



**ima**

International Ministerial Association, Inc.

## **BY-LAWS & CONSTITUTION**

**International Ministerial Association, Inc.**

PO Box 6644 Louisville, KY 40206

812-550-1240 | [ima@imainfo.org](mailto:ima@imainfo.org)

[www.imainfo.org](http://www.imainfo.org)

## **PURPOSE**

We believe that God has made of one blood all nations (Acts 17:26). Therefore, He is no respecter of persons but the blood of Jesus Christ His Son was shed for all men (John 3:16). His church is composed of all who have been redeemed from sin by the blood and baptized into one body by the one Spirit. It is our duty as members of this church to preach the gospel which tells of the unsearchable riches of Christ and to urge mankind to turn from sin to serve the living God.

As members of His church, it is our hope and aim to do all we can to assist fallen man on every continent to make peace with God and make sure of entering that pearly white city at the end of our sojourn on the earth.

We shall endeavor to recognize every man in the position that God has placed him in the body (His Church) and not put shackles of ecclesiasticism about him to hinder, nor lords over him to rule him. We be brethren and will endeavor to conduct ourselves as such and to manifest that true spirit of brotherly love, for how can we love God whom we have not seen if we do not love our brother whom we have seen? (1 John 4:20).

There being a desire in the hearts of Spirit-filled ministers throughout the world of greater love, and closer fellowship among all God's people; a desire to be free from malice, hatred, envy and strife; and since there is a need for more cooperation, it is our purpose to form and promote an association of brethren, whose life is above reproach, who will live holy and who will preach the Bible truths with compassion, and who will give honor to whom honor is due and yet manifest the true spirit of humility, endeavoring to also keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace (Ephesians 4:3), until we all come to the unity of the faith (Ephesians 4:13).

We have therefore united ourselves into a body to be called the INTERNATIONAL MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION.

No individual or individuals shall share in the profits, if any, of the Association, but all such monies, above operating expenses, shall be used in propagating the gospel. We are, therefore, a non-profit Association.

(Adopted October 1959)

**CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS**  
**INTERNATIONAL MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION, INC.**

*(Bylaws adopted September 28, 2006)*

**ARTICLE 1: MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 1: RESPONSIBILITY**

1. Inasmuch as this corporation is without capital stock, and no shares are to be issued, the interest in the Association shall be in the form of membership only. Membership shall consist of all ministers holding a ministerial license issued by this association in accordance to Article 1, Section 3 of these bylaws.
2. Members of this association shall promote fellowship among its membership, upholding the doctrinal position of this association without interference of the pulpit and churches of others.
3. Members holding a ministerial license, except exhorters, shall be privileged to vote in business sessions.

**SECTION 2: APPLICATION**

1. Anyone desiring to become a member of the International Ministerial Association, Inc., shall complete an application for ministerial license as prescribed by the National Board.
2. All applications from organized districts shall be sent to the District Chairman where the applicant resides.
3. Applications from unorganized districts or when an application is unable to be processed by the district chairman, shall be forwarded to the chairman of the National Credential Committee for consideration.

**SECTION 3: MINISTERIAL LICENSE**

1. Ministerial Licenses shall consist of: Exhorter, Licensed Minister, and Ordained Minister.
  - a. EXHORTER
    - i. Definition: A beginner in ministry.
    - ii. Exhorters must be mentored by a licensed minister or ordained minister.

- iii. Exhorters shall not vote in business sessions or hold office on the District or National Board.
- iv. Exhorters may apply for Licensed Minister or Ordained Minister after one year by submitting a new application to the District Board for the desired license.

b. LICENSED MINISTER

- i. Definition: Any minister who is not ordained who has been qualified to perform sacerdotal duties in accordance with State, Provincial, National or International Laws.
- ii. Licensed Ministers may vote in business sessions and hold office at any level other than the National Board.
- iii. Licensed Ministers may apply to the District Board for Ordination.
- iv. Ordination ceremony must be presided over by one or more officers of the District Board.

c. ORDAINED MINISTER

- i. Definition: One who is ordained to perform sacerdotal duties in accordance with State, Provincial, National or International Laws.
- ii. Ordained Ministers may vote in business sessions and hold office at any level.

- 2. Sacerdotal duties shall include, but not be restricted to: preaching, teaching, baptisms, weddings, funerals, and all other duties as set forth by the doctrinal statements or bylaws of the local church in which the minister serves.

