

## BYLAWS

### OF

## INDIANA-MICHIGAN MENNONITE CONFERENCE, INC.

### ARTICLE 1. IDENTIFICATION

Section 1. Name and Incorporation. The name of this organization is Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference, Inc., and is commonly known as Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference, and is sometimes referred to in these Bylaws as Conference. It is an affiliation of Mennonite Church USA congregations located primarily in Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee. It is incorporated under the laws of the State of Indiana.

Section 2. Affiliation. Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference, Inc. is a participating conference in the Mennonite Church USA Delegate Assembly and its affiliated boards and agencies. The Conference appoints delegates to the Delegate Assembly and three representatives to the Constituency Leaders Council as provided for in the Bylaws for Mennonite Church USA.

Section 3. Seal. Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference, Inc. may have a seal which shall have impressed upon it the name "Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference" and the word "seal" in the middle thereof; provided, however, that no seal shall be necessary to bind Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference or for any other purpose with respect to documents executed by or on behalf of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference.

Section 4. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference shall begin on the first day of July and end at the close of the last day of June next succeeding.

Section 5. Confession of Faith. Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference accepts biblical faith as expressed in the stream of Anabaptist Mennonite documents including the Schleitheim Confession (1527), the Dordrecht Confession (1632), the Mennonite Confession of Faith (1963), Affirming our Faith in Word and Deed (1979), and Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective (1995).

### ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE

Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference is established by its member congregations to joyfully follow Jesus by cultivating a missional imagination in every congregation. The purpose is detailed in the Articles of Incorporation. Additionally, the Conference unites members in worship of God and fellowship with one another in openness to the Holy Spirit's presence, guidance and empowerment, and in the proclamation and embodiment of Christ's worldwide reign. The Conference pursues its purpose by:

- A. arranging settings for common fellowship, worship, study and discernment;
- B. providing structures for mutual accountability among the individual members and congregations;
- C. leading and assisting congregations in their local, regional and worldwide witness;
- D. enabling congregations in their provision of adequate congregational leadership.

### **ARTICLE 3. CONGREGATIONS**

Section 1. Local Congregations. Local congregations are the basic organizational unit of the Conference. Committed, caring communities of faith are the bases from which Christ is proclaimed in word and deed. Individual members of the congregation shall participate regularly in the life of a member congregation. A congregation is a local assembly of God's people united in worship, nurture, fellowship, evangelism, proclamation, service, discernment, reconciliation, mutual care and discipline.

Section 2. Eligibility. A congregation is eligible for Conference membership when it can certify all of the following guidelines:

- A. The congregation maintains a list of members who have covenanted together in a common life of obedience to Christ;
- B. The congregation confesses a faith consistent with the historical Mennonite confessions of faith (Article 1, Section 5);
- C. The congregation provides for spiritual and administrative leadership with adequate material support for leaders;
- D. The congregation is willing to give and receive counsel in its relationship with nearby member congregations and the Conference;
- E. The congregation supports the work of the Conference with active participation, prayers, personnel and funds.
- F. The congregation meets and commits to the requirements for congregations as described in the Bylaws of Mennonite Church USA, Inc.

Section 3. Securing Membership with Conference.

A. A worshiping group may make application to become a member congregation by contacting the Conference office.

B. When processing applications for membership, the responsible Conference leadership groups will clarify both rights and responsibilities of member congregations.

C. Upon satisfactory certification of the group's eligibility, the Missional Leadership Team shall commend the congregation to the Conference Assembly for reception as a member congregation.

D. The Conference Assembly shall take action in response to the Missional Leadership Team recommendation.

#### Section 4. Terminating Membership with Conference.

A. Request by a congregation for termination of its membership with Conference shall be referred to the Missional Leadership Team for procedures similar to its application for membership.

B. If a congregation forsakes its eligibility, or fails to carry out its responsibilities as a conference member, its membership with the Conference may be terminated, after due counsel with the congregation, upon recommendation of the Missional Leadership Team and action of the Conference Assembly. All related decisions shall be properly recorded.

C. Where there is dispute regarding ownership of a property, the Missional Leadership Team shall provide for appropriate mediation among all concerned. The group that maintains relationship with Conference receives priority.

Section 5. Vote Requirement for All Membership Status Recommendation. All votes by the delegates at a Conference Assembly regarding membership status shall require at least a 2/3rds majority (66 2/3%) vote of all votes cast in a duly called delegate meeting.

