

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS UNITED METHODIST MEN
LOUISIANA CONFERENCE – THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Article I
NAME

The name of this organization shall be United Methodist Men of the Louisiana Conference, the United Methodist Church, hereinafter abbreviated U.M.M.

Article II
HEADQUARTERS

The U.M.M. headquarters will be the Council of Ministries Office, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Article III
PURPOSE

The United Methodist Men of the local Church is the heart of the Men's program. The purpose of the Conference U.M.M. is to challenge, deepen, inspire, motivate men of the Church, and to assist the Conference, District, and the local Church organization in developing Christian discipleship among men, and help involve men in the total ministry of the Church.

Article IV
AUTHORITY

The United Methodist Men shall have the authority to promote its work in accordance with the plans, responsibilities, and policies of the section on United Methodist Men under the direction of General Commission on United Methodist Men. The U.M.M. of the Louisiana Conference shall be autonomous with direct relations to Conference Boards through having members on the Board of Laity, Board of Discipleship, Conference Committee on Nominations, and Council of Ministries. A summary report of the past year's activities shall be given verbally at each Annual conference and a written copy included in each Conference Journal.

Article V OBJECTIVES

The general objectives of the organization shall be to provide inspiration, leadership, and support to the District and the local Methodist men Fellowships.

Assist United Methodist Men to:

- A. Seek daily Christ's way of life; to bear witness to this way in business dealings and in social contacts; to engage in some definite Christian service.
- B. Study and become familiar with the United Methodist Church, its organizations, and its doctrines.
- C. Promote personal evangelism.
- D. Develop Christian fellowship in the church, especially among men by promoting Christian understanding.
- E. Work with the Bishop, District Superintendent, and Pastors in promoting the program of the Church.
- F. To cooperate with other units of U.M.M. in the promotion of District, Annual Conference, and general church-wide projects. A special effort of cooperation will be made with General Commission on United Methodist Men.
- G. To provide training events for Conference and District leaders.
- H. To assist District organizations and local units of U.M.M. to obtain their goals and objectives.

Article VI MEMBERSHIP

The membership shall be the United Methodist men of the Conference. The resident Bishop and all clergy members of the Annual Conference shall be members of the conference organization of U.M.M.

Article VII ORGANIZATION

The men of the Louisiana Conference shall be organized into local Church United Methodist Men's fellowships. These units shall constitute Districts in accordance with the Districts of the Louisiana Conference United Methodist Church. These Districts shall constitute the Louisiana Conference United Methodist Men. Each local area and District shall have its own duly elected officers as set forth in the By-laws for that particular level of organization.

The Louisiana U.M.M. shall be governed by a body known as the "Executive Board", consisting of the President, who shall serve as chairman; Vice-President; Secretary; Treasurer; Chairman, Nominating Committee; all Committee chairmen appointed by the President; and District Presidents. The Executive Board shall meet quarterly, and/or at the call of the President, at such times and places as he designates.

Officers of the United Methodist men shall be:

1. President
2. Vice President (3)
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer, who shall also be Director of Finance
5. Chairman, Nominations Committee
6. Other Chairman as needed

The following shall be advisory members:

1. The Bishop of the Louisiana Conference
2. Conference Lay Leader
3. Past president of the Louisiana U.M.M.
4. Cabinet Liaison appointed by the Bishop

An Executive Committee, consisting of the President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer shall have full power and authority to act for the Board between meetings.

Article VIII BY-LAWS

I. Duties of officers

A. President

- a. The President shall be the Executive Officer of the organization, and it shall be his duty to preside at all regular and special meetings.
 - 1) He shall have general oversight of all work of the U.M.M. in the Conference.
 - 2) He shall be the convener and preside over the Executive Board and Executive Committee meetings.

B. Vice Presidents

1. First Vice President

- A. Will be considered as President-Elect.

- B. Will assist the President in implementing present programs, and will enjoy an "on the job training period".
 - C. Shall serve as Program Director with the following duties and responsibilities:
 - a. The very nature and spirit of the U.M.M., purpose, working toward deepening the spiritual lives of men through dedication to Jesus Christ, personal witness, and evangelistic outreach, focuses major attention and emphasis upon this office.
 - b. Shall direct and coordinate the mission efforts of the United Methodist Men. He shall be responsible to seek out, evaluate project budgets, and recommend to the Executive Board programs for their approval.
 - c. Shall familiarize himself with general Church U.M.M. goals and programs, and promote them in the Conference, District, and local U.M.M.'s.
 - d. It shall be the duty of the Program Director to coordinate and bring to the attention of the U.M.M. important events scheduled at National, Annual Conference, District, and community levels.
2. Shall encourage District and local units to provide retreats and special events for men, and assist when possible in their planning and publicity.
 3. Help plan and promote annual Men's Day celebration, and Laity Day throughout the Conference.
 4. Help plan and promote any additional activity as directed by the Executive Board.
 5. Shall preside over meetings in the absence of the President.
- 6. The Second Vice President(s)**
- A. Shall work under the direction of the President and shall be in charge of Conference U.M.M. Districts located in his assigned area.
 - B. Training of U.M.M. leaders will be one of the responsibilities of this office.
 - C. Shall preside over meetings in the absence of the President and First Vice President.