**SECTION 4: MEMBERSHIP DUES**

- 1. The annual membership dues shall be set by a majority vote of the members present and voting at the National Conference.
- 2. Membership dues shall come due by January 1st of each year.
- 3. Failure to pay membership dues within ninety days of the due date shall constitute a resignation of membership and the ministerial license and may require a new application for reinstatement.

## **SECTION 5: DISCIPLINE OF MINISTERS**

1. Whenever a member shall be accused in writing by two or more members of the Association of committing some act or acts unbecoming to a minister, the same shall be reported to the District Board who shall make provision for a hearing of the charges. If the case between the accused and the accuser is not settled amicably, a panel of five, agreed upon by the accused and the accusers, shall hear the case.
2. If the decision of the panel is not satisfactory to the accused, an appeal may be made to the National Board and their decision will be final.
3. Should the member be declared guilty of conduct unbecoming to a minister, the minister shall be asked to submit to discipline as determined by the panel. Failure to submit to the discipline will constitute a resignation of the ministerial license.
4. Any officer who shall be declared guilty of conduct unbecoming to a minister shall also be subject to removal from office by the National Board, whose decision shall be ratified by the National Conference.
5. After due process, according to the Constitution of the International Ministerial Association, Inc., any member proven to be engaging in or condoning a homosexual or any other immoral act shall relinquish membership in this association.

## **ARTICLE 2: ANNUAL MEETINGS**

### **SECTION 1: NATIONAL CONFERENCES**

1. The annual meeting of the Association shall be known as the National Conference and shall be held at such time and place as may be determined by the National Board.
2. An annual business meeting shall be held during the National Conference.
3. Meeting minutes shall be kept of all National Board Meetings and Annual Business Meetings and forwarded to the National Headquarters.

### **SECTION 2: DISTRICT CONFERENCES**

1. The annual district meeting shall be called the District Conference and shall be held at such time and place as may be determined by the District Board.

2. A district business meeting shall be held during the District Conference.
3. Meeting minutes shall be kept of all District Board Meetings and District Business Meetings. Minutes of the District Business Meeting shall be forwarded to the National Headquarters.

## **ARTICLE 3: NATIONAL GOVERNMENT**

### **SECTION 1: NATIONAL BOARD**

1. The officers of the Association shall consist of seven members to be known as the National Board.
2. The officers of the Association shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present and voting at the annual Business Meeting of the National Conference.

### **SECTION 2: QUALIFICATIONS**

1. Officers must be Ordained Ministers and have served on a District Board.
2. Officers must be nominated in writing in a manner prescribed by the National Board.

### **SECTION 3: TERM OF OFFICE**

1. Officers are elected to a three year term, not to exceed three consecutive terms. After a one year hiatus, they would be eligible for election to another three year term, not to exceed three consecutive terms.
2. In the event that an officer is unable to fulfill a term, giving rise to a vacancy, the National Board shall fill the vacancy by a majority vote. The person elected to fill the vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the term to which the officer was elected.

### **SECTION 4: DUTIES OF THE NATIONAL BOARD**

1. A quorum shall consist of a majority of five or more members of the National Board present.
2. To arrange for a National Conference each year.
3. To attend all National Board meetings and National Conference.
4. To act as trustees for the corporation and care for all National business.

5. To assist in any sectional or district meetings when called upon by the district or section for assistance.
6. To appoint a Representative as needed for each state, province or nation until such time as said territory is organized into a district.
7. To allow all District Board members present at the National Conference to participate in an advisory capacity at all the meetings of the General Board, except when the National Board deems it necessary to request a meeting without the district officers.
8. To assist local churches when officially called upon by the pastor who shall be a member of the IMA.

#### **SECTION 5: DUTIES OF THE NATIONAL BOARD CHAIRMAN**

1. The National Board shall elect one member of the National Board to serve as Chairman of the National Board for a one year term, not to exceed six (6) consecutive terms. After a one year hiatus, he/she would again be eligible for election to the Chairmanship.
2. To preside over all legal matters of the Association.
3. To preside over all meetings of the National Conference and the National Board.
4. To delegate responsibility to the members of the National Board and personnel.
5. To create national committees and appoint members to the national committees.

### **ARTICLE 4: DISTRICT GOVERNMENT**

#### **SECTION 1: DISTRICT BOARD**

1. The officers of the district shall consist of five or more members to be known as the District Board.
2. The officers of the district shall be elected by majority vote of the members present and voting at the annual business meeting of the District Conference.

