

BYLAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION
As adopted June 27, 2007 and amended June 25, 2011

ARTICLE 1. NAME AND OFFICE

The name of the corporation is Open Bible Churches. Its principal office is in Des Moines, Iowa.

Section 1. Change of Address

The national board of directors may change the principal office from one location to another. Any such change shall be recorded in corporation minutes but shall not be processed as an amendment to these bylaws.

Section 2. Other Offices

The national board of directors may establish offices at any place or places where the corporation is qualified to conduct its activities.

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE AND MISSION

Open Bible Churches is a nonprofit, religious corporation organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, and educational purposes, ministering to spiritual, emotional, physical and social needs. Its purpose, to glorify God and bring people to Jesus Christ is achieved through local, regional, national, ethnic/language groups and international ministries using all methods and means to carry out its mission to make disciples, develop leaders, plant churches, and send missionaries.

ARTICLE 3. ASSOCIATION

Section 1. Definition

Open Bible Churches is a membership corporation of credentialed ministers and affiliated churches, hereafter referred to as the "Association," and its national board of directors as the "national board."

Section 2. Governance Documents

Paragraph 1. Enumerated

The governing documents of the Association consist of the articles of incorporation, Statement of Faith, bylaws, policies and procedures in support of the bylaws, ministerial covenant of ethics, official minutes of the Association, national board, and administrative committee, and all provisions, procedures, and regulations printed in the Open Bible Manual. Policies embody the fundamental principles, structure, and rules of the Association. Procedures are the processes by which policies are implemented, administered, and function.

Paragraph 2. Statement of Faith

The Statement of Faith is the fundamental, biblical authority for faith, doctrine, and spiritual life of the Association. It is given precedence as the leading document in the Open Bible Manual. It conveys the historical and contemporary Pentecostal identity, unity of thought, direction, and decisions of the Association.

Paragraph 3. The Open Bible Manual

The Open Bible Manual shall be the governing document of the Association. Each credentialed minister and affiliated church shall receive a copy of the manual and updates.

Section 3. Official Statements

Official statements are expressions of conscience outside the parameters of these bylaws, Statement of Faith, and covenant of ministerial ethics. They shall be submitted by the national board and adopted at a duly called business meeting of the Association by a 2/3 vote of registered, seated members and affiliated-church delegates present.

Section 4. Legal Instruments

Paragraph 1. Signatories

Legal instruments shall be executed by one of the following corporate officers, hereafter referred to as “officers”: president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer. Signatures of two officers shall be required for legal instruments affecting real estate or other instruments so designated by the national board.

Paragraph 2. Corporate Seal

The Association may have a corporate seal that may be affixed to legal instruments as required.

Section 5. Governing Body

The registered, seated members and affiliated-church delegates present at a duly called business meeting of the Association shall be the highest governing body.

Paragraph 1. Business Meetings

A. Biennial Meeting

The Association shall meet biennially at a date and place(s) designated by the national board.

B. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Association shall be called by a 2/3 vote of the national board.

C. Notice of Meetings

Written notice of biennial or special meetings of the Association shall be mailed to the credentialed ministers and affiliated churches with procedure and forms for the selection of church delegates at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting.

Paragraph 2. Authorization to Vote

Credentialed ministers in good standing, appointed, non-credentialed leaders of association ministries, at-large members of the national board, and affiliated-church delegates are authorized to vote if they are registered and seated.

A. Registry and Seating of Voters

Voters shall register with and be seated by the secretary of the Association before being entitled to vote.

B. Ministers in Good Standing

A minister in good standing is one who cooperates spiritually, physically, and financially with all provisions, procedures, and regulations in the Open Bible Manual and is not under disciplinary restriction.

C. Affiliated-Church Delegates

An affiliated church shall be entitled to one voting delegate per 100 active members of the church or fraction thereof.

Paragraph 3. Quorum

One-half of the registered, seated voters at a duly called business meeting or session of the Association shall constitute a quorum.

Paragraph 4. Reports

Officers, leaders of association ministries, and leaders of official, national institutions shall file written reports with the secretary of the Association prior to biennial meetings of the Association.

Paragraph 6. Discipline, Restoration, and Removal

A charge against a pastor for violation of Scripture, or the provisions, procedures, and regulations in the Open Bible Manual must be initiated and processed according to the discipline, restoration, and removal policy of the Association as prescribed in the Open Bible Manual. A charge against a pastor must be signed and submitted in writing to the regional executive director and the regional board shall assume authority over the matter.