Section 6. Rights and Privileges. The local congregation shall have certain rights and privileges as a member of the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference.

A. The congregation shall have the authority to determine the criteria and responsibility to implement the process for individual membership of persons joining their congregation, consistent with the provisions of these Bylaws.

B. The congregation shall retain the right to manage its own affairs, including but not limited to its organization, personnel, programming and management of its property.

C. The congregation shall retain the privilege of withdrawing from the Conference.

D. Through its representatives (delegates) to the Conference Assembly, the congregation shall participate in the planning and decision-making of the Conference.

E. The congregation shall have no rights to any property of the Conference by virtue of its membership in the Conference.

Section 7. Duties as a Member of the Conference. As a member of the Conference, the congregation shall have the responsibility to be loyal to the work of the Conference. Specifically:

A. Each congregation is expected to send delegate(s) to every session of the Conference Assembly and shall actively seek to further the interests of the Conference during and between sessions.

B. Each congregation shall, insofar as it is possible, call ministers that are certified or registered by the Conference.

C. Each congregation shall make provisions to contribute financially to the work of the Conference.

D. Each congregation retains the right to determine the methods of its support and designation of its contribution.

E. The Missional Leadership Team or its designee will periodically review these duties and mutual expectations with pastors and congregations.

F. Each congregation is to take seriously the need to be in open dialogue with members and leaders of the Conference, to share the concerns of the Conference and to receive representatives that come to share the mission and perspectives of the Conference. If there is a serious disagreement, either party may initiate discussion to seek a resolution.

Section 8. Organization and Leadership. Congregations shall organize themselves to enhance the growth and involvement of each individual member in the life and mission of the church. Individual members shall have access to decision-making processes and shall be responsible for mutual accountability with other individual members.

Leadership structures shall provide assignments for both spiritual oversight and program coordination. Spiritual oversight shall be assigned to a group such as a board of elders, including pastor(s) and other persons designated by Conference. Program coordination shall be assigned to a group such as a congregational cabinet. If assigned to separate groups, there shall be clear provision for liaison between those responsible for spiritual oversight and program coordination.

The congregation is encouraged to appoint delegates to the Mennonite Church USA Delegate Assembly as provided for in the Bylaws for Mennonite Church USA.

Section 9. Member Congregations. The Conference shall maintain a permanent record containing the names and addresses of all member congregations. With respect to any notice given or action taken, the Conference may rely upon the last membership information supplied to it seven (7) days prior to such notice or action.

Section 10. Collegial Relationship. Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference is interested in relationships with Christian congregations outside our community of congregations through a designation of "Collegial Relationship". Such a relationship is initiated and maintained by Area Councils. A Collegial Relationship does not imply any rights and privileges of membership. The Ministry Credentialing Team will maintain a policy governing these relationships.

#### **ARTICLE 4. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP WITHIN THE CONGREGATION**

Section 1. Individual Members. While congregations form the primary organizational unit of the Conference, all individual members of member congregations are considered members of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference by virtue of their individual membership in the congregation. Individual members of these congregations are represented in various conference groups such as the Conference Assembly, and area councils by designated congregational delegates and leaders. Individual members of congregations have the right and privilege to attend all public sessions of Conference, to speak and express their opinions, concerns, and questions on all or any Conference issues. Individual members may not vote on matters before the Conference Assembly unless they are voting delegates.

Section 2. Emerging and Affiliated Congregations. Individual members of an emerging congregation sponsored by the Conference or an affiliated congregation shall be considered individual members of the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference.

Section 3. Becoming Members. Persons may become individual members of a congregation by baptism upon personal confession of faith, by affirmation of previous believer's baptism and current profession of faith, or by letter of transfer from other congregations of like faith. The receiving congregation shall discern persons' readiness for individual membership and shall be responsible for ongoing care and nurture in their walk of faith.

Section 4. Termination of Membership. An individual's membership in a congregation may be terminated by personal request, by continued neglect of participation following counsel, by sinful and/or willful disobedience to God and the church with failure to repent. Such termination shall be processed with compassion and concern for reconciliation with time for reflection and repentance.