#### **SECTION 2: TERMS OF OFFICE**

1. Officers are elected to a three year term, not to exceed three consecutive terms. After a one year hiatus, they would be eligible for election to another three year term, not to

exceed three consecutive terms.

2. In the event that an officer is unable to fulfill a term, giving rise to a vacancy, the District Board shall fill the vacancy by a majority vote. The person elected to fill the vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the term to which the officer was elected.

### **SECTION 3: DUTIES OF THE DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS**

1. The District Board shall elect one member of the District Board to serve as Chairman of the District Board for a one year term, not to exceed six consecutive terms. After a one year hiatus, he/she would again be eligible for election to the chairmanship.
2. To preside over all legal matters of the district.
3. To preside over all meetings of the District Conference and District Board.
4. To delegate responsibility to the members of the District Board and personnel.
5. To create district committees and appoint members to the district committees.

## **ARTICLE 5: CHURCHES**

### **SECTION 1: SOVEREIGNTY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH**

1. Each church shall be considered sovereign and the pastor is the bishop of his own church or churches.

### **SECTION 2: APPLICATION FOR AFFILIATED CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

1. Any church desiring Affiliated Church Membership in order to be recognized by the federal government as a subordinate 501(c)3 non-profit church shall complete an application for Affiliated Church Membership, as prescribed by the National Board.
2. The recognized pastor of any church desiring Affiliated Church Membership must be a Licensed Minister or Ordained Minister with the International Ministerial Association.
3. Applications for Affiliated Church Membership within organized districts shall be sent to the District Chairman where the applicant resides.
4. Applications from unorganized districts or when an application is unable to be processed by the District Chairman, applications shall be forwarded to the National Headquarters



for consideration.

### **SECTION 3: AFFILIATED CHURCH MEMBERSHIP DUES**

1. The annual Affiliated Church Membership dues shall be set by a majority vote of the members present and voting at the National Conference.
2. Affiliated Church Membership dues shall come due on January 1st of each year.
3. Failure to pay the Affiliated Church Membership dues within 90 days of the due date shall constitute a resignation of Affiliated Church Membership and may be required to complete a new application for reinstatement.
4. In order to renew an Affiliated Church Membership status, the recognized pastor must continue as a Licensed or Ordained Minister of the International Ministerial Association without resignation.

### **ARTICLE 6: OUR SCRUPLES WITH REGARD TO WAR**

1. We recognize human laws as being of divine origin (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-15). Therefore, we should be loyal citizens in whatever nation we abide. However, we take a definite position relative to the bearing of arms or the taking of life. (Daniel 6:6-10; Acts 4:18-19).
2. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Peter said Christ left us an example, and we are to follow His steps. Jesus said, "If a man loves me, he will keep my words"; and John said, "His commandments are not grievous." Jesus said, "Resist not evil." (Matthew 5:38-39; see also Matthew 5:43-44 and 26:52). In Hebrews 12:14 we are admonished to "Follow peace with all men." Love is a more powerful weapon than the sword. And prayer is an effective means of maintaining peace (1 Timothy 2:1-3). Solomon, under whose reign Israel experienced unusual rest from war, left us this inspired counsel: "When a man's ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him." (Proverbs 16:7). Our efforts as Christians should primarily be efforts to persuade men to please the Lord and to live at peace one with another. A Christian's warfare should be spiritual, rather than carnal. (2 Corinthians 10:3-4). (Other pertinent scriptures: Ecclesiastes 9:18; Matthew 5:9; Romans 12:17, 19-21.)

## **ARTICLE 7: OFFICIAL HEADQUARTERS**

The National Board shall determine the location of the official headquarters of the International Ministerial Association and its staff.

## **ARTICLE 8: AMENDMENT TO BY-LAW**

No By-Law of this Constitution may be changed except by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting in the National Conference.



**ima**

International Ministerial Association, Inc.

## **DOCTRINAL POSITION**

**International Ministerial Association, Inc.**

PO Box 6644 Louisville, KY 40206

812-550-1240 | [ima@imainfo.org](mailto:ima@imainfo.org)

[www.imainfo.org](http://www.imainfo.org)

# **INTERNATIONAL MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION, INC.**

## **DOCTRINAL POSITION**

### **1. THE SCRIPTURES**

We believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God, infallible in its original writings. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21.)

### **2. THE GODHEAD**

We believe in one ever living, eternal God; infinite in power; holy in nature, attributes, and purpose in His absolute, indivisible deity. That this one true God has revealed Himself as Father in creation, through His Son in redemption, and as the Holy Spirit by emanation. (1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6; 2 Corinthians 5:19; Joel 2:28.)

