

**Constitution of the
Mid. Atlantic District Ministerium
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**Constitution of the
Mid. Atlantic District Ministerium**

Article I - Name

The organization shall be named the Ministerium of the Mid. Atlantic District of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, hereinafter called the Ministerium.

Article II - Purpose

- A. To promote fellowship among District ministers.
- B. To seek opportunities for mutual ministries.
- C. To provide support and counsel for one another.
- D. To help equip one another for effective ministry.
- E. To give consideration to matters of importance to the ministers, the local churches, the District, and the National Fellowship.

Article III - Statement of Faith

We, individually and collectively, endorse without reservation the doctrinal beliefs of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches as set forth in the FGBC Bylaws, Article II, Section II.

Article IV - Membership

- A. The Ministerium shall determine its own membership.
- B. Any ordained or licensed elder who is a member in good standing of a Grace Brethren Church in the Mid. Atlantic District, and is in agreement with the Statement of Faith as set forth in

Article III, and shall be approved by the District Examining Board (see Ministerial Examining Board Guidelines below) shall be eligible for membership.

C. Membership shall be retained by those who:

1. Continue to be members in good standing of a Mid. Atlantic District church.
2. Pay the annual dues to the local Ministerium by June 1st. The amount of the dues shall be approved by the majority of the members present and voting at the March meeting of the Ministerium.

D. A list of the membership shall be maintained by the Secretary of the Ministerium, including an accurate statement of each member's status (licensed / ordained.) A copy of the membership list shall be presented for the record at the annual District Conference.

E. Elders who transfer into the Mid. Atlantic District from another District should authorize the Secretary of the former District to send a letter of recommendation to the Secretary of the Mid. Atlantic District.

F. When a member takes a charge in another District, he should, upon his departure, request the Secretary to transmit a letter of recommendation to his new District. Should the member take a ministry that is not in a Grace Brethren Church, upon conferring with the church from which he has departed, his name will be removed from the membership list of the Ministerium.

G. If it should become necessary to discipline a

member, this should be carried out by his church under the guidelines set forth in the Handbook of Church Discipline. If his ministry is terminated in the local church, he will be dropped immediately from the membership in the Ministerium.

H. The Ministerium holds the right to undertake discipline of any member, in the event the local church should fail to act. Possible conditions include, but are not restricted to, heresy and proven immorality.

Article V - Officers

Officers shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Article VI - Elections

- A. The term of office for each Officer shall be one year. An officer may succeed himself for an indefinite number of terms.
- B. Election shall be held after the annual District Conference.

Article VII - Meetings

- A. Meetings shall be conducted, September through May, at a time agreed upon by the membership in a regular meeting.
- B. Notification of the location of the meeting shall be carried out no less than ten (10) days before the meeting. Meetings may be postponed if due cause exists.
- C. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the President to discuss necessary business

affecting the Ministerium.

- D. A quorum consists of all members present in good standing in the Ministerium.

Article VIII - Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by the two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the members present at any regular or specially-called meeting of the Ministerium. The proposed amendment shall have been distributed, in writing, no less than thirty (30) days prior to the time of the vote upon same.

Mid. Atlantic District Ministerial Examining Board Guidelines

- A. Qualifications for Examination or Transfer of Credentials:
 - 1. Applicant must be a man
 - 2. If married, the applicant shall be “the husband of one wife” which we understand to mean that there is no divorce in the history of either the applicant or his wife.
- B. Requests for Examination:
 - 1. Response To All Requests For Examination:
 - a. Contact the Local Church and send the information package containing: The Application Form (6 pages); The Written Examination Questions (4 pages); The Local Church Request Form (1 page); The Local Church Evaluation Form (1 page); The Minimum Requirements Form (1 page); Discussion Questions for Oral Ordination Exam (1 page).
 - b. Wait for the Local Church and the applicant to respond with the proper paperwork.
 - c. The Chairman of the District Examining Board will contact all references given and make a report to the Board.
 - d. Pick a date for the exam. Only one man will be examined per day. Plan a full day, with lunch being cared for by the Local Church.
 - e. Make sure the examiners have copies of all the important paperwork two weeks before

the exam.

- f. The Chairman will assign examination topics in advance to all the pastors who will be in attendance.
- g. The exam will begin at the date and hour set, with hourly breaks and lunch until the exam is completed.
- h. The applicant will respond to all questions using only his Bible for help.
- i. A review and a vote on the exam will take place on the day of the exam.
- j. The day of the exam the applicant will be told about the vote, and given any instruction necessary.
- k. The Chairman will write a letter to the Local Church and Applicant within a week, giving the recommendations of the Examining Board.

- l. The District Ministerial Examining Board chairman is to keep records of all papers, letters, or other attachments for each individual. Copies of these records will be sent upon transfer to another district. A copy of all records will be requested upon transfer of an individual to this district.

2. The Three Possible Results of a Licensure Examination Are:

- a. Approval – Recommend that the local church license the applicant.
- b. Conditional Approval

- 1) A letter would be sent to the applicant which would explain the reasons for the conditional approval.
- 2) One year period of time would be given from the date of such letter for further study during which time the applicant must reappear for examination or lose his conditional approval.
- 3) A mentor would be appointed from the ordained men of the Mid Atlantic District.
- 4) The mentor would be informed by letter of his responsibilities.
- 5) The local church would be told of the Conditional Approval and the expectations of the Examining Board by way of a letter.

- b. Disapproval – Recommend that the local church not license the applicant.

- 3. A man must be licensed for a period of three (3) years before seeking ordination.

4. The Two Possible Results of an Ordination Examination Are:

- a. Approval – Recommend that the local church ordain the applicant.
- b. Disapproval – Recommend that the local church not ordain the applicant.

C. Requests for Transfer of Credentials

- 1. Transferring into the District. A person

transferring into the District is expected to present a letter of transfer from the District from which he is transferring. The applicant will be either approved or not approved. Applicants from non-Grace Brethren churches must be examined for licensure.

2. Transferring out of the District. Upon request for a letter of transfer, the chairman of the Examining Board will respond with a letter approved by the Examining Board.

Examining Board Guidelines
Adopted February 8, 1999
Present Revision February 8, 1999

Ministerium Constitution
Adopted December 9, 1996
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