

CONVERGE NORTH CENTRAL

# Biennial Meeting 2023

## ONLINE BUSINESS MEETING

February 16, 2023  
9 – 10:30 a.m.

## IN-PERSON EVENT

February 16, 2023  
Prairie Lakes Church • Cedar Falls, IA • 5–8 p.m.

February 17, 2023  
Timberwood Church • Nisswa, MN • 5–8 p.m.

February 18, 2023  
Bethel University • Arden Hills, MN • 5–8 p.m.

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# Biennial Business Meeting Agenda

## Thursday, February 16

General Session Online Business Meeting 9:00 am – 10:30 am

Brent Nolby	Welcome & Prayer Call to Order – Motion to Open Meeting Presentation of Agenda Introduction of Biennial Meeting Officers Brent Nolby <i>Moderator</i> ; Jon Tolly, <i>Vice Moderator</i> , David Lutz <i>Parliamentarian</i> , Andy Kumpel, <i>Recording Secretary</i> ; Dan Erickson & Wade Walton <i>Committee on Business</i>
Mark Bjorlo	A Call to Course Correction
Brent Nolby	Motion to Approve 2020 Biennial and 2021 Special Business Meeting Minutes Recognition of Newly Affiliated CNC Churches
Aaron Damjanovich	Five Benefits to Having a Vision Culture
Brent Nolby	Presentation of CNC Board of Stewards Ballot Presentation on CNC Nominating Committee Ballot
Mark Bjorlo Jonathan Wicklund	Articles of Incorporation & Bylaws Financial Report & Presentation of 2023-2024 Budget
Brent Nolby	New Business – Committee on Business Motion to Approve Candidates for Board of Stewards Motion to Approve Candidates for Nominating Committee Motion to Approve 2023-2024 Budget Voting
John Jenkins	Bethel & Converge Converge President Greeting Converge North Central Story
Brent Nolby	Voting and Election Results Motion to Close the Meeting Closing Prayer



# In-Person Gatherings

## Entertainment // In-person gathering only

During our in-person gathering(s), we've invited [comedian Bob Stromberg](#) to bring the Joy.

When Bob appeared on *America's Got Talent*, he received a standing ovation and Howie Mandel said, "I liked your character, I liked your voice and I like you!" Bob's unique style, engaging storytelling, and timeless humor leave audiences wanting more. He co-authored the long-running play "Triple Espresso," which has entertained more than two million people.

At each gathering we will have a meal, worship together, enjoy Bob Stromberg and hear about the future of Converge North Central.

### Prairie Lakes Church – Cedar Falls, IA

IN-PERSON OPTION 1

**FEB 16**

Prairie Lakes Church - Cedar Falls

1907 Viking Road

Cedar Falls, IA 50613

5–8 p.m.

### Timberwood Church – Nisswa, MN

IN-PERSON OPTION 2

**FEB 17**

Timberwood Church

23084 MN - 371

Nisswa, MN 56468

5–8 p.m.

### Bethel University – Arden Hills, MN

IN-PERSON OPTION 3

**FEB 18**

Bethel University - The Underground

3900 Bethel Drive

Arden Hills, MN 55112

5–8 p.m.

# Biennial Speakers



## Mark Bjorlo

Mark Bjorlo has been serving as the Regional President of Converge North Central since April of 2021. In that time, he has unified our network of churches and has begun building a Regional Leadership structure. These regional leaders are now inviting all our pastors to lean into one another in new ways. We now have a more robust church planting initiative with many of our churches cooperatively investing in escrowing funds to start new churches. He has led our conference to make investments in strengthening our existing churches through strategic hires and brand-new tools.

## Aaron Damjanovich

Aaron is the Director of Leadership Development for the Eagle Brook Association. He has served on staff at Eagle Brook Church for 12 years and is passionate about the mission Jesus gave the local church. He's a graduate from Bethel University and holds a MA in Christian Leadership from Dallas Theological Seminary. He lives in Grant, MN with his wife Ashley and two sons Adler and August.



## Leading a Church is Tough

### We get it.

You balance the demands of your church every single day with the desire to reach people in your community, and you need support. That's why we created our Leadership Cohort.

The Eagle Brook Association is a ministry of Eagle Brook Church designed to help your church reach more people for Christ. Our Leadership Cohorts bring together groups of pastors and their teams to meet for a focused, 3-Day Intensive time of learning and discussion.

### During the cohort, you and your team will learn how to:

- Clarify vision
- Manage change wisely
- Develop leaders
- Create invitational experiences

We won't tell you how to do church. Instead, we will share principles and concepts we've learned over 30 years that increase your capacity to lead well and reach lost people.

### Invest in the groundwork.

It's true, things like this tend to cost a lot of money. We believe in the high value of this experience—and so do those who've been a part of it.

Thanks to some very generous people, we're able to offer this 3-Day Intensive to you and your team at no cost. We know that when leaders get better, the Church gets better too, and making this experience accessible only furthers that collective mission.

There's a fresh wave of leaders rising up to impact their communities for Christ. We'd be honored to help you move forward well.

Learn more and see testimonials at [eaglebrookassociation.com](https://eaglebrookassociation.com)



## 3-Day Intensive Overview

**DAY 1**

Why does the Church exist...and what is the mission God has set us apart to pursue? We'll explore how to create and cast vision to reach lost people, lead them into transformed living, and create momentum for the Church in the community.

**DAY 2**

When the vision, mission, and direction of the church are clear, the need for change becomes evident. But change isn't easy. We'll take a look at what it might require and equip you with practical tools to help you navigate it well.

**DAY 3**

God has blessed us with his trust and the freedom to explore how best to reach our unique communities. There's no single "correct" strategy to reach and disciple our people. Together, we'll discuss 7 mindsets we have discovered and refined over 30 years of ministry to help reach the communities God has called us to reach.

