

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.

Approved	St Louis, Missouri
March	47 th Annual Meeting
2014	Rev. Dr. Cedrick Bridgeforth, Board Chairperson
	Rev. Dr. Ouida Lee, Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairperson

**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.

Approved March 2014	St Louis, Missouri 47 th Annual Meeting Rev. Dr. Cedrick Bridgeforth, Board Chairperson Rev. Dr. Ouida Lee, Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairperson
------------------------------------	---

BLACK METHODISTS FOR CHURCH RENEWAL, INC.
BYLAWS

ARTICLE I
OFFICERS DUTIES

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

Section 2. **Chairperson** shall preside over meetings and enforce the observations of the Constitution and Bylaws of Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Inc.; decide parliamentary questions; offer consideration of motions; appoint in consultation with the Board, Committee Chairpersons and perform such other duties as the office may require. The Chairperson shall be the manager of the governing policies of the Board. The Chairperson shall serve as Chairperson of the Executive Committee and ex-officio member to all standing committees except the Nominating Committee.

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

Secretary shall be responsible for 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 and the Office Staff 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 all Board members' attendance; keep the proper records of all proceedings.

Treasurer shall have oversight of the fiscal responsibilities of organization in conjunction with the Executive Director, Staff, and the Finance Committee. The Treasurer shall be bonded.

ARTICLE II
JURISDICTIONAL AND CONFERENCE STRUCTURE

Section 1. There shall be five (5) Jurisdictional Caucuses. Each region shall establish a Jurisdictional Executive Committee and a Coordinator for that region. The Jurisdictional Coordinator will be the Executive Officer for the Jurisdictional Executive Committee and will be a member of the Board of Directors and its Executive Committee.

Section 2. Organization of Jurisdictional Conference for BMCR shall be: Jurisdictional Coordinator, Vice Coordinator, Secretary, Treasurer, Coordinator of Communication, two (2) Directors to the Board and other officers as deemed necessary. The three jurisdictional representatives (includes Coordinator) shall consist of a layman/laywoman, a clergy person, a youth (12-17) and young adult (18-35) years of age. The Coordinator and the two (2) Directors to the Board shall take office following their Jurisdictional Meeting.

Section 3. The Annual Conference/Local Caucus will have a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 4. The Jurisdictions and Conferences shall establish their Constitution and Bylaws within the boundaries of the Constitution and Bylaws of BMCR. The document should be submitted to the Office each time it is revised.

Section 5. Jurisdictional and Annual Conference Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Inc., shall report to the Board of Directors and to the Office Staff any action which they take locally or jurisdictionally in the name of BMCR.

Approved March 2014	St Louis, Missouri 47 th Annual Meeting Rev. Dr. Cedrick Bridgeforth, Board Chairperson Rev. Dr. Ouida Lee, Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairperson
--	---

Section 6. In order for a Jurisdictional Caucus to be in good standing, the Jurisdiction must make an annual financial contribution of at least \$2500.00.

Section 7. The Jurisdictional Caucuses shall convene at the site of the General Meeting.

Section 8. Each jurisdiction will be required to be incorporated in one of the states in their region. The jurisdiction will also be required to have bonding insurance for officers. These documents shall be forwarded to the BMCR Office and reviewed by the Executive Committee annually.

**ARTICLE III
DISBURSEMENTS OF FUNDS**

All accounts shall be opened in the name of Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Inc., and funds shall be disbursed at the direction of the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE IV
MEETINGS**

Section 1. General Meetings. The General Meeting of BMCR will be held at such time and place as may be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Special Meetings. Special Meetings of BMCR shall be called by the Chairperson upon the written request of three (3) of the five (5) Jurisdictional Caucuses. Such requests shall specify the object of the meeting, which shall be incorporated in the notice thereof. No business shall be transacted at any special meeting except that for which the call is issued. Notice of any special meeting shall be either electronically sent or mailed to each member of BMCR to the post office address as carried on the records of the Corporation at least six (6) weeks prior to such meeting.

Section 3. Quorum. A majority of the voting members present, representing no less than three (3) Jurisdictional Caucuses attending General or Special Meetings, constitute a quorum.

**ARTICLE V
MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 1. Regular Meetings. Regular Meeting Board of Directors shall be held at such time and place determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Special Meetings. Special Meeting of the Board may be called by the Chairperson, or shall be upon the written request of the majority of the Board of Directors. Such requests shall specify the object of the meeting, which shall be incorporated in the notice thereof. Notice of a meeting shall be either electronically sent or mailed to each Board member's post office carried on the records of the Corporation at least three weeks prior to such meeting.

