



Southern California

Bylaws

Black Fellowship of Southern California

BLACK FELLOWSHIP of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA of The ASSEMBLIES OF GOD BYLAWS

As Last Revised and Amended By the Black Fellowship of Southern California on September 20, 2020

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**BLACK FELLOWSHIP of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
of The ASSEMBLIES OF GOD BYLAWS**

As Last Revised and Amended By the Black Fellowship of Southern California on September 20, 2020

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name shall be the Black Fellowship of Southern California (herein referred to as Fellowship) of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE II. TERRITORY

The Black Fellowship of Southern California of the Assemblies of God shall include the territory of the SoCal Network.

ARTICLE III. NATURE

The Black Fellowship of Southern California of the Assemblies of God is a voluntary cooperative Fellowship based on mutual agreements, voluntarily entered into by its members.

ARTICLE IV. MISSION STATEMENT

The Black Fellowship of Southern California exists for the purpose of exchanging information, facilitating evangelism and the establishing of churches within its group and to be the vehicle to more effectively serve its constituency – the Black ministers and Black congregations of the SoCal Network.

ARTICLE V. FUNCTIONS

- A.** To evangelize and assimilate Blacks and others in Southern California within the boundaries of the SoCal Network.
- B.** To provide spiritual renewal, especially to those who have fallen from the faith.
- C.** To provide fellowship among the members of the Fellowship.
- D.** To train workers for the ministry of the gospel.
- E.** To plant new churches in cooperation with the SoCal Network and U.S. Missions.
- F.** To assist Black and other churches in transition from Network Affiliated Status to General Council Status.

ARTICLE VI. TENANTS OF FAITH

The Black Fellowship of Southern California adopts the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the SoCal Network and The General Council of The Assemblies of God, USA.

ARTICLE VII. RELATIONSHIPS

Section 1. To the National Black Fellowship

The Black Fellowship of Southern California of the Assemblies of God, as an integral part of the National Black Fellowship of the Assemblies of God and The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Non Profit religious corporation with Headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, is subordinate and amenable to said National Black Fellowship and The General Council as prescribed in its Constitution and Bylaws. The Southwestern Region Director of the National Black Fellowship serves as liaison between the National Black Fellowship and the Fellowship.

Section 2. To the SoCal Network of the Assemblies of God

The Black Fellowship of Southern California has a cooperative relationship within the SoCal Network Assemblies of God as prescribed in its Constitution and Bylaws. The SoCal Network Intercultural Committee Representatives serves as liaisons between the SoCal Network and the Fellowship. Moreover, the Black Intercultural Executive Presbyter will also retain a tacit cooperative relationship between the SoCal Network Executive Presbytery and the Fellowship in matters of mutual concern.

Section 3. To the Local Assemblies

The local Black and other Churches (see Article VIII, Section 1) may become an integral part of the Black Fellowship of Southern California with privileges and responsibilities as prescribed in these Articles of Fellowship.

ARTICLE VIII. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Individual Members

All Credentialed Black and other Ministers pastoring a predominantly black congregation (over 50% black) holding accredited fellowship certificates, also including those holding Minister credentials in the SoCal Network (Southern California District) and those with local credentials no older than two years from an Assemblies of God Church meeting minimum General Council requirements for said credential may be members of the Black Fellowship of Southern California.

Section 2. Congregational Members

All Black Congregations that are affiliated with the Assemblies of God may be members of the Black Fellowship of Southern California. Black Congregations are those congregations that are predominantly Black (over 50%).

Section 3. Voting Members

- A.** All Assemblies of God Credentialed Ministers as described in Section 1 who choose to belong to the Black Fellowship of Southern California shall have the privilege of voice and vote in the official business meeting of the Fellowship either in person or via conference phone or other communication device.
- B.** All Black congregations as described in Section 2 shall have the privilege of sending one voting delegate to the official business meeting of the Fellowship to participate either in person or via conference phone or other communication device.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Business Meeting

There shall be an Annual Business Meeting of the Fellowship at which time the election of Officers shall take place as necessary and the reports of all officers shall be read. This meeting shall be held at an Annual Conference or a special meeting called for that purpose. The time and place shall be announced by the Officers. Due notice shall be given by mail and electronically 30 days prior to the date of said meeting.

Section 2. Special Business meeting

Special business meetings of the Fellowship shall be called when necessary after proper notice has been given by the President or by the Secretary-Treasurer of the Fellowship provided the meeting has been agreed upon by a majority of the elected officers.