## Collective Impact of Cohort Churches

THROUGH JUNE 2022

**400**

Churches have participated in a cohort

**146,500**

People have been reached for Christ through participating churches



# 2023 CNC Voting Churches

All Nations New Life Center, Warroad, MN	Cross of Glory Baptist Church, Hopkins, MN	Grace Baptist Church, Waverly, IA
Ashworth Road Baptist Church, West Des Moines, IA	Cross of Life Community Church, Princeton, MN	Grace Church, Multi-site MN (2)
Basswood Baptist Church, Richville, MN	CrossLife Community Church, Cedar Rapids, IA	Grace Church, Alexandria, MN
Becker Baptist Church, Becker, MN	CrossPoint Church, Hutchinson, MN	Grace Church, Algona, IA
Berean Baptist Church, Multi-site MN (2)	CrossRoads Church, Fergus Falls, MN	Grace Fellowship, Brooklyn Park, MN
Bet el Afaan Oromo Ethiopian Church, Mpls, MN	CrossWinds Community Church, Stillwater, MN	GracePoint Church, New Brighton, MN
Bethany Baptist Church, Duluth, MN	Cushing Baptist Church, Cushing, MN	Grandview Baptist Church, Davenport, IA
Bethel Baptist Church, Kerkhoven, MN	Eagle Brook Church, Multi-site MN (10)	Grandview Baptist Church, Estherville, IA
Bethel Baptist Church, Mankato, MN	Eastridge Community Church, Duluth, MN	Haven Experience, Fairmont, MN
Bethel Baptist Church, Park River, MN	Edinbrook Church, Brooklyn Park, MN	Hiawatha Church, Minneapolis, MN
Bethel Church, Owatonna, MN	Elk River Baptist, Elk River, MN	Hillman Baptist Church, Mora, MN
Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN	Emmanuel Baptist Church, Duluth, MN	Hillside Church, Bloomington, MN
Blomkest Baptist Church, Blomkest, MN	Emmanuel Baptist Church, Mora, MN	Hope Community Church, Multi-site MN (3)
Branchline Church, Hastings, MN	Emmaus Baptist Church, Northfield, MN	Hope Fellowship, Ramsey, MN
Brazilian Church of Hope, Minneapolis, MN	Epiphany Station, Thief River Falls, MN	Houston Baptist Church, Houston, MN
Calvary Baptist Church, Madison, MN	Faith Baptist Church, Hampton, IA	ICCM Plantando Iglesias, Minneapolis, MN
Calvary Christian Church, Hastings, MN	Faith Baptist Church, Washington, IA	Iglesia Cristiana Alfa y Omega, Minneapolis, MN
Calvary Church, Multi-site MN (2)	Faith Community Church, Ida Grove, IA	Ignite Church, Moorhead, MN
Calvary Community Church, St. Cloud, MN	Faith Community Church, Pipestone, MN	Imagine Church, Albertville, MN
Cedar Creek Church, Hayfield, MN	Filipino American Christian Church, Mounds View, MN	Immanuel Church, Forest Lake, MN
Center Baptist Church, Lansing, IA	First Baptist Church, Benson, MN	Indian Lake Baptist Church, Worthington, MN
Center Church, Fridley, MN	First Baptist Church, Cambridge, MN	Iron Ridge Church, Waukon, IA
Central Baptist Church, St. Paul, MN	First Baptist Church, Clearbrook, MN	Isle Baptist Church, Isle, MN
Chapel Hill Church, Eagan, MN	First Baptist Church, Cokato, MN	Jesup Bible Fellowship, Jesup, MN
Chisholm Baptist Church, Chisholm, MN	First Baptist Church, Cook, MN	Karlstad Baptist Church, Karlstad, MN
Christ Redeemer, Woodbury, MN	First Baptist Church, Forest City, IA	Lake Ave Family Fellowship, Paynesville, MN
City Church, Minneapolis, MN	First Baptist Church, Glenwood, MN	Lake Sarah Baptist Church, Slayton, MN
City View Church, Minneapolis, MN	First Baptist Church, Grove City, MN	Laotian Church of Peace, Minneapolis, MN
Clarity Church, Brooklyn Park, MN	First Baptist Church, Kiron, IA	LedgeRock Community Church, Ely, MN
Communitas Church, Brainerd, MN	First Baptist Church, LeMars, IA	Lengby Baptist Church, Lengby, MN
Community Fellowship Church, Blue Grass, IA	First Baptist Church, Milaca, MN	Life Chapel International, Multi-site MN (2)
Community of Nations Church, Roseville, MN	First Baptist Church, Muscatine, IA	Littlefork Baptist Church, Littlefork, MN
Connections Church, Ramsey, MN	First Baptist Church, Pillager, MN	Living Faith Church, Circle Pines, MN
Cornerstone Baptist Church, Multi-site IA (2)	First Baptist Church, Roseau, MN	livingWATERS Church, Lakeville, MN
Cornerstone Church of Alexandria, MN	First Baptist Church, Stratford, IA	MapleRidge Church, Maple Grove, MN
Cornerstone Church, Crystal, MN	First Baptist Church, Two Harbors, MN	Memorial Drive Bible Fellowship, Askov, MN
Cornerstone Church, Denver, IA	First Baptist Church, Wellman, IA	Mercy Hill Church, Minnetonka, MN
Cornerstone Church, Multi-site MN (2)	Free Grace United, Multi-site MN (16)	Mill City Church, Minneapolis, MN
Cornerstone Community Church, Grand Marais, MN	Friendship Church, Multi-site MN (2)	Morningside Baptist Church, Sioux City, IA
Cornerstone Community Church, Red Wing, MN	Genesis Church, Coralville, IA	Mosaic Church, Maple Grove, MN
Country Roads Church, Stacy, MN	Glory Baptist Church, Aitkin, MN	

# 2023 CNC Voting Churches *(continued)*

Mount Rose Community Church, Grand Portage, MN	Renovation Church, Blaine, MN	The Journey North Community Church, Multi-site MN (2)
Nett Lake Baptist Church, Nett Lake, MN	Restoration Church, Anoka, MN	The River Community Church, Iowa City, IA
New Covenant Church, Knoxville, IA	Restoration Hope Church, St. Paul, MN	The Water's Edge Church, Duluth, MN
New Creation Church International, Brooklyn Park, MN	Resurrection City Church, Falcon Heights, MN	Timberwood Church, Nisswa, MN
New Hope Church, Lake City, MN	Revision Church, Des Moines, IA	Trinity Karen Baptist Church, Maplewood, MN
New Hope Community Church, Multi-site MN (3)	Reynolds Baptist Church, Long Prairie, MN	True Spirit Ministries, St. Paul, MN
New Journey Church, Fosston, MN	Rhythm Church, Mason City, IA	Valley Baptist Church, Lakeland, MN
New Life Community Baptist Church, Ortonville, MN	Ridgewood Church, Minnetonka, MN	Vietnamese American New Life Church, Davenport, IA
North Haven Church, North St. Paul, MN	River's Edge, Iowa Falls, IA	Vietnamese Grace Church, St. Paul, MN
North Isanti Baptist Church, Cambridge, MN	River's Edge Christian Church, Amboy, MN	Warroad Baptist Church, Warroad, MN
NorthBrook Community Fellowship, North Branch, MN	Riverwood Church, Waverly, MN	Waskish Baptist Church, Waskish, MN
NorthRidge Fellowship, Rogers, MN	Riverwood Community Church, Cannon Falls, MN	Waterbrooke Fellowship, Victoria, MN
NuLife Church, Des Moines, IA	Rockwell Church, Virginia, MN	Water's Edge Church, Henning, MN
Oak Haven Church, Ham Lake, MN	Rothsay Baptist Church, Rothsay, MN	West Avenue Baptist Church, Burlington, IA
Oak Hill Baptist Church, Humboldt, IA	Rush City Baptist Church, Rush City, MN	West Liberty Christian Fellowship, West Liberty, IA
Oakwood Community Church, Waconia MN	Soudan Baptist Church, Soudan, MN	Westbrook Community Church, Chaska, MN
Oasis Church, Rochester, MN	South Isanti Baptist Church, Isanti, MN	Westwood Community Church, Multi-site MN (3)
Opstead Baptist Church, Isle, MN	Spring Vale Baptist Church, Stanchfield, MN	Woodcrest Church, Eagan, MN
Pleasant View Baptist Church, Bettendorf, IA	St. Paul Fellowship, St. Paul, MN	Wooddale Church, Multi-site MN (4)
Prairie Lakes Church, Multi-site IA (7)	Stanchfield Baptist Church, Stanchfield, MN	Woodridge Church, Medina, MN
Primera Iglesia Evan Bautista, Columbia Heights, MN	Stone Ridge Community Church, Decorah, IA	Worthington Karen Baptist Church, Worthington, MN
Pursuit Community Church, Mounds View, MN	Thai Church of Minnesota, Maplewood, MN	
Quamba Baptist Church, Brook Park, MN	The Church at Union Park, Des Moines, IA	
Quarry Community Church, Monticello, MN	The Community Co., Forest Lake, MN	
Refuge Church, Willmar, MN	The Highlands Church, Delano, MN	



# Regional President's Report

October 29, 2020 was a long time ago. In the 27 months since our last Biennial, God has done much through His people!

The local church is critical to the gospel movement. Pastors, your voice is trusted as you lead where God is calling. Your compassion is necessary to care for the doubter, the hurt, and the damaged. Pastors, your passion impacts your community. But no one can do this work alone.

At Converge North Central, we see you. We understand ministry. We walk with you. Walking with Pastors and churches through successes and failures is our business. Seeing you lead well matters to us. Watching your ministry thrive and expand the Kingdom is our heartbeat.

