

**By-Laws
Of The
Western North Carolina Conference Caucus
Of
Black Methodists for Church Renewal
Of The
United Methodist Church**

Article I – Name

1.1 Name

The name of this organization shall be the Western North Carolina Conference Caucus of Black Methodists for Church Renewal of the United Methodist Church, here after referred to as WNC-BMCR.

1.2

The Caucus of WNC-BMCR of the United Methodist Church shall be a non-profit organization.

Article II – Purpose

2.1

The purpose of WNC-BMCR shall be to sensitize the Black constituency to the issues that concern its existence, life and growth in United Methodism; it shall emphasize and develop a corporate Black agenda for power, creative change, and realistic involvement with the total conference structure; WNC-BMCR shall become a member of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Black Methodist for Church Renewal to assist in achieving its goals.

Article III – Objective

3.1

The objective of WNC-BMCR shall be to provide services consistent with the Purpose in Article II Section 1.

3.2

To bring Black consciousness to bear upon the organization and administration of the conference.

3.3

To develop leadership resources to assist local Black churches in formulating strategies and goals for effective ministry.

3.4

To encourage Black persons for full-time Christian vocation.

3.5

To establish strong avenues of communication among the constituency.

3.6

To encourage informed lay participation within WNC-BMCR.

3.7

To develop and nurture a strong spiritual fellowship among the Black constituency.

3.8

To identify and nurture Black leadership among laypersons in the Black constituency.

3.9

To develop cohesiveness and support among all categories of ministerial leadership.

3.10

To encourage the recruitment of Black women in all areas of the Christian ministry.

Article IV – Membership

4.1

Any Black United Methodist in the Western North Carolina Conference is deemed to be a member of WNC-BMCR upon subscribing to the purpose, objectives and paying the annual dues.

4.2

Membership into WNC-BMCR does not require written application or vote.

4.3

The annual adult dues shall be twenty-five (\$25.00), and youth dues ages 12-18 yrs. shall be ten dollars (\$10.00) payable on or before the last week in January of each year. If dues are paid any time after February 1st, they are still due again January of the following year.

4.4

The WNC-BMCR shall hold membership in the Southeastern Jurisdictional Caucus.

4.5

Each member of the WNC-BMCR should be encouraged to hold membership in the General Black Methodists for Church Renewal.

4.6

The annual dues for General Black Methodists for Church Renewal are thirty-five dollars (\$35.00), payable on or before the last week in January of each year.

Article V – Elected Officers

5.1 .

The officers of WNC-BMCR shall be the Coordinator, [two] Vice-Coordinator[s], Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer. The officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these by-laws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by voting body of WNC-BMCR.

5.2

At the regular meeting held in July of each year, a Nominating Committee of five (5) WNC-BMCR members shall be elected by the voting body of WNC-BMCR. Elected officers shall not serve on the Nominating Committee. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for elected office. The Nominating Committee shall report their candidates at the annual meeting in the fall. Additional nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Elections shall be held at this meeting.

5.3

Officers shall be elected annually and are eligible for re[-]election. Their term of office shall begin January 1 following the election.

5.4

No elected officer shall hold more than one elected office at any time.

5.5

In the event of a vacancy in the office[s] of Coordinator or Vice-Coordinators, the voting body of WNC-BMCR shall hold elections to fill the vacancy at the next regular meeting. A special call meeting may be set for the purpose if due notice thereof is given. All WNC-BMCR members in either case will be informed of the vacancy and forth-coming election.

5.6

In the event of a vacancy in other elected offices, the Executive Committee of WNC-BMCR shall fill the vacancy.

5.7

If an elected officer or person given a committee assignment or other duty finds that he or she is unable to perform such, he or she should submit a resignation in writing to the Recording Secretary. The duties of such elected officer must not be abandoned until the resignation has been accepted.

Article VI – Duties of Elected Officers

6.1 Coordinator

The Coordinator shall preside at all meetings of the WNC-BMCR and WNC-BMCR Executive Committee. The Coordinator shall also be ex-officio member of all task forces and committees except the Nominating Committee. The Coordinator shall render a condensed annual report to the voting body. The Coordinator shall obey all lawful orders of the voting body and be thoroughly familiar with WNC-BMCR by-laws and the rules of parliamentary laws and procedures.

6.2 Vice-Coordinator[s]

In the event the Coordinator is absent, one of the Vice-Coordinators shall assume the chair in the regular, annual or executive meetings. One Vice-Coordinator will have the responsibility for programming and the other Vice-Coordinator will be responsible for social/justice issues. These coordinators shall be elected from both the northern and southern regions of the Annual Conference and may, in consultation with the Coordinator, convene regional gatherings. Regional gatherings may be for the purpose of youth programming, leadership training, Christian nurture, and social/justice issues.