Section 3. Quorum. The Board members present at a meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for their own travel and expenses to the Board meetings.

Section 5. Minutes of the Board and of its committees shall be available electronically to all Directors within thirty (30) days after such meeting.

BLANK LINE 1 of 5
BLANK LINE 2 of 5
BLANK LINE 3 of 5
BLANK LINE 4 of 5
BLANK LINE 5 of 5

Approved March 2014	St Louis, Missouri 47 th Annual Meeting Rev. Dr. Cedrick Bridgeforth, Board Chairperson Rev. Dr. Ouida Lee, Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairperson
---------------------------	---

**ARTICLE VI
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Section 1. The Executive Committee is composed of the four (4) Officers, five (5) Jurisdictional Coordinators, Chairpersons of Personnel, Communications, Membership and Finance Committees.

Section 2. There shall be four (4) officers elected: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. These officers shall be elected at the General Meeting upon nomination by the Nominating Committee and/or by nominations from the floor. If the Chairperson is a member of the Laity, the Vice Chairperson shall be a member of the Clergy and vice versa. Clergy may not succeed clergy and laity may not succeed laity in the offices of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall have all powers of the Board of Directors and shall act on behalf of the Board, subject to review by the Board during interim meetings of the Board of Directors. 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 general membership regarding policy and program. It shall be responsible for oversight of the work of the Corporation as a whole. It shall be amenable and accountable to the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE VII
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES AND DUES**

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES and MEMBERSHIP DUES shall consist of the following:

1. Sustaining Membership (this includes any publications of the organization and voting privileges at the **General Meeting**).
2. Student Membership (this includes a publication of the organization and voting privileges at the **General Meeting**).
3. Century Membership (this includes any publication of the organization, Century Membership Pin, and voting privileges at the General Meeting). Payments to complete this category may be paid in Annual increments.
4. Life Membership (this includes any publication of the organization, Life Membership Pin, and voting privileges at the General Meeting). Payments to complete this category may be paid in Annual increments.
5. Harry Hosier Membership (this includes any publication of the organization, voting privileges at the General Meeting, a Harry Hosier Pin and Certificate). Payments to complete this category may be paid in Annual increments.
6. BMCR Partners Membership is available for Churches, agencies and institutions related to the UMC. (This includes any publication of the organization and two Annual registrations). Payments to complete this category may be paid in Annual increments.
7. Associate Membership (this includes any publication of the organization and voice privileges but no vote at the General Meeting).

Every member paying a membership fee shall receive a membership card in accordance with the type of membership paid.

BLANK LINE 1 of 3
BLANK LINE 2 of 3
BLANK LINE 3 of 3

Approved March 2014	St Louis, Missouri 47 th Annual Meeting Rev. Dr. Cedrick Bridgeforth, Board Chairperson Rev. Dr. Ouida Lee, Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairperson
---------------------------	---

ARTICLE VIII
STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. In order to fulfill its purpose, the Board of Directors shall maintain the following standing committees and such other committees as the Board may determine essential to the implementation of its several responsibilities. The Committees shall be appointed by the Chairperson and confirmed by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Standing committees shall be: the Program Committee, Personnel Committee, Finance Committee, Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Membership Committee, Advocacy Committee, Communications Committee, and Nominations Committee.

Section 3. There shall be a continuing Constitution & Bylaw Committee charged with the responsibility for interpreting and making recommendations for constitutional & bylaw changes and amendments. Each jurisdictional Constitution and Bylaw Chairperson shall serve on the committee.

Section 4. There shall be a Program Committee which will be responsible for the development of the organization's quadrennial program focus that shall address and monitor critical issues. Quadrennium focus shall be determined at the beginning of each quadrennium (in concert with General Conference) to guide the work of the National, Jurisdictional, and local caucuses in carrying out the learning opportunities of the organization. The program areas will also include but not be limited to the planning of the General Meeting, the Youth Harambee and the David L. White Laity Academy. The Program Committee shall include the Program Chairs from each jurisdiction, or designee.

Section 5. There shall be a Membership Committee which shall be responsible, in cooperation with the Office Staff, for the development and implementation of membership recruitment models. The committee composition should include the Membership Chairpersons from each Jurisdiction. The Committee will be responsible for reviewing the membership fees and presenting recommendations for changes to the Board of Directors for approval. Each jurisdictional membership chair shall serve on the committee, or their designee.