Thus, I want to acknowledge those who have gone before me Dan Carlson, Truett Lawson, Skip Hanson, John F. Anderson, all of whom I continue to bring together regularly for counsel. Please know they are speaking into my leadership and thus continue to impact Converge North Central. In April of 2021, when I began this role the CNC team had established momentum and was improving communications, connections, and strategic counsel under the interim leadership of Jonathan Wicklund.

We continue to frame all of what Converge North Central does around four areas: Camping, Starting, Strengthening, and Sending.

- **Camping**

For 75 years, Trout Lake Camps has been uniquely positioned to be an incredible ministry tool for the local church. Each year over 180 churches, mostly Converge, send thousands of students to camp so that they can hear the transformational message of Jesus. I'm so thankful for our team of ministry leaders at Trout and their passion to serve our CNC churches year-round. It makes a huge difference.

Also, we give praise to God for how he worked in the lives of people. Over the last two years, over 600 high school volunteers put their faith into practice and volunteered as summer discipleship leaders. 1,092 students said YES to Jesus for the very first time. 2,074 campers rededicated their lives to Christ and 87 students said, "when I grow up I want to go into full-time ministry." That is the kind of kingdom advancement Converge North Central gets really excited about!

- **Starting**

Before I arrived, Converge North Central participated with Converge (national) to determine a goal set in January 2020, for church planting across the country and in our region. Our region, through that challenge, agreed to aspire to produce 50 new congregations (church plants and multisite) over the subsequent five years. God is honoring that goal. As of January 2023, CNC has already seen 33 new congregations begun.

Church planting is in my DNA and what I care about the most! It's the best way to cause Spiritual transformation through a community. In partnership with Marlan Mincks, who also runs our National Church Planting Assessment Center, Converge North Central will meet that goal and surpass it before our next Biennial. Why and how can I be so confident? Because through God's generosity, we now have Church Planting escrow funds that will cause not just our office but so many of you to lean into planting new congregations for Christ. Together, we are building a vibrant church planting movement.



- **Strengthening**

The biggest change with Converge North Central is actively taking place to strengthen you our existing churches and pastors. We have re-organized around Regional Teams. During 2022 we recruited, relationally developed, and equipped 18 Regional Leaders. We have three more coming on board this Spring and eventually we will have 23 Regional Leaders with most teams meeting quarterly. Most are geographical, but some are strategically affinity based. Through this new infrastructure we will be able to release multiple value adds through the Regional Leaders and teams you connect into. The first new example of a value add is Board Development curriculum. Many more strengthening tools to follow in addition to our ongoing “Staff of the Pastor” funding.

As a team we are focused on healthy pastors. When combined with a healthy board, the results are mission alignment with healthy congregations reaching their communities for Christ! One of the most important timeframes within a church takes place during pastoral transitions. In the 27 months since our last Biennial, thirty CNC churches have gone through a lead pastor transition. Our team has been involved on some level with all of these, with a majority guided through P3 (our Pastoral Placement Process). As a regional team we will continue to be there when you need us most (in transition), providing guidance and counsel. Finally, our hire of a Student Ministry Director (Craig Sanborn), to engage with church staff long term may prove to be our biggest strengthening investment.

- **Sending**

Converge North Central shares and fully supports the global mission and goal of Converge IM: *“We are asking God for a gospel movement among every least-reached people group – in our generation.* In fact, in partnership with Converge (National), the churches of Converge North Central remain the leading region investing in global work. Sending missionaries comes through you, and both historically and currently we do that well. We also have many of Converge IM leaders who live locally to our office, and we gather monthly to continue to work together toward their efforts to serve the local church through 2:10 FOCUS church missions coaching, as well as From Scattered to Gathered a key initiative reaching the world through the ethnicity of the Twin Cities.

I’ve hosted a majority of the Converge IM initiative leaders (and will again this year) as we strategize together to impact areas around the globe. In addition, Converge North Central and many of our churches continue to be significant partners with The Timothy Initiative as they plant gospel-centered churches around the world.

In addition to those core four areas, CNC has continued to invest significantly in tools (database, software, accounting systems) that help us serve you well. Our primary desire is to tell God's ongoing story and connect our Pastors for His purposes.

Since entering the role of Regional President and through working with the Board of Stewards, it’s important to make you aware of three difficult decisions: The altering of CNC’s fiscal year, we transitioned the ownership of Pine Lake Camps, and identified that CNC will no longer “employ” missionaries. Brief notes on each of those three:

- The impact of the fiscal year switch significantly improved our ability to budget in strategic alignment with our camping ministry, and it altered the timing of these Biennials which will now re-occur mid-February during odd number years (2025).

- We engaged in many forums and relational meetings leading up to and through the ownership transition of Pine Lake Camps (Eldora, IA). I could not be more pleased to report that its new owners are one of us, Free Grace United Church! They have since navigated their first year of camping ministry and because of this planted campuses and churches in IA! God continues to share the gospel through Pine Lake Camps.
- Finally, we are finishing the shift of five employees who were considered "Missionaries" from our region. Thus far, God has allowed for a different sending agency to be identified and moved to, while each has continued in their role as CNC Pastors.

So, God blesses and provides even through the hard stuff.

Let me conclude with the following: Pastors, in 2023 because you are a part of Converge North Central, I'd like to encourage you to do three things.

1. Engage with your Regional Leadership Team through our updated, intentional, organized infrastructure of Sub-Regional Leadership. So, we can truly become Better Together!
2. In the upcoming months, you will hear about a new Converge North Central ministry tool called "Snapshot." It will enable us as churches to make "Spirit-led data-informed" decisions. When you hear about it, make the choice to use it. We have developed it for your purposes and can't wait for you to see its ministry value.
3. Finally, adopt one of our shared values and become boldly generous. Please, generously support Converge North Central, we exist to support you.

We Are Better Together!

Mark Bjorlo

# Minutes from 2020 Biennial

## Day 2 Converge North Central Biennial

### Friday, October 30, 2020 Business Meeting

**Welcome & Prayer** - Jon Wicklund

**Call to Order** - Dan Nelson explained that because of COVID, we choose to present this meeting via Zoom video conference.

**Presentation of Agenda** - Dan Nelson

**Introduction of Biennial Meeting Officers** - Dan Nelson

Moderator – Dan Nelson

Vice Moderator – Jon Tolly

Parliamentarian – David Lutz

Secretary – Mandy Johnson

Committee on Business – Brent Nolby & Jonathan Dahl

**Motion to Approve 2018 Biennial Meeting Minutes** - Dan Nelson

There is one addition to the 2018 Meeting Minutes under the By-Law Changes section on page 17 of this year's biennial report booklet.

"Minor changes to the Articles of Incorporation were presented at the 2018 Biennial Meeting"

**Financial Report** - Scott Thompson who has acted as treasurer for the past 6 years. Scott shared that CNC have grown our net worth by a 25% increase and lowered our debt to 300,000.

There were two main drivers that increased our net worth:

1. The sale to Avinity for 1.5 million dollars up front and we will receive another 2 million dollars over the next 17 years or sooner.
2. Sale of a church property - \$790,000.

**General Operations** – We have declining church contributions. He challenged our churches to be contributors to CNC, and this is the "bread and butter" of the income for CNC. This is the one weak spot.

**Camping** – profits at camps during the first year of the cycle were \$91,000, Then COVID happened. This caused a net loss of \$772,000 over the two years. About \$500,000 will be removed as we received payroll protection program money, which was a loan, but we expect to see that money coming in from the government.

**Improvements** –this is designated money from donors for camp improvements. We have 1.6 million left at the end of the fiscal year. Thanks to Wick and his team for finding donors and raising the money for camps.

No Questions. Financial Report was accepted

**Presentation of 2020-2022 Budget** - Scott Thompson described the new presentation of a unified budget. We are projecting a loss for the new budget, because we intend to fund some new initiatives which will be funded out of the reserves. CNC general operations loss is projected to be \$260,000. \$130,000 Starting new churches and \$30,000 Church Strengthening. Camping is projected loss of \$130,000, although we don't know what camping will look like in the new year because of the pandemic ramifications. Budgets are even more of a guideline in the midst of COVID.

