

BLACK METHODISTS FOR CHURCH RENEWAL, INC. CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization shall be Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Inc. hereinafter referred to as BMCR.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION

The purpose of BMCR is:

To empower Black Methodists for effective witness and service among pastors, laity in local 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, regional, and agencies and institutions of The United Methodist Church.

To act as an agitating conscience on all boards and agencies of The United Methodist Church in order to keep them sensitive to the needs and expressions of a "genuinely" inclusive and relevant Church.

To keep before the Church the crucial issues facing us by initiating action and supporting Church agencies which realistically deal with the needs of Black people; i.e., issues spelled out in "The Findings of Black Methodists for Church Renewal" and the other occasional documents adopted by BMCR.

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

To provide an instrument through which we can educate and cultivate the black constituency of our Church toward a greater knowledge of missions within the U.S., Africa, and within the Caribbean.

ARTICLE III

FIELD OF OPERATION

The field of operation of BMCR shall be the United States of America and wherever The United Methodist Church is needed to bring relief and deliverance to our people who hurt and are disenfranchised on the global scene.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The membership of BMCR shall be composed of those Black people who subscribe to the purpose of BMCR, and who comply with the provisions of the membership regulations as prescribed from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The membership categories of BMCR shall be described in the bylaws.

Section 3. Voting members shall be comprised of those who have paid required membership fees. A voting member shall be entitled to one vote on each issue presented at all meetings of the general membership.

Section 4. There may be associate members of BMCR, comprised of those persons who subscribe to the purpose of BMCR, provided that such associate members shall have voice but shall be without vote.

ARTICLE V
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

There shall be a Board of Directors, not to exceed twenty-six (26) persons. The membership shall be comprised as outlined in the sections to follow:

Section 1. There shall be four (4) elected officers. Their term is for two years. (July 1-June 30} in the year of election. They may be elected to serve a maximum of four (4) years in any given Office. The four elected Officers shall be: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. These Officers shall make up four (4) of the up to twenty-six members of the Board of Directors. (Officers of the Board of Directors must be BMCR member in good standing throughout their term of office.)

Section 2. Each Jurisdiction shall elect a Coordinator and two (2) other representatives to the Board of Directors, one of which shall be clergy, a lay person, a youth (12-17) and young adult (18-35).

Section 3. The jurisdictional members of the Board shall be elected at a meeting in their Jurisdiction prior to the General meeting of the Board of Directors of BMCR. Their term begins January 1-December 31. The Jurisdictional Meeting shall be held during the months of October and November.

Section 4. Where a jurisdictional member of the Board of Directors, becomes inactive or moves to an area outside that Jurisdiction, it shall be the prerogative of the said Jurisdiction to name a new member in that category to fill the unexpired term and any such action shall be approved by majority of voting members present at any duly called meeting following the inactivity or move.

Section 5. There shall be up to six (6) persons elected to the Board of Directors in the At-Large Category to bring balance between lay and clergy representation on the Board.

Section 6. A person may serve as a member of the Board for a maximum of six (6) consecutive years. Time served as an officer and/or as a Jurisdictional Coordinator shall not be counted as a part of a six (6) year tenure.

Section 7. The terms of Board members shall be staggered in three (3) year classes to insure continuity in the rotation of persons.

Section 8. The immediate past Chairperson of the Board of Directors may serve as a member of the Board in an Ex-Officio capacity.

Section 9. The members of the Board of Directors shall pay annual membership dues of \$100.00, due by June 30th of each year; and be responsible for contributing at least \$500.00, annually. Board travel and housing expenses to meetings are not considered contributions toward this assessment.

Section 10. The Board of Directors shall determine all policies which shall be necessary and proper for the implementation of the purposes and programs of this corporation. The Board of Directors shall determine the employed staff needed to operate the organization's office.

ARTICLE VI
AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

Any provision of this Constitution may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at the General Meeting of BMCR. Written notice of intention to amend such provisions shall be sent by United States Postal mail or electronically to members in good standing thirty (30) days prior to said meeting.