C. Secretary

- a. Shall keep all records of the Louisiana Conference United Methodist Men. These records shall include the minutes from all meetings of the Executive Board, Committees, and the annual meeting of the U.M.M.
- b. Minutes shall be presented for approval at the next meeting of each individual unit, and to the Executive Board at any meeting.

D. Treasurer

- a. Shall collect and disburse all funds or recommend payment through Conference Office U.M.M. funds.
- b. Adequate, orderly, and proper records shall be kept.
- c. A written report shall be made to each meeting of the Executive Board.
- d. Disbursements shall be made upon authorization of the Executive Board.
- e. Shall serve as Chairman of the work area on Finance.
- f. Will receive all requests for funds.
 - 1) Budgetary Fund requests shall come from all officers and will be evaluated on the basis of need for the function, or continuing function, and the growth of the U.M.M. in the Conference.
- g. Will prepare the Annual Budget.

E. Nominations Committee

- a. The Chairman shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Conference U.M.M. at least one year prior to the election of the other Conference U.M.M. Officers.
- b. The President of the Conference U.M.M. shall select at least five (5) members from among the District Presidents, or Vice Presidents, to serve on the Nominating Committee.
- c. The Conference President shall be an ex-officio member of the committee.
- d. The nominations Committee is charged with the nominating of all elected leaders of the U.M.M. as outlined in the By-laws.
- e. The Committee shall take all care that geographical areas and ethnic groups of the Conference are represented.
- f. Each nominee for office shall be contacted personally by a member of the Nominations Committee for acceptance and commitment to the office nominated.

F. District President

- a. Shall serve on the Executive Board of the Conference U.M.M.
- b. Shall be elected according to the rules of their representative district.

The President of the Louisiana Conference U.M.M. shall have the power and the authority to establish additional committees, which are not otherwise provided for herein, and to name the Chairman thereof. The President shall prepare a description of the duties and responsibilities of each position to be appointed and present it to the Executive Board for approval.

II. Elections and terms of office

No man shall be considered for election to Conference president of U.M.M. unless he has served for at least two years immediately prior to election in a Conference U.M.M. position, either elected or appointed, or as a District President.

- A. At the time of elections the Committee on Nominations shall present nominees for office, per By-laws. Only those members who are active in a local chartered unit are eligible for nomination.
- B. Elections for Conference U.M.M. President shall take place at the annual meeting of the Conference U.M.M. in the year the General Conference is held and before the holding of the Annual Conference. There shall be an opportunity for nominations from the floor for any position. Election may be by acclamation ballot, with a majority vote sufficient for election. Other Conference Officers shall be elected every two years with one of the elections coinciding with the election of Conference President.
- C. The Executive Board, upon recommendation by Committee on Nominations, shall fill vacancies occurring in the elected leadership of the Conference U.M.M.

D. Tenure

1. Elected leaders shall not hold the same office for more than four consecutive years and shall not hold elective offices for more than eight consecutive years.
 - a. The only exception being that the Conference President may be allowed to serve for four years after he has served in other positions for up to eight years.

E. Terms of Office

1. Elected leaders shall assume office immediately at close of Annual Conference in the year they are elected.

F. Expense of the Board

1. The policies controlling the expenses incurred by the Executive Board in the performance of their duties, and the Executive Board, in line with adopted budget, shall determine the expense and costs of the programs and projects.

Article IX MEETINGS

The Louisiana Conference U.M.M. shall operate on a yearly basis, January 1 through December 31.

There shall be at least one annual meeting of the mass membership, held before Annual Conference, and will include a business session. Every second year officers will be elected for a two year period, except the President whose term shall be for four years, as outlined in the By-laws.

Notice of all called meetings will be given, in writing, to all Executive Board members at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

The President may call the Executive Committee into meeting at any time, and this committee shall have full power and authority to act for the Executive Board.

Meetings called by the President will be at times and places as he determines.

Article X AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONAL BY-LAWS

Amendment to these By-laws may be made by majority vote at the annual meeting of the U.M.M.

Proposed amendments to these By-laws must be sent to the Conference U.M.M. Secretary at least sixty (60) days prior to annual meeting. The Secretary will then promulgate the suggested changes through the Publicity Chairman, using mail and media resources to inform the Conference U.M.M. of proposed changes.

I. Amendment of Article VIII. Section II. D. 1.

In an effort to maintain continuity, to allow Joe Kelley time to finish instituted projects, and to allow Wallace Smith time to prepare to assume the presidency, this one time Louisiana Conference United Methodist Men Constitution amendment of Section II. D. 1. to allow Joe Kelley to succeed himself as President of the Louisiana Conference United Methodist Men has been voted upon and agreed to by the Louisiana Conference United Methodist Men Executive Board.

The duration of this amendment will be from June, 2004 to June, 2008 at which time it will expire and become null and void.