We are hoping to increase church contributions in the upcoming cycle. No questions on the budget.

# Minutes from 2020 Biennial *(continued)*

Voting on the budget will be done electronically on your ballot.

Explanation of Delegate Voting Process - Dan Nelson expressed thankfulness to Bryan Haines and his committee for their good work in forming a ballot.

## **Presentation of Board of Stewards Ballot – Dan Nelson**

Moderator, Brent Nolby, Medina, MN—Eagle Brook  
Vice-Moderator, Jon Tolly, Waconia, MN—Oakwood Community  
Wes Foster, Des Moines, IA—The Church at Union Park  
Dawn Hines, Brainerd, MN—The Journey North Community  
Jill Fox, Excelsior, MN—Westwood Community  
Kyle Robinson, Eden Prairie, MN—Wooddale  
Eric Weaver, Forest City, IA—First Baptist  
Jared Bangs, Cook, —First Baptist  
Mike Howard, Windsor Heights, IA—Revision  
Amy Orr, Hampton, IA—Prairie Lakes  
Martin Allen, Litchfield, MN—Cornerstone

No nominations from the floor. Ballot closed.

## **Presentation of CNC Nominating Committee Ballot - Dan Nelson**

Ned Eerdmans, Moorhead, MN—Ignite  
Chris Rygh, Cedar Falls, IA—Prairie Lakes  
Mike Mentzer, Iowa Falls, IA—The River's Edge Community  
Chris Meirose, Aitkin, MN—Glory Baptist

No nominations from the floor. Ballot closed. Voting may take place now.

## **Old Business**

Presentation of Articles of Incorporation (Constitution) Revision - Dan Nelson

Page 26-28 of the Biennial booklet included the non-controversial changes including the update of our name.

- 1.) The legal name of our organization is the Minnesota Iowa Baptist Conference DBA (Doing Business As) Converge North Central.
- 2.) The second thing we needed to change was our office address. CNC has moved from 190 West County Road E2 to 2 Pine Tree Drive.
- 3.) When the By-laws were changed to move from an annual to a biennial meeting schedule, we needed to change a few things that were missed.

No questions on Constitutional revisions. Voting may take place now.

## **New Business**

Deletion of churches : 11 churches were deleted in the past two years

# Minutes from 2020 Biennial *(continued)*

Recognition of Newly affiliated churches:

Ashworth Road Baptist Church, Des Moines, IA

Grafted Community Church, Minneapolis, MN

Imagine Church, Otsego, MN

Resurrection City Church, St. Paul, MN

River's Edge Christian Church, Amboy, MN

Motion to approve newly affiliated churches was made by Dan Nelson

No more New Business

**Additional Comments from Interim Leader** - Jon Wicklund talked about the Staff trips around the district in the next few months to increase our engagement with our churches around the two states.

**Encouragement from Converge National** - Scott Ridout shared some encouragement to our CNC churches that have actually thrived during this difficult season. What is our responsibility? Take the gospel to everyone – “no matter” who they are or what they’ve done.

More church planters have been approved for future church plants in 2020 than any other year in the last decade. We need to give our church plants more finances to these church plants.

Sixty-one missionaries are raising support. This is a difficult task. Can you help these missionaries achieve their goals? Churches, we have to figure out how to help people meet, know and follow Jesus.

Our goal is not to just survive, but to thrive. Don't give in to fatigue! Be faithful in affliction and faithful in prayer. Scott prayed for our leaders and our churches.

**Special Guest - Ross Allen** is so excited to be the new President of Bethel University. He is committed to continuing to build the relationship between Bethel and Converge. He also shared that he recognized that some people have been frustrated with Bethel, but he hopes that we can improve our collaboration between Bethel and Converge. God is working in this season at Bethel. Christ is working in student's hearts!

Dan Nelson expressed appreciation for Ross's leadership.

**Election Results** - Dan Nelson

101 delegates voted.

The Officers of the Board of Stewards and Nominating Committee as mentioned by name earlier in these minutes were approved nearly unanimously.

The budget was approved unanimously.

Approval vote on the Constitution changes (97-1).

Dan Nelson Adjourned the meeting

Brent Nolby (incoming moderator) - He expressed thankfulness to Dan Nelson for leading the Board and the Conference for the past 6 years!

Brent prayed to close.

Respectfully Submitted by Mandy Johnson

# Minutes from 2021 Special Meeting

## CNC Special Business Meeting , April 16, 2021

CNC Board Chairperson Brent Nolby called the meeting to order and shared the one purpose of the meeting being the ratification Pastor Mark Bjorlo to become CNC's District Executive Minister.

The Officers for this Special Business Meeting are:

- Moderator & Board Chair - Brent Nolby
- Vice Moderator – Jon Tolly
- Parliamentarian – Jonathan Wicklund
- Recording Secretary – Mandy Johnson

Vice Chairperson Jon Tolly shared an opening prayer of thankfulness for people that God choose to use in this process.

Chairperson Brent Nolby gave a summary of the agenda and instructions on voting

District Minister Search Team Chair Kyle Robinson introduced himself and expressed his appreciation for the process and the team that he led. Kyle then asked Mark Bjorlo a few questions to allow participants to better know him.

Chairperson Brent Nolby read the unanimous motion from Board of Stewards, so only a second was needed. *The Converge North Central Board of Stewards formally moves Mark Bjorlo as our District Executive Minister for ratification.* Chris Rygh seconded the motion.

Discussion on the motion was opened to participants. There were questions concerning the job description, strengthening churches, unifying rural Iowa churches to CNC, pastors' mental health, Mark's strengths and weaknesses, and raising up more leaders and church planters.

Brent Nolby then called for the vote.

During voting, Jonathan Wicklund shared what was happening in camping ministry. The camps are experiencing record registrations in camping –more campers mean more ministry. He asked the participants to help recruit staff members in their churches.

Chairperson Brent Nolby announced the coting results. The motion has passed with a vote of ratification.

CNC's new leader Mark Bjorlo expressed thanks for conferring this trust on me. and closed the meeting in prayer.

The meeting was closed by Brent Nolby.

There were 79 participants in this online meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Mandy Johnson

# 2021-2022 Additions & Deletions of Affiliated Churches

## Recognition of Newly Affiliated CNC Churches:

- |                                     |                 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| • Haven Experience                  | Fairmont, MN    |
| • Restoration Hope Church           | St. Paul, MN    |
| • Worthington Karen Baptist Church  | Worthington, MN |
| • Connections Church                | Coon Rapids, MN |
| • Pursuit Community Church          | Mounds View, MN |
| • The Water's Edge Community Church | Duluth, MN      |

## Deletion of Churches:

- |   |                      |                 |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|
| • First Baptist Church                    | Camanche, IA         | Disaffiliated   |
| • Berean Baptist Church                   | Glencoe, MN          | Ceased ministry |
| • Pelican Rapids Baptist Church           | Pelican Rapids, MN   | Ceased ministry |
| • Glory of Christ                         | Elk River, MN        | Ceased ministry |
| • All Nations Christian Fellowship        | Brooklyn Park, MN    | Ceased ministry |
| • Oak Hill Baptist Church                 | Columbia Heights, MN | Ceased ministry |
| • Grafted Community Church                | Minneapolis, MN      | Ceased ministry |
| • Hope Grove Church<br>(Encompass Church) | Roseville, MN        | Ceased ministry |
| • Elim Baptist Church                     | Minneapolis, MN      | Ceased ministry |
| • New Genesis Baptist Church              | Minneapolis, MN      | Ceased ministry |

# Nominations for Board Of Stewards



## Jay Chmielewski

*Eagle Brook Church - Lino Lakes*

Jay Chmielewski is a realtor specializing in commercial properties. He and his wife, Liz, have two daughters and worship at Eagle Brook Church, Lino Lakes, MN.



