

**District Mission Board of the
Mid. Atlantic District
of the
Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches
Constitution and Church Planting Policy**

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**District Mission Board of the
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Constitution

Article I - Name

The name of this organization shall be the District Mission Board of the Mid. Atlantic District of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches herein referred to as the Board.

Article II - Purpose

The purpose of this Board shall be to facilitate the orderly planting of new churches in the Mid. Atlantic District. This may be achieved independently as a District or in cooperation with the Grace Brethren North American Missions, herein referred to as GBNAM, Winona Lake, IN.

Article III - Membership, Representation and Voting

The Board shall consist of the Senior Pastor of each self-supporting Grace Brethren Church in good standing within the Mid. Atlantic District. Each District Church shall select or appoint a Lay Representative who, in addition to the Senior Pastor, shall also represent the local church.

Church planters are required to attend meetings of the Board unless specifically requested not to attend.

The new church plant which is not self-supporting shall not be entitled to a Lay Representative.

Only Senior Pastors of self-supporting churches and their Lay Representatives are entitled to vote on business matters.

A quorum shall consist of those Officers, Senior Pastors and Lay Representatives present at any meeting.

Article IV - Officers

1. The Board shall be served by four Officers who shall be elected by the Board. Offices are: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary.
2. The term of office shall be for one (1) year and election shall take place at the Board Meeting prior to District Conference.
3. The Board may remove any Officer by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members in good standing, present, entitled to vote and voting.
4. The Board shall elect from their membership an individual to fulfill the unexpired term of any Officer.
5. The duties of the Officers shall be as follows:

Chairman

The Chairman shall:

1. Convene and chair meetings of the Board.
2. Represent the Board to GBNAM.
3. Make an annual report to the Mid. Atlantic District Annual Conference.

Vice-Chairman

The Vice-Chairman shall:

1. Carry out the duties of the Chairman in his absence or at his request.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

1. Keep an accurate record of all monies received and

paid.

2. Pay all debts and issue all checks as directed by the Board.
3. Make a written report at each Board meeting and at any other time as directed by the Chairman.
4. Provide a written, audited report to the Mid. Atlantic District Annual Conference.

Secretary

The Secretary shall:

1. Make and retain on file an accurate written record of all business of the Board.
2. Copy and distribute the minutes of meetings to each Board member and to the Area Representative of GBNAM.
3. Notify all Board members of meetings in consultation with the Chairman.
4. Notify the GBNAM Area Representative of meetings in consultation with the Chairman.

Article V - Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of the four elected Officers of the Board.

The Executive Committee shall meet prior to a full Board meeting and shall finalize the agenda and make sure that adequate information and materials are available for the Board to have a profitable meeting.

The Executive Committee may conduct business on behalf of the full Board in an emergency when it is not possible to convene the full Board.

Article VI - Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the members in good standing who are present and voting at any meeting of the Board provided that the amendment has been presented in writing to all Board members not less than thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting at which such a vote will be taken.

Church Planting Policy

Planning

The Board shall:

1. Engage in targeting specific areas for the planting of new churches.
2. Receive and consider recommendations from local Grace Brethren churches concerning potential church planting areas.
3. Assist those individuals who may contact the Board concerning the possibility of planting a new church. When such individuals are from a Grace Brethren Church, the Board shall encourage them to work through their local church Pastor and shall inform him that such a request for information and assistance was made.
4. Plan and fund explorative efforts to determine the viability of potential church planting locations.
5. Work in cooperation with neighboring District Mission Boards when considering new church locations in areas where two or more Districts traditionally share boundaries.
6. The Board will provide pre-screening material to assist the district and local churches in evaluating potential church planting candidates.
7. The potential church planting candidate will provide the Board with a copy of the GBNAM application (Note: the transcripts are not necessary.)

Church Plant Candidate

1. The Board requires the church planting candidate to be enrolled in the GBNAM assessment process.
 - A. The Board will fund the Ridley assessment (or comparable program) part of GBNAM's process.