## ARTICLE 5. CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY

Section 1. Role and Function. There shall be a Conference Assembly convened as the gathered units of Conference and representing all member congregations and Conference leaders. The Conference Assembly shall provide for mutual fellowship, accountability, worship, deliberation and discernment. It shall review programs, establish policies and select leaders as provided in these Bylaws and in harmony with the purposes for which the Conference was established.

### Section 2. Voting Delegates.

A. Voting delegates to the Conference Assembly shall include the following:

1. All ordained and licensed ministers with active congregational assignments;
2. One elder or comparable leader from each congregation;
3. One delegate representing financial matters for each congregation;
4. One additional delegate for each 150 members or fraction thereof from each congregation;
5. All members of the Conference Missional Leadership Team and Advisory Council;
6. Any other Conference positions as designated in the Bylaws.

B. If the congregation has a congregationally approved pastoral position that requires a ministry credential, and no one is currently named to that position, they may appoint an alternate from within the congregation with a ministry credential to serve until a credentialed person is named to the position.

C. Delegates shall be members of sound faith and judgment with responsible congregational participation. Ideally, delegates shall be broadly representative of their congregation, including women and men, older and younger. Each congregation shall determine the length of terms for delegates named under (2), (3), and (4) of Paragraph A above, and may appoint alternates for the delegate positions.

### Section 3. Meetings.

A. The Conference Assembly shall meet annually in regular session.

B. The time and place of meeting shall be determined by the Missional Leadership Team, with consideration given to any invitation of a congregation or group of congregations.

C. Special meetings may be called by the Missional Leadership Team with at least twenty-one (21) days written notice to the delegates of the member congregations (which notice will include the time, date, and place) and the purpose for the meeting along with the proposed action. Notice to the delegates shall be deemed notice to the member congregation represented by the delegates.

D. The Missional Leadership Team shall serve as the Program Committee or designate a subcommittee to function in its behalf.

#### Section 4. Decision Making.

A. The Conference Assembly and other Conference entities shall seek consensus or broad affirmation in all decisions.

B. Normally floor privileges are granted first to all delegates, Conference Assembly committee members, members of the program boards and committees. Floor privileges will be extended to others during discussion at the Moderator's discretion.

C. Each conference delegate will be eligible to cast one vote. There is no provision for proxy voting.

D. The majority of votes cast will determine a matter, except when the Conference Assembly agrees otherwise or as otherwise provided in the Bylaws.

E. A quorum for conducting official business of the Conference Assembly shall be those delegates to the Assembly who appear for any duly called meeting.

F. With respect to those situations or matters not covered by the Bylaws, decisions shall be in harmony with procedures generally known as Robert's Rules of Order.

#### Section 5. Officers. The officers of the Conference Assembly and their duties shall be:

A. The Moderator shall preside at all sessions of the Conference Assembly and give leadership to the interests and spiritual welfare of the Conference Assembly and serve as its official representative. The term of office shall be two years.

B. A Moderator-elect shall be elected every two years and after serving a two-year term shall succeed to the office of Moderator for a two-year term. At the request of the Moderator, or in case of the absence or disability of the Moderator, the Moderator-elect shall exercise all rights and duties of the Moderator.

C. The term of office of Moderator and Moderator-elect begins at the close of the annual meeting of the Conference Assembly at which they are first selected.

Section 6. Action By Ballot Without Meeting.

A. An action that may be taken at an annual, regular, or a special meeting of Congregational members may be taken without a meeting if the Conference delivers a written ballot to every delegate entitled to vote on the matter.

B. The written ballot must set forth each proposed action and provide an opportunity to vote for or against each proposed action.

C. Approval by written ballot is valid only when the following occurs:

1. The number of votes cast by ballot equals or exceeds the quorum required to be present at a meeting authorizing the action.
2. The number of approvals equals or exceeds the number of votes that would be required to approve the matter at a meeting in which the total amount of votes cast was the same as the number of votes cast by ballot .

D. A solicitation for votes by written ballot must:

1. Indicate the number of responses needed to meet the quorum requirements.
2. State the percentage of approvals necessary to approve each matter other than the election of Directors.
3. Specify the time by which a ballot must be received by the Corporation to be counted.
4. For purposes of this provision, a written ballot and the voting thereof may be in the form of an electronic communication.

Section 7. Meeting by Conference Call. Congregational members of the Conference may participate in a special meeting of the members by or through the use of any means of communication by which all delegates of the Congregational members participating may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting.