## Heather Gilbert

*Calvary Church - Roseville*

Heather Gilbert and her husband, Dan, attend Calvary Church. They have three children. Heather is a practicing attorney specializing in employment law and estate planning. In addition to volunteering on the drama team at church and leading a Bible study for young women, Heather also serves on the Board of Trustees for a midwestern private university.



## David Lutz

*Calvary Church - Roseville*

David Lutz is a practicing attorney. He and his family attend Calvary Church of White Bear Lake, MN. David and his wife Micki have 4 children. David brings helpful experience to this role having previously served on the CNC Board of Stewards.



## Doug Palmer

*Berean Baptist Church*

Doug Palmer worships at Berean Church in Burnsville, MN. Doug and his wife Cindy have three children. An Iowa native and Bethel alum, Doug recently retired from Wells Fargo Bank where he worked as a commercial risk manager.



## Lisa Welter

*Eagle Brook Church - Blaine*

Lisa Welter served as a pastor prior to founding her own mediation practice. She and her husband, Cary, have three grown children. Lisa attends Eagle Brook Church, Blaine, MN. Lisa has ties to Bethel University where she is completing a D.Min in Transformational Leadership.



# Nominating Committee

## New (2 Terms Remaining)



### Brian Haynes

*First Baptist Church – Cook, MN*

[briankhaynes@gmail.com](mailto:briankhaynes@gmail.com)

218-666-5979

218-235-3836 (Cell)



### Paul Johnson

*Woodridge Church – Long Lake, MN*

[paul.johnson@woodridgechurch.com](mailto:paul.johnson@woodridgechurch.com)

763-230-6300

## Returning (1 Term Remaining)



### Mike Mentzer

*River's Edge – Iowa Falls, IA*

[pastormikem@live.com](mailto:pastormikem@live.com)

641.648.6017

515.689.2494 (Cell)



### Chris Meirose

*Glory Baptist Church – Aitkin, MN*

[meichrl@gmail.com](mailto:meichrl@gmail.com)

218-927-3678

507-213-2100 (Cell)

# Financial Report



## LET'S TALK ABOUT

SLIDE TWO – TREMENDOUS ACTIVITY DURING 2020-2022  
SLIDE THREE – HOW DID WE FINISH COMPARED TO OUR BUDGET  
SLIDE FOUR – HOW MUCH "MONEY" DID WE HAVE ON DEC 31, 2022  
SLIDE FIVE – WHAT IS OUR CASH POSITION (UNDESIGNATED AND DESIGNATED)  
SLIDE SIX – WHAT'S THE BUDGET FOR 2023-2024

NOTE – IN YOUR E-PACKET IS THE 2023-2024 BUDGET

# Financial Report *(continued)*

## SLIDE TWO – TREMENDOUS ACTIVITY DURING 2020-2022

---

Ownership change of Pine Lake Camps to an individual CNC church

Completed audit for the fiscal year 2021

Estate gifts which allowed for the creation of new funds (CNC church planting and TLC maintenance)

Established an investment committee to shape policy and procedures

# Financial Report *(continued)*

## SLIDE THREE – HOW DID WE FINISH COMPARED TO OUR BUDGET

Budget – 9.95 million

Actual Income – 13.31 million

Actual Expense – 12.89 million

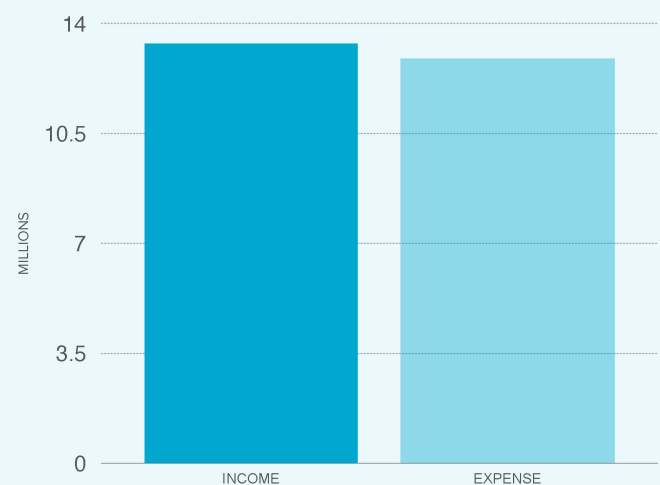
### Notes:

CNC is roughly 23% of the budget

CNC giving \$843k in 2022

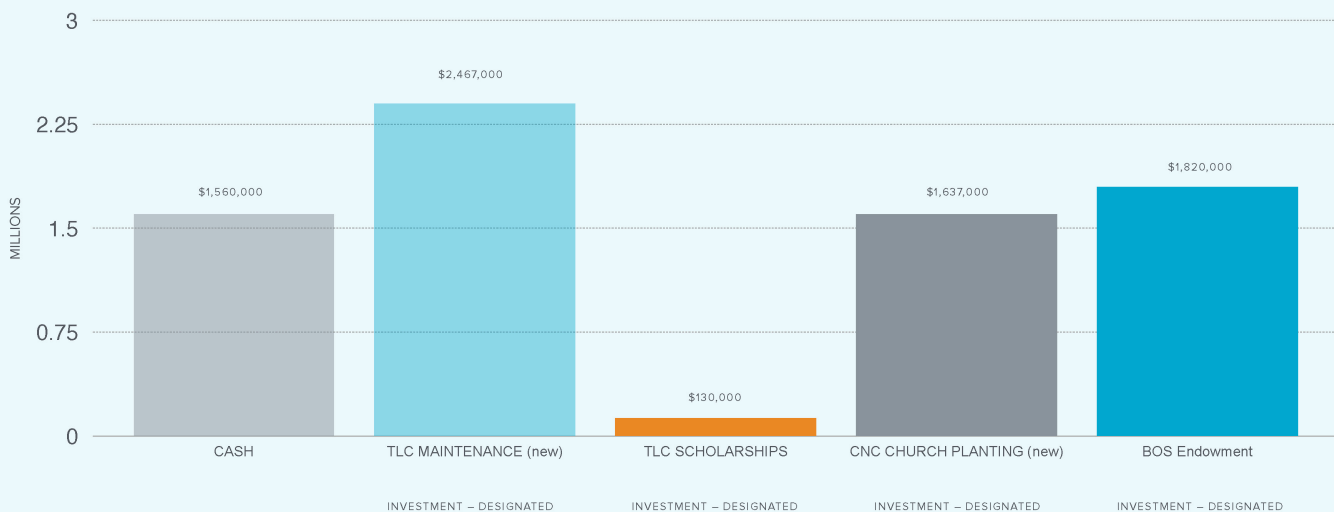
TLC giving was \$1 million above budget

TLC registrations were \$900k above budget because we did conservative “COVID” attendance



# Financial Report *(continued)*

## SLIDE FOUR – HOW MUCH “MONEY” DID WE HAVE ON DEC 31, 2022 (\$7,614,000)



# Financial Report *(continued)*

## SLIDE FIVE – WHAT IS OUR CASH POSITION (UNDESIGNATED AND DESIGNATED)

### UNDESIGNATED

CNC General Fund	-\$204,000
TLC General Fund	\$463,000

### DESIGNATED

Missionaries	\$203,000
CNC Church Planting	\$205,000
CNC Project Fund	\$208,000
TLC General Fund	\$109,000
TLC Building Fund	-\$343,000
Pine Lake Camps	\$624,000
CNC Endowment Fund	\$66,000 (cash that will be transferred to the endowment)
BOS Project Fund	\$258,000
CNC Church Planting Escrow	\$96,000

TOTAL	\$1,685,000 (cash on 12/31/22 was 1,560,000)
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## SLIDE SIX – WHAT’S THE BUDGET FOR 2023-2024

### BUDGET

Income – 14.2 million (≈ 7.1 million per year)