Special meetings may also be called by petition having been signed by not less than one third (1/3) of the active membership of the Fellowship. The Petition is to be placed in the hands of the President or Secretary-Treasurer and announcements made at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

Section 3. Quorum

All Officers and members who are present at any special or regular business meeting which has been duly called, provided these officers and members have paid their dues for the past year (see Article XI-Finances) shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4. Order of Business

The regular order of business for the Annual Business Meeting of the Fellowship shall be as follows:

- A.** Registration
- B.** Devotional
- C.** Roster
- D.** Reading of the previous minutes by the Secretary-Treasurer
- E.** Reports of the
 - 1.** President
 - 2.** Vice President
 - 3.** Secretary-Treasurer
- F.** Reports of Committees
- G.** Unfinished business
- H.** Election of Officers
- I.** New business
- J.** Adjournment

ARTICLE X. OFFICERS, ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES

The officers of the Fellowship shall consist of a President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer. The elected Officers shall be Ordained Credential holders in good standing, of mature experience, sound judgment, recognized ability and Christian character who have ministered in the Assemblies of God Fellowship immediately preceding their election and have been actively involved in the Black Fellowship of Southern California for at least two years.

Section 1. Nominations and Elections

- A.** The President shall be elected to serve for three years. The tenure of office shall begin January 1 following election and shall continue until the three year term is complete, or the office is vacated by death, resignation, or removal.

This person must meet the following qualifications:

- 1.** Must consistently allocate the appropriate time and energy to the Fellowship that demonstrates effectiveness and efficiency;
- 2.** Must cast vision that is consistent with the purpose and intent of the Fellowship according to the Constitution and Bylaws harmoniously with the National Black Fellowship and the SoCal Network of the Assemblies of God;

The President must be able to work harmoniously with the Black Fellowship Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and lead the Executive Board toward clear and definable goals.

Furthermore, when the current president elects to accept a position or role that will clearly jeopardize the mission and vision of the Fellowship as determined by the Executive Board, said president will be required to vacate the office of president within 60 days of accepting the new role or position. A replacement shall be nominated by Fellowship members by secret ballot at the Annual Business Meeting of the Fellowship or at a Special meeting called for that purpose to fill the unexpired term. A two thirds majority of all votes cast shall constitute an election.

- B.** The Vice President shall be elected from the membership of the Fellowship. The person may be nominated from the floor and shall be elected by a majority vote at the Annual Business Meeting to serve for three years from the time of their election.

The tenure of office shall begin January 1 following election and shall continue until the three year term is complete, or the office is vacated by death, resignation, or removal.

- C.** The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected every three years. This person shall be chosen from the membership of the Fellowship and may be nominated from the floor and shall be elected by a majority vote at the Annual Business Meeting. The term of office shall be for three years from the time of election. The tenure of office shall begin January 1 following election and shall continue until the three year term is complete, or the office is vacated by death, resignation, or removal.

- D.** If no elections have been determined after the second elective ballot, the three highest names shall be voted upon for the third elective ballot. If there is no election, the two highest names

shall be voted upon until there is an election.

- E.** The President and the Secretary-Treasurer shall be voted upon in 2018 and every three years after that unless their offices become vacant.
- F.** The Vice President shall be voted upon in 2019 and every three years after that unless their office becomes vacant.

Section 2. Terms of Office

All Officers—President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer—may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. All Officers—President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer—after serving two consecutive terms, cannot succeed himself or herself and must sit off for one year from holding the same office.

Section 3. Duties of Officers

- A. The President** shall be considered as the spiritual overseer of the Fellowship and shall direct all of its activities. This person shall be President of the Fellowship and shall act as Chairman of the Fellowship business meetings, as Convocation President and Chair other Fellowship programs affecting Black Ministries including setting the agenda for business meetings and conferences. This person shall be an Ex-Officio member of all committees and departments.
- B. The Vice President** is chosen to serve the Fellowship and therefore shall act in an advisory capacity to the President in all matters pertaining to the Fellowship in its spiritual life and in the ministry of its ordinances. The Vice President shall act as President in their absence.
- C. The Secretary-Treasurer** shall read the minutes of the Official meeting of the Fellowship at the Annual and special business meetings. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep a record of the members of the Fellowship and perform other clerical functions necessary to the proper discharge of duties which includes examination of applicants for membership and report same to the Executive Board. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be the custodian of all legal documents, and be in possession of the corporate seal (if the Fellowship becomes incorporated).

