intention to amend such provisions shall be sent by a national postal mail service or electronically to NGBMCR General Membership thirty (30) days prior to said meeting

ARTICLE VIII FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of NGBMCR shall be fixed as January 1st to December 31st with annual audits of receipts and disbursements made available to the General Membership at each NGBMCR Annual Meeting.

EFFECTIVE DATE

These Bylaws shall become effective as of July 1, 2024

Chairperson

Secretary