- B. The church planting candidate must have submitted the application and written doctrinal examination to the District Examining Board before the Board will pay for the assessment mentioned above.
2. Before the church planting candidate has received his final approval by the Board he must:
 - A. Pass the District examination for licensure; and
 - B. Have successfully completed the Ridley (or comparable) assessment.
 3. The church planting candidate will select a mentor/coach from the District Ministerium or another Grace Brethren pastor if approved by the Board. This mentor/coach will serve as a resource person, advocate, prayer partner and general encourager to the church planter.

Adoptions

The Board may:

1. Consider and recommend to District Conference potential new church planting locations.
2. Consider and approve existing church planting works which may be in need of District assistance.
3. Contact GBNAM notifying it of approved church planting locations and requesting their assistance.
4. Inform District Conference of newly approved church planting works.

Support Policies

1. Regular District Mission financial support for church planting works shall be limited to assisting with the Pastor's salary. No portion of regular support may go to the current operating expenses of the church.

2. The initial support level shall be determined by the Board. Regular District Mission financial support shall be continued for a period of five (5) years on a decreasing basis as recommended by the Executive Committee and approved by the Board.
3. The Board may consider exceptional circumstances in relation to regular financial support or other exceptional needs. Any special assistance must be considered on a case by case basis, in light of prevailing financial circumstances, and with no precedence assumed in any case.
4. Regular District Mission financial support may be terminated at any time if:
 - a. The need no longer exists.
 - b. Progress and/or conditions at the work are not satisfactory to the Board.
 - c. The church planter and/or the new church plant teach or practice doctrine contrary to the Word of God as summarized in the Statement of Faith of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches.

Other Financial Considerations

1. The Board will pay mileage at the current IRS rate for any District pastors who are approved Assessors when they are needed to be involved in assisting with an assessment.
2. The Board will pay any expenses associated with certifying additional assessors as needed and as approved by the Board.
3. Any funding requests received by the Board will be addressed on a case by case basis keeping in mind the purpose of this Board as delineated in the Constitution.

Administration and Accountability

1. GBNAM shall have general oversight of the new church plant and the church planter, as governed by separate contracts, until the date of self-support.
2. The Board shall have specific oversight of the church planter and new church plant.
3. The church planter shall submit a copy of the GBNAM quarterly report form to the Chairman. This report will be kept on file.
4. The church planter shall prepare and submit a written report at each Board meeting and shall be available to answer questions.
5. Written reports to the Board shall include:
 - a. Current financial statement and its relation to the projected budget and actual expenses.
 - b. Current membership total.
 - c. Recent attendance averages of all services/programs.
 - d. Short and long range goals and outlined methods to achieve them.
 - e. Current programs being used and an evaluation of their effectiveness.
6. The church planter shall provide a master copy of a bulletin insert updating the progress and/or needs of the new church plant to all District Churches on a quarterly basis. In addition, the church planter may provide to the District Churches on an occasional basis any other promotional material he may choose.
7. The church planter shall provide a written report to the Mid. Atlantic District Annual Conference.
8. The church planter is encouraged to accept speaking engagements and/or group presentations in District

churches.

9. Purchases of land or permanent meeting facilities by the new church plant being planted in cooperation with both the District and GBNAM shall be made in consultation with and have the approval of both the Board and GBNAM.
10. Purchases of land or permanent meeting facilities by the new church plant being planted by the District shall be made in cooperation with and have the approval of the Board.
11. District churches are encouraged to give support to all church-planting efforts through use of bulletin inserts, providing speaking opportunities for the church-planting pastor, and any other means which may be appropriate.
12. Any man seeking to serve as a church planter shall have passed the examination for Licensure or Ordination prior to his acceptance as a church planter. Such examination shall have taken place by the Mid. Atlantic District Ministerial Examining Board or shall be reviewed and recognized by it if the man was previously examined in another District.

Amendments

This Church Planting Policy may be amended by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the members in good standing who are present and voting at any meeting of the Board provided that the amendment has been presented in writing to all Board members not less than thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting at which such a vote will be taken.

Adopted February 18, 1994
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