



FELLOWSHIP FOR TODAY

SPIRITUAL CENTER

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

NAME & PURPOSES

SECTION 1. NAME:

The Fellowship For Today is a Michigan ecclesiastical corporation and is referred to hereafter as the Fellowship.

SECTION 2. PURPOSE

The Fellowship for Today is a dynamic community co-creating love and healing. We honor the spiritual expression of all. We encourage individual transformation through the realization and celebration of Divine Oneness. We seek to realize the True Self through meditation, prayer, service, friendship, study, healing, love, forgiveness, tithing, teaching, learning and creative expression. Our impact is felt individually, in the community, globally and universally.

SECTION 3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. The essence of our being is Spirit. We gather knowing that the Divine/God is Love and unites us all. We use many forms of spiritual expression to consciously unite us with the Divine.
2. The Fellowship for Today recognizes a supreme spiritual Presence, a divine Oneness called by many names.
3. Our thoughts, beliefs and feelings create our experience of the world. We heal ourselves, each other and the world through our thoughts, prayers, and actions.

4. There are many paths to Truth. We honor all spiritual traditions and find connectedness in all teachings. We interact with all people and aspects of the world from a place of respect, inclusion, acceptance, forgiveness, and love.
5. Each person's spiritual journey is unique. We nurture spiritual, mental, emotional and physical well-being through sharing of our individual journeys in loving community. All are welcome to join the Fellowship family and to retain membership in other spiritual groups.
6. Loving service builds community and reminds us of the Oneness of all. We manifest Divine Love through mutual support, social action and a commitment to social, political and environmental justice.

Section 4. Nonprofit corporation

The principal purpose of the Fellowship is without profit or gain. No Steering Committee or Fellowship Member shall profit or gain in any way from the Fellowship, except for the Minister who is compensated pursuant to Article VIII, Sec. 4.

Section 5. Unaffiliated

The Fellowship has no formal affiliation or association with any other ecclesiastical or spiritual organization.

ARTICLE II

NAME & PURPOSES

SECTION 1.

The principal office of Fellowship For Today shall be located in the State of Michigan, the City and County to be determined by the Steering Committee.

ARTICLE III

GENERAL POWERS

SECTION 1. ASSETS

This Fellowship shall have the power to own, accept, acquire, mortgage and dispose of real and personal property, and to obtain, invest, and retain funds, in advancing the purposes stated in Article I above.

SECTION 2. LEGAL

This Fellowship shall have the power to do any lawful acts or things reasonably necessary or desirable for carrying out the Fellowship's purposes, and for protecting the lawful rights and interests of its members in connection therewith. All business of the Fellowship shall be conducted in accordance with these bylaws.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Definition of Members.

Any person who signs an application card to become a member of the Fellowship will be accepted as a member. The Fellowship may periodically ask members to sign new membership cards. Members may not have their membership status taken away from them except by a majority vote of the membership at the Annual Membership Meeting or at a Special Membership Meeting as provided in Article XI, section 4 and Section 5.

Section 2. Voting.

Members shall be entitled to vote (in accordance with State law, Michigan Compiled Laws Act 450.2304) as follows:

- A. Approval of Steering Committee members
- B. Removal of any Steering Committee members
- C. Appointment, continuation, or discontinuation of the appointment of a minister(s) of the Fellowship as proposed by the Steering Committee
- D. Ordination of ministers other than those recommended by the Fellowship School of Ministry Team
- E. Proposed amendments to the bylaws of the Fellowship
- F. Change in location of the Sunday Services
- G. Acquisition or disposal of any real estate or other asset for which the value is more than \$50,000 or rent more than \$2,000 per month.

- H. Dissolution of the Fellowship. The proposed dissolution shall be presented by the Steering Committee at a Special Membership Meeting called for that purpose.
- I. Acquisition or disposal of any real estate or other asset for which the value is more than \$50,000 or rent more than \$2,000 per month.

In each of these instances, approval will be by a majority vote of the membership present at the Annual Membership Meeting or at a Special Membership Meeting as provided in Article XI, Section 4 and Section 5.

ARTICLE V

STEERING COMMITTEE

Section 1. Duties, Number.

The management and government of the affairs of this Fellowship shall be vested in the Membership unless otherwise specifically stated in these bylaws. The Membership will elect all Steering Committee members to act as the Board of Directors to manage the affairs of the Fellowship in accordance with these bylaws. The Steering Committee shall consist of a minimum of five (5) elected members. If the Fellowship has appointed a minister or a ministerial team, the minister or ministerial team shall be a voting member of the Steering Committee.

Section 2. Steering Committee Members.

All Steering Committee members shall be current members of the Fellowship.