Section 8. Record Date; Delegate List. Each member congregation is responsible to select its delegates and to maintain on file with the Conference a list of delegates with the name, phone number, and mailing and e-mail address for each delegate. Each member congregation



may modify such list at any time. Member congregations shall notify their delegates, and shall also notify the Missional Leadership Team, of any change in the names of the delegates.

## **ARTICLE 6. MISSIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Section 1. Missional Leadership Team. The Moderator and Moderator-elect shall be members of the Missional Leadership Team and the Moderator shall chair the Missional Leadership Team. The Missional Leadership Team shall be made up of a total of seven members, which total includes the Moderator and Moderator-elect, with leadership gifts who are committed to the vision and mission of the Conference. The members will represent the diversity in the Conference (geography, gender, age, race, theological perspective, etc.), but no specific seat will represent any particular group. The five additional Missional Leadership Team members shall be nominated by the Gifts Development Team and affirmed by the delegate body. Officers other than the Moderator and Moderator-elect are not automatically members of the Missional Leadership Team, but may be considered for such position by the Gifts Development Team.

Section 2. Terms of the Missional Leadership Team Members. Missional Leadership Team positions other than the Moderator and Moderator-elect will be for three-year terms established on a staggered basis so that certain terms expire each year, and will be limited to three consecutive terms in the same assignment. Time spent as a Moderator-elect or Moderator will not be counted toward the three-year terms or the term for other Missional Leadership Team positions.

Section 3. Role and Function of the Missional Leadership Team. The Missional Leadership Team shall set overall vision for the Conference, in consultation with the Conference Pastor. It shall provide oversight for the Conference body and has a primary responsibility of cultivating healthy relationships. It shall function as the Board of Directors and Trustees between meetings of the Conference Assembly, acting for the Conference and responsible for the Conference Assembly. The Missional Leadership Team shall provide for Conference staffing needs in harmony with the Bylaws.

### Section 4. Meetings.

A. Regular meetings of the Missional Leadership Team shall be held three times a year and/or at such times as determined by the Missional Leadership Team.

B. Special meetings of the Missional Leadership Team may be called by the Moderator on five days notice to each member, either personally or by mail, by telegram, or by email, utilizing in each case the last address of the member registered with the Missional Leadership Team. Special meetings shall be called by the Moderator or the Conference Pastor in like manner and on like notice on the written request of a majority of the members of the Missional Leadership Team.

C. A majority of the members of the Missional Leadership Team shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for transaction of business.

D. A majority vote of all of the members of the Missional Leadership Team shall be required to transact official business.

E. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

Section 5. Action Without Meeting. Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Missional Leadership Team may be taken without a meeting if prior to such action a written consent to such action is signed by all members of the Missional Leadership Team and such written consent is filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Missional Leadership Team. To the extent permitted by law, a written consent shall be deemed to exist when the email address from which the affirmative response is emailed corresponds to the address registered for the member who is making the response. Written copies of such email responses shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Missional Leadership Team.

Section 6. Conference Call Meetings. Any or all of the Missional Leadership Team may participate in a meeting of the Missional Leadership Team by means of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment by which all persons participating in the meeting communicate with each other. Such participation in this matter constitutes presence in person at the meeting.

Section 7. Vacancies. As of the effective date of these Bylaws, the Missional Leadership Team is responsible for filling any vacancy positions elected by the Conference Assembly for the interim until the normal expiration of the term so filled. Vacancies in the Missional Leadership Team (other than the Moderator) shall be filled by the Missional Leadership Team in consultation with the Gifts Development Team, and be affirmed by the delegates.

## **ARTICLE 7. ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Section 1. Advisory Council. There shall be an Advisory Council whose purpose is to carefully consider issues presented to it by the Missional Leadership Team. The Moderator-elect will chair the Advisory Council. The Advisory Council will consist of the following:

A. The Missional Leadership Team will define various geographic areas designed to reflect the balance of affiliated congregations. The Gifts Development Team will identify two persons as representatives from each of the geographic areas, and who will be affirmed by delegates from that geographic area.

B. The Missional Leadership Team will appoint to the Advisory Council one person representing African American interests and one person representing Hispanic interests, based upon recommendations for such representatives from the Gifts Development Team.