### **3. THE SON OF GOD**

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. In the fullness of time God sent forth His Son made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law (Galatians 4:4-5). In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Colossians 2:9). That God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself (2 Corinthians 5:19). That no man can come unto the Father but by and through the Lord Jesus Christ and His shed blood. That the Son of God is the only hope of the world. The man Christ Jesus is mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5).

### **4. THE FALL OF MAN**

We believe that in the beginning God created man innocent, pure, and holy, but through the sin of disobedience, Adam fell: hence by one man's disobedience, sin entered into the world (Genesis 1:27; Romans 5:12).

### **5. REPENTANCE**

We believe in repentance to God, confessing ourselves as sinners, receiving forgiveness through the Lord Jesus Christ and His blood atonement for sinners, witnessed by a definite change from sin to righteousness (Acts 17:30; 11:18, 2:38-39).

### **6. OUR REDEMPTION**

We believe our redemption has been accomplished solely by the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ who was made sin for us, dying in our form and stead, rising again from the dead, ascending with His glorified body to the right hand of God. By believing in this

finished work, we are justified before God, cleansed of all our sins and redeemed from the curse of the law. (John 3:3; Romans 5:1; Acts 13:39; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Galatians 2:16, 3:13; 1 Peter 1:18, 19; Titus 2:14; Revelation 5:9.)

## **7. WATER BAPTISM**

We believe that water baptism (immersion) is for believers and should be administered in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:38, 10:48, 19:5), thus fulfilling Matthew 28:19.

## **8. THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit for believers, obtained by obedience (Acts 2:38, 39; 5:31-32) by asking (Luke 11:13); evidenced by speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance; as a distinct, separate, and subsequent experience to conversion; and that it is the standard of the normal Christian experience since Pentecost.

## **9. DIVINE HEALING**

We believe healing is in the atonement, that God is still the Healer of His people, and that the church should recognize and practice this ministry as directed by the Lord Himself and practiced by His Apostles (Exodus 15:26; Isaiah 53:5; Mark 16:18; James 5:15; Hebrews 13:8).

## **10. COMMUNION**

We believe that all followers of Christ should partake of communion, or the Lord's Supper, in remembrance of His death until He comes again (Luke 22:19-20; Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34).

## **11. REWARDS**

We believe the Bible clearly teaches a distinct judgment for believers only, spoken of in the Scripture as the "judgment seat of Christ" where believers' works shall be judged and rewards given (2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; Revelation 20:4-6).

## **12. THE FINAL JUDGMENT**

We believe that there will be a great and final judgment as recorded in the Word of God (Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 20:11-15). This is the judgment of the unjust where all the wicked are judged and all those whose names are not found written in the Book of Life shall be cast into the lake of fire burning with brimstone, which God has prepared for the devil and his angels, Satan himself being cast in first (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:7-15, 21:8).

### **13. FOOT WASHING**

We believe in and practice foot washing (John 13:2-17; 1 Timothy 5:9-10).

### **14. TITHES**

We believe tithing is God's financial plan to provide for His work, and has been since the days of Abraham. Tithing came with faith under Abraham; Moses' law enjoined it; Israel practiced it – when she was right with God; Jesus endorsed it (Matthew 23:23). Paul said to lay by in store as God has prospered you (1 Corinthians 16:2). Do not rob God of His portion, i.e., tithes and offerings (read Malachi 3).

### **15. THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe the nine gifts of the Spirit should be manifested in the church today, and that all Spirit-filled believers should earnestly covet the best gifts for the edification and building-up of the church (1 Corinthians 12:8-11; 14:1).

### **16. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

We believe Spirit-filled believers will produce the fruit of the Spirit in their lives and their walk will be according to godliness and holy living (Galatians 5:22-23; 1 John 2:6; 1 Peter 1:16; Titus 2:11-13; 1 Corinthians 7:1).

### **17. SECOND COMING OF CHRIST**

We believe that Jesus is coming again in person just as He went away. This was clearly set forth by the Lord Jesus Himself and was preached and taught in the early Christian church by the Apostles. Hence the children of God today are looking forward to the glorious event (Matthew 24; Acts 1:11, 3:19-21; 1 Corinthians 11:26; Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17). We believe there shall be a great tribulation which shall be followed by a better day on earth, and that for a thousand years there shall be peace on earth, good will toward men (Isaiah 65:17-25; Daniel 7:27; Hebrews 2:14; Romans 11:25-27; Revelation 20:1-5).