The Secretary-Treasurer shall also be entrusted with all finances of the Fellowship that may be committed to it. The Secretary-Treasurer shall deposit all funds in a responsible bank in the name of the Fellowship and disburse the same by checks as authorized by the Fellowship Officers. The Secretary-Treasurer shall make an itemized report monthly to the Executive Board and annually at the Annual Business Meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer shall issue monthly receipts for any contributions received that month. The accounts shall be audited under the direction of the elected officers.
- D. The Elected Officers** shall make up the Black Fellowship Executive Leadership Team (ELT). They shall be authorized to carry on business between duly called meetings of the Fellowship.
- E. Executive Board.** The Black Fellowship Executive Leadership Team together with the Regional Director of the National Black Fellowship for the Southwestern Region plus two other appointed credentialed ministers of mature stature (who will also serve as liaisons to the Intercultural Committee of the SoCal Network), and the Black Intercultural Executive Presbyter shall constitute the Black Fellowship of Southern California Executive Board (Board). The Black Fellowship of Southern California Executive Board shall be chaired by the President.

The Board shall provide for all the services of the Fellowship and shall arrange for all special meetings and conventions. The Board shall also serve as Director of Finance for the Fellowship and no person shall be invited to speak in the Fellowship without the Board's approval. The Board will make recommendations pertaining to relevant issues to the SoCal Network Executive Presbytery through the Black Ethnic Group Category Intercultural Executive Presbyter.

Section 4. Intercultural Executive Presbyter

In compliance with Article IX Section 2, page 18 of the SoCal Network Bylaws. Each duly authorized General Council Ethnic Group Category shall have the privilege of representation on the SoCal Network Executive Presbytery by at least one elected member as nominated by the constituent Black credentialed ministers and duly elected by the SoCal Network. They shall take office 30 days subsequent to election in compliance with Article IX, Section 2, paragraph (C2) of the SoCal Network Bylaws page 22.

The expectations, responsibilities and duties pertaining to this role can be located in the SoCal Network Bylaws, Article X (Duties of Officers), Section 3 (Executive Presbytery) and Section 4 (Executive Presbyter) on pages 28—30.

As stated in Article VII, Section 2, the Black Intercultural Executive Presbyter will also retain a tacit cooperative relationship between the SoCal Network Executive Presbytery and the Fellowship in matters of mutual concern.

Section 5. Vacancies

Any office shall be declared vacant by an act of the Board at any meeting of the Board based on the following: death, resignation, or removal.

A. Death or Resignation.

- 1. President**—In the event of an untimely death or resignation of the President causing a vacancy of their office, the Vice President shall act as President filling the unexpired term until a new one is elected in accordance with Section 1. In case the Vice President cannot act as President, then the Secretary-Treasurer will assume that position to complete the unexpired term.
- 2. Vice President**—In the event of an untimely death or resignation of the Vice President causing a vacancy of their office, the President shall appoint a replacement that is ratified by the Board to complete the unexpired term until a new one is elected in accordance with Section 1.
- 3. Secretary-Treasurer**—In the event of an untimely death or resignation of the Secretary-Treasurer causing a vacancy of their office, the President shall appoint a replacement that is ratified by the Board to complete the unexpired term until a new one is elected in accordance with Section 1.

B. Removal.

Any office shall be declared vacant by an act of the Board at any meeting of the Board. Grounds for such action shall be:

- 1. Unscriptural conduct**

2. Doctrinal departure from the Tenants of Faith
3. Incompetence in Office
4. Unexcused failure to attend two consecutive meetings
5. A contentious or non-cooperative spirit.
6. An assumption of dictatorial authority over the Fellowship

Any Officer dismissed by the Board shall have the opportunity to appeal their case within twenty days to the Board. The Board and three members of the Fellowship selected by the Board shall conduct a hearing within thirty days of the appeal.

If the decision is upheld, then the decision of the Board will stand and the Board will appoint someone to fill the unexpired term of the office. If the decision of the Board is reversed, the Officer shall be reinstated.

If any Officer is dismissed by the Black Fellowship of Southern California this will not affect offices this person holds with the SoCal Network or General Council.

ARTICLE XI. FINANCES

All funds for the operation of the Fellowship and other Auxiliaries shall be provided by dues, voluntary contributions and gifts of the members and friends of the Fellowship. Dues for individuals and churches shall be determined at the Annual meeting of the Fellowship at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the President and other Officers and shall be administered by the Secretary-Treasurer under the direction of the Fellowship Officers (Luke 6:38, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8). Dues for individual Ministers should be at least \$50.00 per year and at least \$100.00 per year for churches.

ARTICLE XII. COMMITTEES

Section 1. The following committees may serve the Fellowship

- A. U.S. Missions and World Missions
- B. Christian Education
- C. Evangelism
- D. Youth
- E. Music/Fine Arts
- F. Finance
- G. Church Planting

Section 2. The Chairperson and members of these Committees

The Chairperson and members of these committees shall be appointed as necessary annually by the Officers of the Fellowship.

Section 3. Other Committees

Other committees shall be appointed as the need arises.

ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS

These articles may be amended at any regular or special meeting by a two thirds vote, provided the members have been informed about the amendments 30 days prior to the meeting.