Section 6. Governing Board

Paragraph 1. Definition and Authority

A church must have a governing board that serves as the corporate board. Whether a church has a board of directors or a board of elders as the governing board, only by the authority and action of the governing board can the church affiliate, buy, sell, lease, create employment positions, and set salaries. Not only does the governing board have authority, it also has responsibilities for the financial and legal activities of the church. A majority of the members of the governing board must be other than employees/staff and/or related to the pastor or to other members of the governing board by blood or marriage and must be of legal age according to the laws of the state in which the church is incorporated.

Paragraph 2. Responsibilities

The governing board shall meet and function as prescribed in the bylaws of the church. With the pastor, the board shall attend to the business and legal matters of the church, except those specifically designated to the membership or the pastor, as determined by the bylaws of the church, and establish and review compensation packages of paid personnel other than the pastor. The board alone shall adopt a written severance policy for the pastor and other paid personnel and establish and annually review the pastor's compensation package.

Section 7. Regional Supervision

The intent of regional supervision is to provide a service of counsel and supervision to a church needing or requesting help in the management of pastoral, internal, or legal affairs. It is a protective action to assist a church back to stability and health. The action may be authorized for any pastor or church not in order in relation to its authorized articles of incorporation, constitution, and bylaws, or where there is valid evidence the pastor or church is moving in that direction. The causes for regional supervision, the roles and relationship between the region and a church under regional supervision, and the requirements for release from regional supervision are prescribed in the Open Bible Manual.

ARTICLE 10. CREDENTIALLED MINISTERS

A credentialed minister is recognized as an individual called by God and engaged in active, Christian ministry, who evidences godly character, leadership gifts, and preparation. Upon commitment to cooperate with the provisions, procedures, and regulations of the Open Bible Manual, an approved applicant is conferred ministerial standing with the Association.

Section 1. Eligibility

Eligibility for ministerial credentials is prescribed in the Open Bible Manual.

Paragraph 1. Dual Credentials

A minister shall not hold credentials with two organizations at the same time except when the national board determines it is in the strategic interest of the Association to do so, has approved a working agreement with the other organization, and the minister has committed in writing to abide by the provisions of the agreement.

Paragraph 2. Former Spouse Living

When an applicant or the applicant's spouse has a former spouse living and the circumstances occurred prior to salvation and/or had scriptural cause, eligibility will be based on the provisions, procedures, and regulations in the Open Bible manual. The national board shall review the credentials of any minister whose marital status changes by reason of marriage, divorce, or dissolution of marriage.

Paragraph 3. Disqualification

An individual who professes to be homosexual or engages in homosexual behavior or promotes or condones such behavior as an acceptable lifestyle or embraces the occult, immorality, or any other belief or behavior contrary to Scripture shall not hold credentials with Open Bible churches.

Section 2. Types of Credentials and Requirements

Types of credentials and requirements for ministerial credentials are prescribed in the Open Bible Manual.

Paragraph 1. Credential Application

The credential application policy and procedure of the Association is prescribed in the Open Bible Manual.

Paragraph 2. Certificates and Credential Cards

A. Initial

The secretary of the Association shall issue a certificate and credential card to each approved applicant.

B. Renewal

A credential shall be renewed annually upon fulfillment of ministerial requirements addressed in the renewal form supplied by the Association. The national board shall set a date for submission for the renewal form and fee and shall establish a late fee, which shall apply to all renewals submitted after the date of submission has passed.

C. Retirees

A minister, at age 65, may renew credentials at a reduced fee established by the national board.

Section 3. Good Standing

A minister in good standing is one who cooperates spiritually, physically, and financially with the provisions, procedures, and regulations in the Open Bible Manual and is not under disciplinary restriction.

Section 4. Ministerial Tithe

Paragraph 1. Full Ministerial Income

A minister with full income from the ministry shall send full tithe to the Association.

Paragraph 2. Partial Ministerial Income

Senior pastors with partial income from the ministry shall tithe to the Association on all ministerial income and half of all secular income. Ministers who are not senior pastors may be eligible to tithe to the local church on all secular income if the minister meets the criteria and adheres to the process as prescribed in the Open Bible Manual.

Paragraph 3. Evangelists and Para-Church Ministries

An evangelist or minister working with specialized ministries in other organizations shall tithe to the Association on all Open Bible income and half of all income from other sources.

Paragraph 4. No Ministerial Income

A minister with no income from the ministry shall tithe to the Association on half of all secular income.

Paragraph 5. Retirees

A minister shall not be obligated to tithe to the Association on income received from Social Security or any other pension or retirement fund. A minister who has reached eligibility for Social Security and still receives income from the ministry shall continue to tithe according to policy on all ministry income.

Paragraph 6. Filed Credentials

A minister whose credential is filed as prescribed in the Open Bible Manual has no tithe obligation to the Association.