C. The Missional Leadership Team will appoint such other persons as it desires to the Advisory Council with interests or gifts in the area of justice/peace, nurture, service and evangelism, and such other areas of expertise as the Missional Leadership Team may determine. The Missional Leadership Team may consult with the Gifts Development Team with regard to such matters but is not required to do so.

Section 2. Terms of the Advisory Council Members. Advisory Council members will serve three-year terms established on a staggered basis so that certain terms expire each year. All Advisory Council positions, with the exception of the Moderator-elect who will serve as stated above, will be limited to three terms on the Advisory Council. Time spent as the Moderator-elect will not be counted toward the three term limit.

Section 3. Role and Function of the Advisory Council. The Advisory Council shall exercise listening and discernment by serving as a council of Conference elders and giving counsel to the Missional Leadership Team. The Advisory Council may invite representatives from the various church programs, such as Bethany Christian Schools and Amigo Centre, to attend meetings of the Advisory Council, but such invited representatives by the Advisory Council will not have a vote on the proceedings of the Advisory Council.

Section 4. Meeting Frequency. The Advisory Council will meet twice a year with the expectation that they will discuss one or two issues each meeting.

## **ARTICLE 8. PROGRAM COMMISSIONS/TEAMS**

Section 1. Guidelines. Program commissions/teams shall be established as needed by the Conference Assembly to plan and implement specific portions of the work of the Conference in line with the goals established by the Missional Leadership Team. The Missional Leadership Team will make recommendations to the Conference Assembly on areas where a commission/team should be established, and which will include ministry credentialing. Commissions/teams are accountable to the Missional Leadership Team, and the commission/team will participate in a major review of their work and responsibilities regularly. Commissions/teams shall give an annual written report of accomplishments to the Missional Leadership Team and subsequently to the Conference Assembly.

Section 2. Formation. Each commission/team shall consist of five members with three-year staggered terms. The chairperson, secretary and one commission/team member shall be affirmed by the Conference delegate body. Two additional members shall be appointed by the Missional Leadership Team. All commission/team members will be limited to three consecutive terms in the same assignment or on the same commission.

Commissions/teams may provide for committees or ad-hoc task forces to assist in their work.

## ARTICLE 9. MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY RESOURCES

Section 1. Area Councils. Congregations in given geographic areas shall be grouped by the Missional Leadership Team for purposes of cooperative relations, fellowship, service and counsel.

Pastoral leaders or designated congregational leaders of such congregations may invite other credentialed persons in special ministry assignments to join them in serving as an area council. They shall elect their own chairpersons and meet at least bimonthly.

Section 2. Ministry Credentials. Pastors and those exercising other ministries shall be called by the voice of the congregation and licensed or ordained for their ministry upon approval of the Ministry Credentialing Team. The Conference office shall maintain a record of licensed and ordained ministers whose credentials are recognized by the Ministry Credentialing Team.

Pastoral leaders shall carry responsibilities as designated by the congregation and Ministry Credentialing Team. They shall serve in harmony with qualifications established by the Ministry Credentialing Team.

Ministry credential qualifications, definitions, maintenance requirements, forfeiture causes, and procedures are stated in the Conference policy manual.

## ARTICLE 10. GIFTS DEVELOPMENT

Section 1. Gifts Development Team. A Gifts Development Team of five members shall be responsible to recommend members of Conference to serve in the offices designated in the bylaws.

Four members shall be nominated by the Missional Leadership Team for affirmation by the Conference Assembly and each shall serve three-year terms which can be renewed, and with the terms being staggered to support continuity. In addition, a chairperson shall be appointed by the Missional Leadership Team.

Section 2. Nomination Procedure. The Gifts Development Team will consult with the Missional Leadership Team in regard to all nominees provided by the Gifts Development Team. The nominees shall be interviewed concerning their interest, call and ability to serve.

Delegates may present additional nominees to the slate on the floor of annual sessions with the nominee's prior consent and in consultation with Gifts Development Team and Missional Leadership Team.

## ARTICLE 11. OFFICERS AND CONFERENCE STAFF

Section 1. Officers of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference. The officers of Conference shall consist of a Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Conference Pastor, and such other officers as the Missional Leadership Team may determine from time to time.

A. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be selected annually by the Missional Leadership Team. Their duties shall include those duties provided for in these Bylaws, those duties which usually pertain to said respective officers, and those duties which are specifically assigned by the Missional Leadership Team from time to time. Any duties specifically assigned by the Missional Leadership Team are subject to limitations imposed by the Missional Leadership Team.

B. Unless otherwise determined by the Missional Leadership Team, the Secretary duties shall include recording minutes of the Conference Assembly and the Missional Leadership Team and authenticating records. The Secretary and Treasurer may be removed by the Missional Leadership Team at any time, with or without cause. Unless otherwise provided herein, the Secretary and Treasurer will serve for a term of one year and until their successors are elected and shall qualify, unless removed earlier by the Missional Leadership Team. In the case of any vacancy in the office of Secretary or Treasurer, the vacancy shall be filled by the Missional Leadership Team unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws. No two offices shall be held by the same person at the same time.

C. Unless otherwise directed by the Missional Leadership Team or the Conference Assembly;

- a. Documents on behalf of the Conference involving real estate, such as deeds, easements, mortgages and documents involving significant financial obligations, such as notes and lines of credit, shall have two signatures, with one signature being the Moderator or Moderator-elect and one signature being the Conference Pastor or Conference Administrator.
- b. Checks and investment management instructions may be signed by any one of the Conference Pastor, the Conference Administrator, or the Treasurer.

### Section 2. Conference Pastor.

A. The Missional Leadership Team shall recommend a Conference Pastor for appointment by the Conference Assembly and with accountability to the Missional Leadership Team. The Conference Pastor shall serve as chief executive officer providing general supervision for the work of the Conference and personnel supervision for Conference staff.

B. The Conference Pastor will work with the Missional Leadership Team in developing a vision for the Conference and implement the vision with the help of other Conference staff and may employ office staff according to Conference personnel policies. The Conference Pastor will serve as a liaison to Mennonite Church USA and Constituency Leaders Council.

C. The Conference Pastor shall serve for a three-year term and may be reappointed for additional three-year terms.

Section 3. Staff Ministers. The Conference Pastor, in combination with the Missional Leadership Team, may appoint other staff ministers, subject to confirmation by the Conference Assembly.

## ARTICLE 12. RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1. Conference-Owned Organizations. Conference-owned organizations shall be operated by a board of directors of seven to twelve members which shall be accountable to the Conference Missional Leadership Team. Ordinarily boards shall be made up of three members elected by Conference Assembly for three-year staggered terms; additional members appointed by Conference Missional Leadership Team for three-year staggered terms; and the Conference Moderator or designee. Each board shall have opportunity to identify giftedness needed in new board members and make recommendations of such persons to the Gifts Development Team and the Missional Leadership Team. Board members may serve up to three consecutive terms.

Organizations currently owned are:

A. Bethany Christian Schools, 2004 S. Main, Goshen, Indiana, shall be concerned with providing high quality education in the context of a Mennonite/Anabaptist theology.

B. Amigo Centre, 26455 Banker Street Road, Sturgis, Michigan, shall be concerned with providing educational and recreational opportunities in a Christian atmosphere in the context of nature.

Section 2. Associated Organizations. Mennonite-related ministry organizations may be associated with Conference for mutual support and encouragement. These organizations provide their own boards and administrators. They may or may not receive financial support through Conference and/or congregations. They are encouraged to provide an annual report of their accomplishments and financial status to the Conference delegate body. The Conference does not have legal or financial responsibility for associated organizations.

Associated organizations currently recognized are:

- A. Anabaptist Disabilities Network;
- B. Everence;

- C. Great Lakes Area Choice Books;
- D. The Hermitage;
- E. MDC Goldenrod;
- F. Menno-Hof;
- G. Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes;
- H. Oaklawn.

### ARTICLE 13. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to Articles. The articles of incorporation may be amended by a two-thirds majority of all votes cast by Conference Assembly delegates, provided that a 60-days advance notice of the substance of the change has been communicated to delegates and has been announced in a Conference publication. Without notice, amendments shall require a 90% majority.

Section 2. Amendments to Bylaws. The Bylaws may be amended by a majority of all votes cast by Conference Assembly delegates, provided that a 60-day advance notice of the substance of the change has been mailed to delegates. Without such notice, amendments shall require a two-thirds majority.

Section 3. Interpretation. Conference Assembly shall have the right of final interpretation of any questions regarding the Articles or Bylaws.