

Constitution

of the

Great Lakes Conference of Evangelical Covenant Churches

(Approved by the Annual Meeting of the GLC April 21, 2018)

ARTICLE I Name

The name of this organization shall be the Great Lakes Conference (GLC) of the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC). Hereinafter, the Great Lakes Conference may be called the GLC and the Evangelical Covenant Church be called the ECC. The GLC, which is an administrative division of the denomination, is an association of Covenant Churches which have accepted this Constitution and agree to work in harmony with the GLC and ECC.

ARTICLE II Confession

The GLC confesses that the Holy Scripture, the Old and the New Testament, is the Word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct.

ARTICLE III Establishment and Purpose

Section 3.1. The GLC is a mission region of the ECC. As such, it is a separately incorporated association of ECC congregations, recognized as provided in the bylaws of the ECC.

Section 3.2. As a mission region, the GLC exists to serve its local churches and to minister on their behalf to better make known the good news of saving faith in Jesus Christ, to encourage a Christ-like life among its members, and to carry out Christ's redeeming work of love, mercy, and justice in the world.

Section 3.3. The GLC is incorporated in the state of Ohio as a not-for-profit organization. The delegates to the Annual Meeting are the corporate members of the GLC.

Section 3.4. The objectives of the GLC shall be to propagate the gospel in accordance with the precepts of Christ and his apostles and to promote Christ-like life among the churches and their members, and to apply the gospel in every area of life. To accomplish these objectives, the GLC, in cooperation with the ECC, shall:

- a. formulate policies for its ministry within the territorial limits of the GLC;
- b. start new churches and strive to strengthen existing churches;
- c. provide for the creation, ownership, operation and maintenance of camps, facilities and programs through Conference Entities, including but not limited to affiliated not for profit corporations, limited liability companies or unincorporated associations (collectively "Conference Entities") for the purposes of spiritual, recreational and educational growth;
- d. own other Conference Entities as the need arises;
- e. acquire and own by purchase, gift or grant such real and personal property as may be necessary to carry out these objectives.

ARTICLE IV Territory

Section 4.1. The boundaries of the GLC shall be determined by the ECC Annual Meeting, upon the recommendation of the Executive Board of the ECC after consultation with the GLC.

Section 4.2. The territory currently assigned to the GLC comprises the states of Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, and West Virginia, the lower peninsula of Michigan, western New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia, and the southeastern part of the province of Ontario, Canada. The principal office shall be located at such a place as the GLC Board shall determine.

ARTICLE V Membership

Section 5.1. The GLC is composed of Christian congregations united in faith and service.

Section 5.2. Membership is open to evangelical Christian congregations that are in accord with the Preamble and Confession of the ECC, and that meet the requirements stated in the ECC Constitution and Bylaws, which are repeated in this Constitution and Bylaws. A congregation seeking membership shall follow the procedure determined by the ECC Executive Board, which is repeated in these Bylaws.

Section 5.3. Membership is granted dually in both the GLC and the ECC: A congregation cannot be a member of one without being a member of the other.

Section 5.4. Member congregations pledge mutually to support the principles, policies, and programs of the GLC and the ECC. This includes regular financial support of the GLC and the ECC. The Constitution and Bylaws of member congregations shall be in general agreement with the principles of the ECC Preamble, Constitution, and Bylaws. Member congregations have freedom in the management of local matters, and those with either loans or subsidies from the GLC or ECC shall work under the supervision of the GLC Board and the ECC's Board of Church Growth & Evangelism.

Section 5.5. Member congregations that through decision or practice are out of harmony with the principles, policies, programs, or institutions of the ECC may be subject to discipline and dismissed from the ECC and GLC, according to the procedures stated in the Bylaws.

Section 5.6. A congregation seeking to sever its affiliation with the ECC and GLC shall follow the procedures stated in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI Officers

Section 6.1. One of the officers of the GLC shall be a Superintendent. Other officers shall be a chair, vice-chair, treasurer, and secretary, who shall also serve in those capacities on the Executive Board. The Bylaws may provide for additional officers.

Section 6.2. Officers shall be selected according to the procedures stated in the Bylaws.

Section 6.3. Officers shall have duties and responsibilities provided in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII Annual Meeting

Section 7.1. A convention of delegates, known as the Annual Meeting, shall be the highest constituted authority in the GLC. 5

Section 7.2. There shall be one regular session of the Annual Meeting each year, the date of which shall be determined by the Executive Board.

Section 7.3. As the highest deliberative and decision-making body of the GLC, the Annual Meeting shall approve the admission and dismissal of congregations, elect or call persons to leadership positions as provided in the Bylaws, approve the budget of the GLC, receive and approve reports, amend the Constitution and Bylaws, conduct other such business as may properly come before it, and make decisions necessary to the mutual work of the GLC, affiliated institutions, and the ECC, as provided in the Bylaws.