Section 3. Election and Removal of Steering Committee Members.

The election or removal of any members of the Steering Committee, subject to term expiration or vacancy, shall be determined by a majority vote of the Membership at the Annual Membership Meeting or at a Special Membership Meeting. To be considered for a position on the Steering Committee, a member must demonstrate a willingness to contribute time and energy to Fellowship activities. Election of Steering Committee members will be approved by majority vote of members present at the Annual Membership Meeting. Removal of any members of the Steering Committee will be by a majority vote of members present at the Annual Membership Meeting or at a Special Membership Meeting.

Section 4. Term.

All elected members of the Steering Committee member shall serve terms of three years. After their terms have expired, they may be reelected by the membership to retain their position on the Steering Committee.

Section 5. Quorum.

A quorum of the Steering Committee will consist of a majority of current Steering Committee members.

Section 6. Voting.

Each member of the Steering Committee will have one vote. Members will disclose and refrain from voting on an issue where a conflict of interest exists. Absentee voting can be conducted by telephone, email, and text. Decisions made by a majority vote of the Steering Committee are binding, subject to a vote of approval by the Fellowship Membership in those cases listed in Article IV Section 2.

Section 7. Execution of Instruments.

The Steering Committee may designate the officers and agents who shall have the authority to execute any checks, drafts, demands for money, notes, contracts, conveyance, or other instrument on behalf of the Fellowship, or may ratify or confirm any execution. When the execution of any instrument has been authorized without specifying the executing officers or agents, the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, or Secretary may execute the instrument on behalf of the Fellowship.

Section 8. Compensation.

All Steering Committee members shall serve without salary for their services as Steering Committee members, but they may receive reasonable compensation for special work or services rendered in other capacities at the request of the Steering Committee. This provision does not apply to the minister.

Section 9. Resignation.

A member of the Steering Committee may resign at any time by filing a written resignation with the Secretary. In the event of a resignation by a member of the Steering Committee, a replacement may be presented for approval by the Membership within 90 days. If a Steering Committee member can no longer fulfill their duties, a replacement will be proposed to the Membership for consideration and approval.

Section 10. Personnel.

The Steering Committee shall be responsible for personnel matters, including the terms of employment of the minister and other personnel. The Steering Committee shall also hear grievances.

ARTICLE VI

STEERING COMMITTEE OFFICERS AND DUTIES

Section 1. Officers. The officers of the Fellowship shall, at a minimum, be the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. All officers shall be members of the Fellowship and shall have, in addition to powers specifically designated in these bylaws, other powers as delegated by the Steering Committee and the President.

Section 2. Election. The officers of the Fellowship shall be elected by a majority of the Steering Committee members present at the meeting at which the election occurs. Officers may be removed from the office according to the same procedure. Officers will be nominated and elected by the Steering Committee annually for a one-year term or until their successors are elected. Re-election to the same or different office shall not be prohibited.

Section 3. President. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Steering Committee, and in his/her absence the Vice President, and in the absence of the Vice President, a member of the Steering Committee elected by a majority of those present. The President shall have the authority to perform other duties as the Steering Committee may determine or as these bylaws require. The President shall appoint, the chairpersons of committees established by the Steering Committee. The President may delegate any authority or duty vested in the President or other officers unless specifically prohibited by the Steering Committee.

Section 4. Vice President. The Vice President shall substitute for the President or Secretary in their absence and assume other duties as may be assigned or delegated by the President or the Steering Committee.

Section 5. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of meetings and minutes of all membership and Steering Committee meetings and certify the records.

The Treasurer shall render to the Steering Committee, whenever they may require, accounts of all transactions as Treasurer.

Section 6. **Treasurer.** The Treasurer or the Treasurer's designated representative shall deposit all monies, funds, and securities of the Fellowship in depositories selected by the Steering Committee and shall disburse the funds of the Fellowship in the manner directed by the Steering Committee. The Treasurer shall keep monthly statements concerning the financial status of the Fellowship and shall initiate a financial review process approved by the Steering Committee.

Section 7. **Resignation of Officers.** An officer may resign at any time by filing a written resignation with the Secretary. A vacancy among the officers may be temporarily assumed by another Steering Committee member designated by the President until such time as the Steering Committee formally fills the vacancy. A vacancy among officers of the Steering Committee should be filled within 60 days of the position becoming vacant.

ARTICLE VII

CONTRACTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Section 1. **Contracts and Agreements.** The authority to contract and to enter into agreements of any nature is reserved to the Steering Committee subject to a vote of approval by the Membership under conditions detailed in Article IV, Section 2 and may be exercised by officers or agents as designated by the Steering Committee.

