

PROPOSED
BY-LAWS OF THE MINISTER'S COUNCIL
OF THE EVERGREEN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Minister's Council of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization is to build up the Body of Christ by sustaining and improving the ministerial church leadership of the American Baptist Churches – USA and the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches

To carry out this purpose this body shall:

1. Encourage, develop and support groups for peer relationships among ministry leaders for professional growth, personal support and accountability.
2. Recognize and reflect the uniqueness of ministry in the Evergreen Baptist Association, with a special emphasis on cultural, ethnic and gender inclusion within our communities.
3. Offer and promote special events for education and skill building for ministry.
4. Identify, encourage and nurture those being called into ministry, in seminary and those seeking a call to ministry.
5. Provide an environment that promotes dialogue and resource sharing among clergy.
6. Participate in the overall mission and vision of ABC-USA and EA-ABC.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Membership may be held upon payment of dues by any ministerial leader – ordained, commissioned, or lay – in good standing.

Section 2 – Membership automatically ceases when a member moves from the region, a member enters another denomination, or a member is no longer serving or seeking to serve in a ministry.

Section 3 – Life membership shall be granted without payment of dues to persons listed as retired in the Regional Directory who have been paid members of the Minister's Council for three of the five years prior to their retirement.

ARTICLE IV – ORGANIZATION

Section 1 – The leadership of the Council shall be a Leadership Team of at least four. A Team Leader will be appointed from within the Leadership Team who shall be the convener. Each member of the team shall be elected for a two year term with at least two members being elected

each year. Leadership Team members will assume their duties at the close of the annual gathering of the EA-ABC.

Section 2 – The Team Leader will preside over meetings of the council and chair all Leadership Team meetings.

Section 3 – The Leadership Team shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the council, account for the receipt and disbursement of funds collected by the Council, perform the work of the Council between sessions, and secure persons to fill vacancies or unexpired terms

Section 4 – A representative to the National Senate and an alternate shall be elected by the membership.

Section 5 – Team Leaders shall serve two year terms. No Team member shall serve more than two consecutive two-year terms. The Senator shall be elected to a four-year term and shall not succeed her or himself.

Section 6 – The Council will make every effort to ensure that the Leadership Team is representative of the constituent churches.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

An Annual Meeting of the Council shall be fixed by the Leadership Team and announced at least three months prior to the meeting. A quorum shall exist when representation from all caucuses are present. The Leadership Team shall meet at least twice a year. Special meetings may be called by the Team Leader and/or any two members of the Leadership Team.

ARTICLE VI – RULES OF ORDER

All decisions shall be made by consensus of the assembled council.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended at any Annual Meeting of the Council upon consensus of the members present, provided notice of the amendment has been submitted in writing by mail to all members of the Council at least one month before the meeting at which the action is to be taken.