Section 6. There shall be a Finance Committee which shall be responsible, in cooperation with the Office Staff and the Treasurer for fiscal management. It shall recommend a budget and budgetary adjustments as well as implementation of the adopted budget. The Jurisdiction Finance Chairs, or their designee, shall serve on the committee.

Section 7. There shall be a Personnel Committee which shall be responsible, in cooperation with the Office Staff, for staff management, job description and personnel policies.

Section 8. There shall be a Nominating Committee composed of the five Jurisdictional Nominating Committee Chairpersons, or designee, and additional Board Members appointed by the Chairperson. The Committee is responsible for preparing the Election Slate for the General Meeting using the following process:

1. The Nominating Committee shall be given a list provided by the five (5) Jurisdictions of persons whom they wish to nominate to serve in the At-Large Category.
2. The Nominating Committee will present its report to the membership in the first Business Session of the General Meeting.
 - a. The report will include nominees for the At-Large Board Category positions to be filled.
 - b. The report will include persons nominated to serve as Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer of the Board of Directors.

Approved March 2014	St Louis, Missouri 47 th Annual Meeting Rev. Dr. Cedrick Bridgeforth, Board Chairperson Rev. Dr. Ouida Lee, Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairperson
--	---

c. The Chair and the Vice Chair of the Board shall alternate between Clergy and Lay. When the Chair is Clergy and the Vice-Chair is Laity, the next term, the Chair will be Laity and the Vice-Chair will be Clergy. Both the Chair and the Vice Chair are eligible to run for a second term.

3. The Nominating Committee will receive nominations from the floor no sooner than the Second Business Session of the General Meeting. If there are fewer than three (3) Business Sessions, the Nominating Committee may receive nominations from the floor at the time of the presentation of the initial nominations report.

4. The Nominating Committee will supervise and conclude elections by the body before the Final Business Session of the General Meeting.

When there are vacancies on the Board, the Nominating Committee shall be empowered to make nominations to fill vacancies as they occur. The Board shall elect, subject to confirmation by the General Meeting, those nominated.

Section 9. The Advocacy Committee shall be empowered to educate, utilize social principles, maximize use of United Methodist resources, and eradicate racism. Each jurisdiction shall have a representative serve on the committee.

Section 10. There shall be a Communications Committee composed of the 5 Jurisdictional Communications Coordinators and others designated by the Chairperson. The Communications Committee is responsible for redesign of the organization's website with links to various social media sites and outlets, assist with developing a Communications and Marketing Plan, and the creation of a Communications Protocol Manual.

Section 11. All Committees of the Board shall be amenable to the Board.

Section 12. All members of the Board of Directors shall be appointed to serve on one or more of the Committees of the Board.

Section 13. The Chairperson may appoint additional Chairs for Ad-Hoc committees as needed in consultation with the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX INCORPORATION

BMCR shall be incorporated not-for-profit by virtue of the laws of the State of Georgia and seek exemption from Federal Income Taxes under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as now in effect or subsequently amended.

ARTICLE X COMPENSATION

Officers and Directors of the Corporation shall serve without compensation.

ARTICLE XI CORPORATE SEAL

The Seal of the Corporation shall bear the name of the Corporation and the year of its incorporation.

BLANK LINE 1 of 3
BLANK LINE 2 of 3
BLANK LINE 3 of 3

Approved March 2014	St Louis, Missouri 47 th Annual Meeting Rev. Dr. Cedrick Bridgeforth, Board Chairperson Rev. Dr. Ouida Lee, Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairperson
---------------------------	---

**ARTICLE XII
DISSOLUTION OF CORPORATION**

The existence of this Corporation shall be perpetual, however, in the event of the Corporation's dissolution, the distribution of liquidation of all properties and assets are to be determined by the Board of Directors in a manner consistent with the provisions of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**ARTICLE XIII
AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS**

Any provision in the Bylaws of BMCR, may be amended by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Board of Directors at any full meeting of the Board provided that a written notice of intention to amend such provisions will be available to the membership electronically and the website electronically to the Board of Directors fifteen (15) days prior to said meeting

**ARTICLE XIV
FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of BMCR shall be fixed as the calendar year (January-- December) with audit of receipts and disbursements made available to the General Membership at each General Meeting.

-----**NO ADDITIONAL ARTICLES**-----

Approved March 2014	St Louis, Missouri 47th Annual Meeting Rev. Dr. Cedrick Bridgeforth, Board Chairperson Rev. Dr. Ouida Lee, Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chairperson
------------------------------------	--