Section 2. **Funds Disbursements.** All disbursements greater than \$100 other than recurring budget expenses and fees from accounts of the Fellowship shall be approved by the Steering Committee.

Section 3. **Fund Receipts, Including Sunday Collections and Other Offerings or Gifts.** All Sunday Service donations, workshops, classes, and fundraiser funds shall be counted and collected by two unrelated persons designated by the Steering Committee, dated, and cosigned.

ARTICLE VIII

FELLOWSHIP MINISTER

Section 1. **Appointment of Minister(s).** If a minister(s) is recommended by the Steering Committee and confirmed by a vote of the membership as detailed in Article IV, Section 2, the minister(s) shall be the spiritual facilitator(s) of the Fellowship and shall have such authority and responsibility as determined by the Steering Committee.

Section 2. **Qualifications.** All persons ordained as a Fellowship Minister shall be of majority age, with training, experience, and qualifications as the Steering Committee deems necessary.

Section 3. **Power and Authority to Ordain.** Except for ministers approved for ordination through the Fellowship School of Ministry process, the membership shall have the authority to ordain a minister(s) as it determines necessary for the on-going work and ministry of the Fellowship.

Section 4. **Compensation of Minister(s).** Decisions on the type and level of compensation (other than incurred and documented expenses) of the minister(s) shall be approved by a two thirds or greater vote of the Steering Committee members.

ARTICLE IX

FELLOWSHIP SCHOOL OF MINISTRY (FSOM) AND TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER (T&LC)

Section 1. **FSOM.** The FSOM is a ministerial program that provides ordination or certification upon completion. The Steering Committee will provide oversight of the FSOM. The Steering Committee will appoint a director to act as Chair of the FSOM Committee. An annual report for the FSOM, including class topics and a financial overview, will be provided to the Steering Committee for approval. Proposed programmatic or class topic changes will be approved by the Steering Committee.

Section 2. **FSOM Ordination.** The FSOM is set up to ordain ministers. The FSOM Committee will recommend students for ordination to the Steering Committee for approval. Final authority for ordination approval rests with the Steering Committee. Once ordained, ministers need not become a member of the Fellowship. FSOM ordained ministers are not the Fellowship Minister(s), unless approved by the Membership as Minister under Article VIII. FSOM ordained ministers need not be approved as a Fellowship Minister(s) for their ordination to be effective or to continue.

Section 3. **T&LC.** The T&LC provides general classes, workshops, and study groups outside the FSOM. The Steering Committee will provide oversight of the T&LC. The Steering Committee will appoint an administrator and supervisor for the T&LC. T&LC classes, workshop, and study group topics will be approved by the Steering Committee.

ARTICLE X

COMMITTEES

Section 1. **Committees.** The Steering Committee may create committees as it shall deem necessary or appropriate. The powers and responsibilities of each committee shall be those directed by the Steering Committee. Members of committees need not be members of the Steering Committee.

Section 2. **Committee Members.** The President and/or the Fellowship Minister shall be a member of any committee established by the Steering Committee.

ARTICLE XI

MEETINGS

Section 1. **Steering Committee Meetings.** Meetings of the Steering Committee will take place at least quarterly, at times and places to be fixed by the Steering Committee for the purpose of organization, election of officers, and consideration of any other business that may be brought before the meeting. If no other procedure for conducting Steering Committee meetings can be agreed upon by the Steering Committee or if a consensus of the Committee on an issue is unobtainable, Robert's Rules of Order shall be employed. Meetings of the Steering Committee shall be called by the President or, in the absence of the President, any officer. Appropriate notice will be given of the date, time, and place of the Steering Committee meetings. The first Steering Committee meeting after the Annual Membership Meeting shall be the Annual Meeting when officers are elected.

Section 2. **Steering Committee Meetings to be Open.** All meetings of the Steering Committee shall be open to all Fellowship members and to employees. Meetings may be temporarily closed for discussion and deliberation among Steering Committee members at the request of at least two Steering Committee members, but all votes must be held in open meetings.

Section 3. **Special Meetings of the Steering Committee.** A special meeting of the Steering Committee may also be called by a signed request to the President or Vice President from at least three members of the Steering Committee and must be called within fourteen (14) days of the receipt of the request. The time, date, place, and purpose of special meetings shall be communicated in writing to Steering Committee members within seven (7) days of receiving the request.