Expenses – 14.2 million (≈ 7.1 million per year)

### HIGHLIGHTS

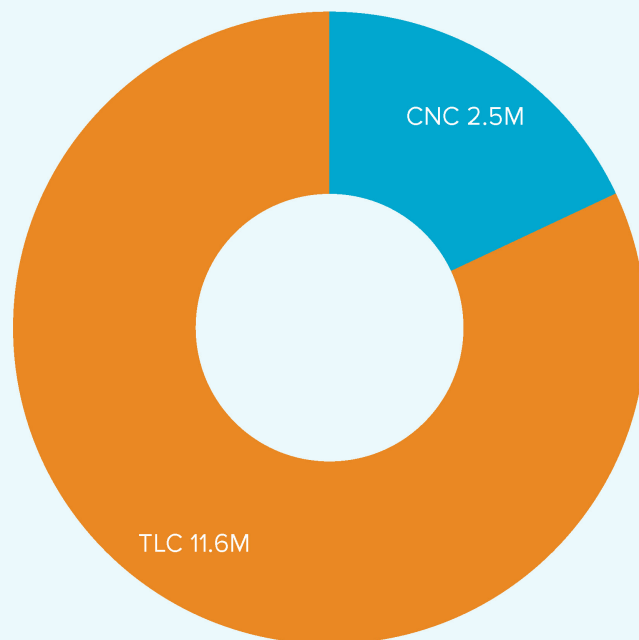
Funding our mission (Kingdom advancement/kids for Jesus)

CNC general fund is balanced for the 1st time

- 20% increase in health care

TLC's higher expenses

- 20% increase in food
- 20% increase in health care
- 13-25% increase in staff salaries to bring them to an appropriate level (44 FTE/200 seasonal employees)



# 2023-2024 Proposed Budget

## CONVERGE NORTH CENTRAL – 2023-2024 BUDGET

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	TOTAL
<b>INCOME</b>									
CNC	378,757	318,757	218,757	318,729	414,023	348,436	239,125	348,415	2,585,000
TLC	1,609,000	1,914,600	1,022,205	963,195	1,790,447	2,130,509	1,137,479	1,071,864	11,639,300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,987,757</b>	<b>2,233,357</b>	<b>1,240,962</b>	<b>1,281,924</b>	<b>2,204,470</b>	<b>2,478,946</b>	<b>1,376,605</b>	<b>1,420,280</b>	<b>14,224,300</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>									
CNC	345,123	297,123	296,123	296,631	377,257	324,788	323,695	324,259	2,585,000
TLC	1,045,848	1,607,340	1,946,367	909,447	1,163,788	1,788,599	2,165,858	1,012,055	11,639,300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,390,971</b>	<b>1,904,463</b>	<b>2,242,490</b>	<b>1,206,078</b>	<b>1,541,045</b>	<b>2,113,387</b>	<b>2,489,553</b>	<b>1,336,314</b>	<b>14,224,300</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	596,787	328,895	(1,001,528)	75,847	663,425	365,559	(1,112,949)	83,966	0
<b>AVAILABLE CASH (assuming \$0 start)</b>	596,787	925,681	(75,847)	-	663,425	1,028,983	(83,965)	0	0

PAGE TWO



# Sample Ballot

Each affiliated Converge North Central church has an automatic (up to) four voting delegates. Churches with **MEMBERSHIP** of 100+ can have an additional voting delegate, for each additional 50 members.

All voting at the 2023 Biennial will take place electronically and be tied to a registered e-mail. So, if your church or staff are participating together on a feed, for voting purposes, each voting delegate will need to register with a unique e-mail and be logged into the meeting under that e-mail for their vote to count.

Any write in candidate would have had to previously given permission to be voted on.

## 2023 – 2024 CNC Board of Stewards Ballot

Board Chair/Moderator– Vote for One

- ☐ Brent Nolby (Eagle Brook Church, Wayzata, MN – incumbent, seeking 2nd term)
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Vice-Chair/Moderator– Vote for One

- ☐ Jon Tolly (Oakwood Community Church, Waconia, MN – incumbent, seeking 3rd term)
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Members at Large – Vote for Eight

- ☐ Kyle Robinson (Wooddale Church, Eden Prairie, MN – incumbent, seeking 3rd term)
- ☐ Eric Weaver (First Baptist Church, Forest City, IA – incumbent, seeking 2nd term)
- ☐ Jared Bangs (First Baptist Church, Cook, MN – incumbent, seeking 2nd term)
- ☐ Jay Chmielewski (Eagle Brook Church – Lino Lakes, MN)
- ☐ Heather Gilbert (Calvary Church – Roseville, MN)
- ☐ David Lutz (Calvary Church – Roseville, MN)
- ☐ Doug Palmer (Berean Baptist Church – Burnsville, MN)
- ☐ Lisa Welter (Eagle Brook Church – Blaine, MN)
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

## 2023 – 2024 CNC Nominating Committee Ballot

Vote for four

- ☐ Mike Mentzer (The River's Edge Church, Iowa Falls, IA – incumbent, final term)
- ☐ Chris Meirose (Glory Baptist Church – Aitkin, MN – incumbent, final term)
- ☐ Brian Haynes (First Baptist Church – Cook, MN)
- ☐ Paul Johnson (Woodridge Church – Long Lake, MN)
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

## 2023 – 2024 Biennial Budget Approval

- ☐ I approve the 2023-2024 Converge North Central Budget as Presented

## **CNC Articles of Incorporation & Bylaws Draft Recommendation Summary Explanation:**

### **WHY**

Polity documentation is foundational to organizations. Honoring the wisdom of previous generations and leadership is wise. We know most of what is here exists based on history. However, keeping these documents up to date and current is also very appropriate to align with theological convictions and legal compliances. Then there are the pragmatic language alterations that exist within our movement. For example, Converge now understands Converge North Central as a region (rather than a district). These many reasons compelled us to submit the following for initial consideration.

### **WHEN**

You will read below draft recommendations for changes to Converge North Central's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Based on our polity, any final changes must be voted on at the Biennial (two years later) following the initial recommendation. So, nothing is being altered in 2023. If these recommendations are ratified, they will be actualized if affirmed at the Converge North Central Biennial meeting in 2025. They are provided for you now as an initial read for you to process. Leading into the 2025 Biennial, we anticipate the potential to schedule open forums for those interested in processing or helping to improve what could finally be approved. While we could have recommended changing our Bylaws with only a 30-day notice, we are choosing to move slow and recommend changes for 2025.

### **WHO**

This will be a decision made by the delegates of member Churches of Converge North Central. Ultimately, these are your Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws through which we function in partnership.

We are very thankful for the thoughtful work done by many within our movement toward these recommendations. Specifically, we want to acknowledge our Board of Stewards, and more specifically, former board chair Dan Nelson and Pastor Dan Erickson with legal counsel provided by Dan Gilbert. Pastor Wade Walton demonstrated editorial support for these recommendations with Dr. Joel Nelson, Jonathan Dahl, and Regional President Mark Bjorlo.

### **WHAT**

Below are the annotations related to all the alterations made. The goal was to provide a clean document to easily read through, with these explanatory notes, based on the large volume of changes. Read first six pages of notes, to get a feel for the volume and types of changes. Then read the clean 2025 RECOMMENDED version. Finally, the last 12 pages are our current 2020 version for comparison.

Most recommendations are simplistic and straightforward, bringing the language in line with 2023 reality with the most obvious example of exchanging the "District Executive Minister" title with the updated title of "Regional President." However, a couple of new paragraphs now exist to keep us legally compliant for tax purposes.

The two most significant recommendations (changes) exist within Article II of the Articles of Incorporation. First, Converge North Central's leadership desires to largely parallel 2022 language from Converge (National) toward explaining Converge North Central's Identity Statement, Purpose, Mission, and Requirements for Membership, as well as our Affirmation of Faith. In addition, Converge North Central is recommending adding two statements to our Affirmation of Faith (numbers 9 and 10), clarifying "Christian Marriage" & "Humanity."