6.3 Recording Secretary

The Recording Secretary shall keep accurate records of minutes of all WNC-BMCR meetings. The Recording Secretary shall keep a full and up-to-date roster of WNC-BMCR members. Also, the Recording Secretary shall notify newly elected officers of their election and shall assist the Coordinator and Executive Committee in the preparation of the order of business to be considered at each meeting. The Recording Secretary shall present to the body an annual report.

6.4 Corresponding Secretary

The Corresponding Secretary shall send out notices of all meetings, special call meetings etc., of WNC-BMCR. The Executive Committee shall be notified at least fourteen (14) days in advance of such meetings. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct all correspondence between the Executive Committee and the voting body, unless otherwise ordered.

6.5 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be the custodian of WNC-BMCR funds and membership dues, unless otherwise ordered. Such funds/dues shall be deposited in a banking institution as authorized by the Executive Committee. The account used shall be in the name of the Western North Carolina Caucus of Black Methodists for Church Renewal. The Treasurer shall give an annual report to the voting body and other reports as needed.

6.6

All elected officers shall have the right to vote and debate questions up for such action at regular and annual WNC-BMCR meetings except for the [presiding officer].

6.7

The presiding officer shall avoid taking sides in all debates at regular and annual meetings. Should the [presiding officer] desire to speak to a question the chair must be surrendered until after such debate or vote is over. Such action is not required in Executive Committee meetings.

6.8

In the absence of the Coordinator and Vice-Coordinators, the Recording Secretary shall take the chair and preside until a chairperson pro-tem has been elected. Upon the appearance of the Coordinator or Vice-Coordinators, the Recording Secretary or chair pro-tem shall cease to preside and surrender the chair.

6.9

All elected officers shall attend all meetings. If, for any reason, an elected officer feels he/she cannot attend a meeting, then said officer shall communicate this to the Recording Secretary. The Recording Secretary shall then report this to the voting body of the WNC-BMCR.

6.10

The Executive Committee has the responsibility to take action in the case of excessive absenteeism of elected officers from meetings (3 or more).

Article VII – WNC-BMCR Meetings

7.1

WNC-BMCR shall hold regular, annual and Executive Committee meetings.

7.2

Special meetings may be called by the Coordinator, Executive Committee or upon the written request of ten (10) WNC-BMCR members.

7.3

The annual meeting in the fall shall be for the purpose of electing officers, receiving annual reports of elected officers and committees, the installation of newly elected officers, and other business that may arise.

7.4

WNC-BMCR members present and voting for a regularly scheduled meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Article VIII – Executive Committee

8.1

There shall be an Executive Committee which shall consist of elected officers of WNC-BMCR, and the Chairperson(s) of standing committees, and any Special Task Forces. The African American Cabinet members and Conference Staff members shall be ex-officio members with voting privileges.

8.2

The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the WNC-BMCR in between regular business meetings. It shall fix the hour and place of regular, annual and special meetings. It shall make recommendations to the voting body of WNC-BMCR. The Executive Committee is subject to the concerns of the voting body of WNC-BMCR. None of the action taken by the Executive Committee shall be in conflict with the by-laws of WNC-BMCR or the wishes of the voting body of WNC-BMCR.

Article IX – Committees and Special Task Forces

9.1

Committees and Special Task Forces shall be used in the development of the agendas adopted by WNC-BMCR. Their task(s) shall be formed according to the purpose and objectives set forth by the Executive Committee or voting body meeting, where the need of such Special Task Force is deemed necessary.

9.2

Committees and Special Task Forces shall be appointed to operate by the Executive Committee or voting body of WNC-BMCR when such is deemed necessary to carry on the work of WNC-BMCR.

9.3

The Nominating Committee shall nominate chairpersons of such Committees and Special Task Forces. Members to such Committees and Special Task Forces may be nominated from the floor.

9.4

All Committees and Special Task Forces of WNC-BMCR are amenable to the Executive Committee and voting body of WNC-BMCR.

Article X – Election

10.1

All elected officers shall be elected by a majority vote of members present at the last fall meeting.

Article XI – Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern all WNC-BMCR meetings. Such rules of order are always to be followed except when such rules are inconsistent with WNC-BMCR by-laws, special rules adopted by WNC-BMCR and the United Methodist Discipline.

Article XII – Amendment of WNC-BMCR By-Laws

The by-laws of WNC-BMCR can be amended at any regular meeting of WNC-BMCR by a two-thirds (2/3) vote provided that the amendment has been circulated in written form of at least [thirty] (30) days prior to the meeting on which the vote is to be taken.

Adopted July 23, 2016 at the regular WNC-BMCR duly called meeting in the presence of these committee members: *Fran Farrer, Miller Carter, Pamela Shoffner, Lazelle Free and Andrew Brown.*