Section 4. **Annual Membership Meeting.** On or before the 10th Sunday of each calendar year, at a time and place designated by the Steering Committee, a meeting of the membership shall be held to review the financial condition of the Fellowship, elect members to the Steering Committee, and review or vote on any other matter presented for discussion. Notice shall be provided to the membership in the manner provided in Section 5 of this Article. The date for the meeting may be postponed for not more than 2 weeks by the Steering Committee

Section 5. **Special Membership Meetings.** Special Membership Meetings may be called by three members of the Steering Committee or ten (10) members of the membership by signing a request for such a meeting, delivered to any officer of the Fellowship. Such special membership meetings shall be held within fourteen (14) business days of receiving the request. The date, time, location and purpose of the Special Membership Meeting or the Annual Membership Meeting shall be made at two regular Fellowship services prior to the meeting. These meetings will also be announced on the Fellowship website, in the E-Announcements, and through Facebook posts at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting.

Section 6. **Purpose of Membership Meetings.** Membership meetings may be called for any purpose in addition to those listed in Article IV Section 2.

Section 7. **Chair of Membership Meetings.** Meetings of the membership shall be chaired by a member of the Steering Committee as directed by the Steering Committee.

Section 8. **Exclusions From Meetings.** The minister may be excluded from a Steering Committee meeting and a membership meeting and their deliberations when they discuss and decide policies concerning the minister.

ARTICLE XII

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Section 1. **Annual Financial Report.** Beginning October 1st of each year, the Steering Committee shall make available to any member who requests it, the Steering Committee reviewed Financial Overview statement of the Fellowship for the immediately concluded fiscal year.

ARTICLE XIII

CORPORATE RECORDS

Section 1. **Corporate Records.** Except as otherwise provided by the laws of the State of Michigan, the books and records of the Fellowship may be kept at the Fellowship Office or such places as the Steering Committee may determine.

ARTICLE XIV

INDEMNIFICATION

Section 1. **Coverage.** The Fellowship indemnifies all members of the Steering Committee (including the minister), its employees, their heirs, and their executors from any and all adverse claims, actions, and/or lawsuits taken against them as a result of their good faith and lawful execution of their duties to the Fellowship.

Section 2. **Indemnity Insurance.** The Fellowship, by means of the Steering Committee, shall have the power to purchase and maintain indemnity insurance on behalf of those members as outlined in Section 1.

Section 3. **Legal Counsel.** The Steering Committee may employ counsel to defend any individual entitled to indemnification as outlined in Section 1.

ARTICLE XV

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. **Authority.** The power to alter, amend or repeal these bylaws, and the power to add thereto, and the power to amend or repeal additions to these bylaws is vested solely in the Membership and may be approved only upon an affirmative vote of at least a majority of the members present at the Membership Meeting called for the purpose of amending the bylaws.

ARTICLE XVI

EMERGENCIES

Section 1. **Emergencies.** In the event of an emergency, the Steering Committee has the authority to continue operations in the best interest of the Membership to the best of its ability. An emergency shall be defined as a natural disaster, pandemic or local health crisis, inability to use online communications systems or any condition that precludes operations as

set forth in the Bylaws. During an emergency, the Steering Committee has authority to take action that includes, but is not limited to, delaying required meetings, extending Steering Committee member terms, reducing notification requirements, and temporarily changing the location, platform for Sunday Services, and/or closing operations.

The duration of the emergency shall be determined by the Steering Committee in the best interest of the Membership and all action taken during the emergency period shall be deemed officially sanctioned by the Membership.

ARTICLE XVII

DISSOLUTION

Section 1. **Dissolution.** Dissolution of the Fellowship shall be recommended to the Membership by the Steering Committee. Dissolution of the Fellowship is vested solely in the Membership and may be approved only upon an affirmative vote of at least a majority of the members present at the Membership Meeting called for the purpose of dissolution.

Section 2. **Dissolution of Assets.** The Steering Committee shall, after paying off all Fellowship assets exclusively for the purposes of the Fellowship or to such organization(s) operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes, qualifying as an organization(s) under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future U.S. Internal Revenue Law), as the Steering Committee shall determine unless otherwise stated in Article IV, Section 2. Any assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction in the county in which the principal office of the Fellowship is located.

ARTICLE XVIII

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 1. **Effective Date.** Upon Membership approval, these bylaws shall be effective as of the date signed by current Steering Committee members. Any amendment, alteration, addition, or repeal of any portion of these bylaws, as they now exist or hereafter exist, shall have immediate effect unless the resolution adopts the same specifies otherwise.

By the authority of the Fellowship For Today bylaws, these bylaws are adopted. As members in good standing of the Steering Committee and by the Minister of the Fellowship for Today, a Michigan ecclesiastical corporation on this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Rev. Julie Dillon, President

Rev. Sue Quinn, Secretary

Jim Post, Vice President

Richard Lassin, Member

Barbara Crissey, Treasurer

Julia Freije, Member

Rev. Mary Sabaj, Fellowship Minister & Member

Bylaws revised March 1998, March 2006, **September 2023**