Finally, we have been "doing business as" (dba) Converge North Central for many years, with our formal legal name as the Minnesota Iowa Baptist Conference. This recommendation would mean by 2025, we would formally alter our legal name and be known as Converge North Central (CNC).



**CNC Articles of Incorporation  
Draft Recommendation Summary NOTES:**

**Assuming Name Change** (see note on Article I) Title of document has been altered to read: **“Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporations Converge North Central”** rather than Minnesota Iowa Baptist Conference.

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**

**Article I**

- Recommendation here is to formally change our corporation’s name to Converge North Central.
- Legal steps would need to be coordinating with the 2025 Biennial Meeting to change our name formally and legally to no longer operate under a DBA.

**Article II**

- New paragraph added for legal Tax-Exempt purposes.
- Current “section A” has been completely removed.
  - It is replaced by new sections “A, B, C, D” which align with Converge (national)
    - Section A. Identity Statement with CNC specific “kingdom expansion” phrase
    - Section B. Purpose
    - Section C. Mission
    - Section D. Requirements for Membership
- Section E. Affirmation of Faith
  - The first preamble paragraph has been removed.
  - The first 8 Affirmations of Faith have remained the same.
  - Numbers 9 and 10 are new recommended additions.
  - Numbers 11, 12, 13, 14 were previous numbers 9, 10, 11, 12.
  - These parallel the “Doctrinal Distinctives” adopted by Converge (national) in June of 2022.

**Article III**

- New paragraph added (replaces previous one sentence) for legal purposes

**Article IV**

- New paragraph added (replaces previous one sentence) for legal purposes
- Also, added into that paragraph are details related to dissolution of CNC.

**Article V**

- Multiple changes in “Conference” to Converge North Central and/or CNC
- Altered the word “Baptist” to “Baptistic”
- Clarified procedure and communication related to churches joining or being removed from CNC

**Article VI**

- Multiple changes in “Conference” to Converge North Central and/or CNC
- Clarifying with the intentional use of the word “Delegates”
- Time and place of Biennial decided by the Board of Stewards
- Added chart explaining number of delegates per church

**Article VII**

- Multiple changes in “Conference” to Converge North Central and/or CNC

**Article VIII**

- Removal of “Assistant Recording Secretary.”

**Article IX**

- Changed “the Conference” to CNC.

**CNC Bylaws**  
**Draft Recommendation Summary NOTES:**

**Assuming Name Change** (see note above) Title of document has been altered to read:  
**“Amended and Restated Bylaws of Converge North Central”** rather than Minnesota Iowa Baptist Conference.

**BYLAWS:**

**Article I – Meetings of the Member Churches**

- 1.1** A. Name change...and on a date (added) to parallel Articles of Incorporation  
C. The BOS will determine need (or not) for Robert’s Rules of Order  
D. Language of “Delegates” replaced and clarified “Members” also added by electronic means (if able to hear) counts as being “present” at the meeting.  
E. Removed language deemed unnecessary
- 1.2** A. Changed “the Conference” to CNC.  
B. Changed “Executive Minister” to Regional President.  
C. Addition of Regional President and staff related to preparation of the meeting (**Replacing 1.4**)
- 1.3** No changes
- 1.4** (Recommend Removing)  
A. Recommend removing “Appointment of Committee’s”  
B. Recommend removing “Steering Committee”  
C. Recommend removing “Business Committee”
- 1.5** Emergency **Becomes 1.4**  
Changed “the Conference” to CNC and/or Converge North Central  
Language of “Delegates” replaced “Conference”
- 1.6** Special Meetings **Becomes 1.5**  
Changed “the Conference” to CNC  
Added mailed and/or e-mailed notice to all member churches...

**Article II – Nomination and Election Procedures**

- 2.1** **Nominating Committee**
  - A. Altered “Committee on Nominations” to Nominating Committee and added a second Nominating Committee as a part of the “from” for clarity. Removed parenthetical “Nominating Committee” at the end.
  - B. Changed “Executive Minister” to Regional President. Removed Board of Stewards toward clarifying it is the Regional President’s who is responsible to convene the Nominating Committee. Added, Nominating Committee representatives must be members of CNC churches.
  - C. No changes
  - D. No changes
  - E. Added or e-mailed

## 2.2 Election of Members of the Board of Stewards

- A. Added "non-competitive" ballot
- B. Removed the word "affiliation" and replaced with the word membership.
- C. No changes
- D. No changes
- E. No changes
- F. MIBC replaced with CNC, and "by the Conference" removed.

## Article III – Board of Stewards

### 3.1 Composition

- A. "Conference" replaced with the word "delegates." Conference Moderator and Conference Vice Moderator replaced with CNC Chair and Vice-Chair. Removed duplicative language equating Chair and Moderator as well as Vice-Chair and Vice-Moderator.
- B. Changed "Executive Minister" to "Regional President."

### 3.2 Officers

- A. Phrase "and meeting moderator" added after chair. Similarly, language of "vice-moderator" also added. Removed the position of "Secretary" as an officer.
- B. Removed "Secretary" as an officer.

### 3.3 Responsibilities

- A. "Conference" replaced with the word "delegates." Replaced language of "executive and supervisory" with "oversight and accountability."
- B. Removed language: "of the Conference, including compensation and any employee benefits for all employees of the MIBC." Replaced "thirty (30)" with "fourteen (14)" days.
- C. "Conference" replaced with the word "delegates."
- D. "Conference" replaced with the word "delegates." "Conference" removed three additional times.
- E. Changed "Executive Minister" to "Regional President." "MIBC" replaced with CNC. "in the Minnesota-Iowa district" changed to "in Converge North Central."
  - 1.) "the Conference" replaced with "Converge North Central."
  - 2.) No changes made
  - 3.) "its District representatives" replaced with "Regional President." Removal of last two sentences as that reality was altered by Converge National at its Biennial in June of 2022.
  - 4.) Added this line at the end: "with the recognition that the Regional President will be an ex officio member of all committees."
  - 5.) "Directors" replaced by "CNC Staff."
- F. No changes

### 3.4 Executive Committee

- A. Removed the duplicative phrase "and the Moderator" replaced with "and Regional President"
- B. No changes

### 3.5 Meetings and Notice

- A. "Conference" replaced with "Regional"
- B. "Executive Minister of the Conference" replaced with "Regional President of CNC"
- C. No changes
- D. No changes
- E. No changes

F. Added phrase: "when approved through electronic vote,"

G. No changes

H. Removed point "h."

#### **Article IV – Previously "Executive Minister and Directors" changed to "Regional President and Staff**

##### **4.1 Regional President (Previously "Executive Minister")**

A. No changes

1.) No changes

2.) No changes

3.) No changes

4.) No changes

5.) No changes

6.) Removed "the MIBC" replaced with "CNC"

B. No changes

1.) Changed "Executive Minister" to "Regional President." Changed "MIBC" to "CNC."

2.) Changed "Executive Minister" to "Regional President." Changed "MIBC" to "CNC."

3.) Changed "Executive Minister" to "Regional President." Changed "MIBC" to "CNC."

4.) Changed "Executive Minister" to "Regional President." Changed "MIBC" to "CNC."

Replaced "execute" with "oversee."

5.) Changed "Executive Minister" to "Regional President." Also removed: "Conference Center"

6.) Changed "Executive Minister" to "Regional President." Changed "MIBC" to "CNC." Added words "Board of."

7.) Changed "Executive Minister" to "Regional President." Changed "MIBC" to "CNC."

8.) Changed "Executive Minister" to "Regional President." Changed "MIBC" to "CNC."

9.) Changed "Executive Minister" to "Regional President." Changed "MIBC" to "CNC."

Added words "by serving on its board."