Section 7.4. Each GLC congregation is entitled to send one or more delegates to the Annual Meeting, as provided in the Bylaws. The GLC Superintendent and elected members of the Executive Board shall be ex officio delegates. The Bylaws may provide for additional delegates and advisors. Each delegate shall serve for a term that expires at the convening of the next Annual Meeting as provided in the Bylaws. Each delegate shall be a corporate member of the GLC for the duration of that delegate's term.

Section 7.5. Special sessions of the Annual Meeting may be called by the Executive Board, by the Superintendent with the concurrence of the Executive Board, or by a majority of the current delegates. At least thirty days before the date of each special meeting, the secretary of the GLC shall send a notice to each current delegate, stating the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.

Section 7.6. One-Third of delegates registered and certified in accordance with the Bylaws shall constitute a quorum for any regular or special session of an Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VIII Executive Board

Section 8.1. The Executive Board shall be the agent of the Annual Meeting in making decisions for, and otherwise acting on behalf of, the GLC when the Annual Meeting is not in session. This agency does not include powers reserved exclusively to the Annual Meeting by the constitution and bylaws or by decision of the Annual Meeting. The Executive Board shall be responsible to the Annual Meeting for its decisions and actions.

Section 8.2. The Executive Board shall be responsible for ensuring that all matters required to be brought to the Annual Meeting under this Constitution and Bylaws are in fact brought to the Annual Meeting.

Section 8.3. The Executive Board shall have the authority and responsibility for ensuring that the policies, procedures, and actions of the GLC comply with this Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 8.4. The Executive Board shall have the authority and responsibility for ensuring that the officers and staff of the GLC comply with this Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 8.5. The Annual Meeting shall elect members of the Executive Board as provided in the Bylaws.

Section 8.6. The Superintendent shall be an ex officio member of the Executive Board. The Bylaws may provide for additional ex officio members, as well as for advisors.

Section 8.7. The Executive Board may establish committees and otherwise organize itself for the accomplishment of its assignments.

Section 8.8. Additional responsibilities for the Executive Board shall be delineated in the Bylaws.

Section 8.9. A majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum for the meetings of the Executive Board or any administrative Board of the GLC.

ARTICLE IX Ministries

The GLC shall have ministries to be responsible for specific missions and purposes of the GLC. These shall be in cooperation with each other, the congregations, the ECC, and affiliated corporations and institutions. GLC ministries shall be recognized and organized according to provisions identified in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE X The Superintendent

The Superintendent shall be the pastor and chief executive officer of the GLC and its mission, with responsibilities delineated in the Bylaws. The Superintendent shall be an ex officio member of the Executive Board and the governing structures of all Conference Entities. The Superintendent shall be elected according to provisions in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE XI Conference Entities

Section 11.1. The Conference may establish and/or recognize Conference Entities to be responsible for specific missions and purposes of the Conference, in cooperation with each other, the congregations, and the ECC.

Section 11.2. Each Conference Entity shall be identified and established in accordance with the Bylaws.

Section 11.3. Each Conference Entity may adopt governing structures consistent with the law and not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Conference. The Superintendent shall be an ex-officio member of the governing structures of the Conference Entity.

Section 11.4 Subject to the powers reserved to the Annual Meeting and the Conference Board ("Reserved Powers"), which are listed in the legal formation documents of each Conference Entity, Conference Entities shall have all the powers necessary or incidental to the administration of their

respective businesses, affairs and ministries with the exception of the power of purchasing, mortgaging, selling or conveying any real properties, which shall require the prior approval of the Annual Meeting or Conference Board for each such transaction, as may be further specified in the Conference Bylaws and/or the Conference Entity's articles, bylaws, operating agreement or other operational documents.

ARTICLE XII Asset Resolution and Distribution of Assets

Section 12.1. In case of schism within the GLC, all property and other assets belonging to the GLC shall belong to the group which upholds and adheres to this Constitution and Bylaws as determined by the ECC Executive Board.

Section 12.2. Should the GLC be dissolved or diminish to less than ten member churches, all right, title, and interest to property, real, personal, tangible, and intangible, and all other assets belonging to the GLC shall pass to the ECC.

Section 12.3. A member church which withdraws or is dismissed from this GLC and the ECC shall be subject to immediate payment of all loans, grants, or property received from the GLC and the ECC, including any applicable interest as determined by the Executive Board. The church shall also forfeit all rights to GLC and ECC property.

ARTICLE XIII Amendments

Section 13.1. Proposed amendments to this constitution shall be introduced in writing at an Annual Meeting, but may not be acted upon until the next Annual Meeting, and for adoption must receive the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the accredited delegates present and voting at the Annual Meeting.

Section 13.2. Proposed amendments to this constitution and bylaws shall be in harmony with the ECC Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 13.3. The secretary shall have proposed amendments published in an official publication of the GLC and shall transmit them in writing to each source of delegates at least thirty days prior to the Annual Meeting, at which final action is to be taken.