10.) Recommend Remove Completely

10.) New #10 Changed "Executive Minister" to "Regional President."

11.) New #11 Changed "Executive Minister" to "Regional President." Changed "MIBC" to "CNC."

C. No changes

1.) Changed "Executive Minister" to "Regional President." Changed "MIBC" to "CNC."

2.) Changed "Executive Minister" to "Regional President."

3.) Changed "Executive Minister" to "Regional President." Changed "constituent" to "pastors"

##### **4.2 Staff Members**

A. Changed "Executive Minister" to "Regional President." Added "or designee"

B. Changed "Executive Minister" to "Regional President." Changed "MIBC" to "CNC." Added "or designee"

C. Changed "Executive Minister" to "Regional President."

##### **4.3 Election Procedures and Terms for Executive Ministers**

A. Changed "Executive Minister" to "Regional President." Changed "MIBC" to "CNC."

B. Changed "Executive Minister" to "Regional President." Changed "MIBC" to "CNC."

C. No changes

D. Changed "Executive Minister" to "Regional President." Added "or electronic ballot."



#### **4.4-1 Dissolution of Relationship – Staff Member**

- A. Changed “Executive Minister” to “Regional President.”
- B. Changed “Executive Minister” to “Regional President.”
- C. Changed “Executive Minister” to “Regional President.”

#### **4.4-2 Dissolution of Relationship – Regional President (replaces Executive Minister)**

- A. Changed “Executive Minister” to “Regional President.”
- B. Changed “Executive Minister” to “Regional President.” Changed “MIBC” to “CNC.”
- C. Changed “Executive Minister” to “Regional President.”

### **Article V – Amendments**

#### **5.1 Procedure**

No changes were made.

#### **Standing Resolutions**

No changes were made.

NOTES

**AMENDED AND RESTATED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
CONVERGE NORTH CENTRAL**

**Article I**

The name of the Corporation shall be Converge North Central and may be abbreviated “CNC”. CNC was formerly known as the Minnesota Iowa Baptist Conference. The registered office of this nonprofit corporation is 2 Pine Tree Drive #510, St. Paul, Ramsey County, Minnesota 55112.

**Article II**

**Section A. Identity Statement**

Converge North Central corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

**Section B. Purpose**

The purpose of Converge North Central is to glorify God through kingdom expansion by making disciples of all peoples, as stated in Matthew 28:18-20: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I will be with you always, to the very end of the age” (NIV).

**Section C. Mission**

The mission of Converge North Central is to glorify God by helping member churches fulfill Christ’s mission for his church in all the communities God calls them to serve.

**Section D. Requirements for Membership**

Churches are eligible for membership in Converge North Central, upon the following conditions:

1. The church shall subscribe without reservation to the Affirmation of Faith found below in Article II Section E;
2. The church shall subscribe without reservation to Converge National’s doctrinal distinctives;
3. The church shall practice only believer’s baptism by immersion;
4. The church shall affirm Converge North Central’s purpose and mission statements as found above in Article II Sections B and Section C, which parallel Converge (national);
5. The church shall practice Baptist polity, having some form of congregational government being comprised of baptized members; and
6. The church shall participate through prayer, financial, and personal involvement in the mission and ministries of Converge North Central.

**Section E. Affirmation of Faith**

**1. The Word of God**

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts; that it was written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit; and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.



2. **The Trinity**

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; that these are equal in every divine perfection; and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption.

3. **God, the Father**

We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of people, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

4. **Jesus Christ**

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal, visible return to earth.

5. **The Holy Spirit**

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide.

6. **Regeneration**

We believe that all people are sinners by nature and by choice and are therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

7. **The Church**

We believe in the universal Church, a living, spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

8. **Christian Conduct**

We believe that Christians should live for the glory of God and the well-being of others; that their conduct should be blameless before the world; that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions; and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ.

9. **Christian Marriage**

We believe that Christian marriage is a sacred institution ordained by God for the well-being and propagation of humankind. It is a covenant representing the spiritual and physical union into which one man and one woman may enter for the glory of God, symbolizing the relationship of Christ to his church. As the sign of this covenant, sexual activity is reserved exclusively for the marriage relationship. According to the scriptural ideal, marriage requires sacrificial love and faithfulness to each other for life.

10. **Humanity**

We believe God created humankind immutably as male and female to reflect and bear His image. As such, human beings of every ethnicity, age, ability, as well as the pre-born deserve dignity, protection, honor, respect, and Christian love. Because of Adam and Eve's free choice to sin, God's image in all humankind has become distorted and relationship with God has become disrupted.

#### **11. The Ordinances**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **12. Religious Liberty**

We believe that every human being has direct relations with God and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; and that therefore Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other.

#### **13. Church Cooperation**

We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with each other in denominational organizations. Such an organization, whether a regional or district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may likewise cooperate with interdenominational fellowships on a voluntary, independent basis.

#### **14. The Last Things**

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked.

### **Article III**

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article Third hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

### **Article IV**

The existence of this Corporation shall be perpetual until dissolution.

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, CNC assets will be transferred to Converge (national). Any assets not received by Converge shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

## Article V

1. Converge North Central shall consist of Baptist churches that accept the purpose and doctrinal position as set forth in Article II and comply with the formalities of membership as hereinafter set forth.
2. A Baptist church that wishes to unite with CNC shall send a letter of application, a written record of its history, its most recent year's financial statement, evidence of incorporation under the laws of the state in which the church is located, a copy of its constitution and bylaws, and a record of church action indicating agreement with the Articles and Bylaws of CNC to the Regional President of Converge North Central. If these are regarded as satisfactory, the Church will be presented to the Board of Stewards for ratification into Converge North Central. When ratified by the Board of Stewards, they will submit that church or list of churches to the delegates for affirmation at the subsequent Biennial meeting. The Regional President will be responsible to provide communication to the applying church of successful affiliation. In addition, upon completion of these steps the Regional President shall send written notice to Converge (national).
3. If a church ceases to function as an organized congregation, it shall be removed from the CNC. In the event of gross deviation in doctrine or polity, or of failure to participate in the program of CNC, the Board of Stewards shall be authorized to make recommendations at CNC's Biennial Meeting regarding the termination of membership for that church with CNC.

## Article VI

1. Converge North Central shall hold a general meeting of the delegates from its member churches at least every other year.
2. The time and place of the Biennial Meeting of the delegates shall be decided by the Board of Stewards or its Executive Committee.
3. Each affiliated church that makes up CNC shall be allowed to send four delegates to the Biennial Meeting for its first one hundred church members or less. One additional delegate for each additional fifty church members or major portion thereof. Regularly elected members of CNC's Board of Stewards shall be delegates-at-large to the Biennial Meeting.

1 – 100 Members	101 – 150 Members	151 – 200 Members	201 – 250 Members	...and continuing
4 Delegates	Up to 5 Delegates	Up to 6 Delegates	Up to 7 Delegates	...and continuing

4. The procedure for conducting the Biennial Meeting shall be set forth in the Bylaws Article I.

## Article VII

1. The oversight of the corporate and business affairs of CNC shall be assigned to a Board of Stewards consisting of not less than eleven members and established pursuant to the Bylaws of CNC.
2. The procedure for electing the Board of Stewards and their terms of office will be as set forth in the Bylaws of CNC. All candidates for election to the Board of Stewards must be a member in good standing of a church which is an affiliated church within CNC.
3. The Board of Stewards will be responsible for the oversight of CNC when the region is not in Biennial Meeting. It shall be the official voice of CNC, competent to commence and to respond to legal actions on behalf of CNC.
4. The Board of Stewards will not be permitted to grant loans to member churches unless the applicant church demonstrates that it is a corporation in good standing at the time the loan is granted.

### **Article VIII**

The officers who will preside at the Biennial Meeting of CNC shall be a Moderator, a Vice-Moderator, and a Recording Secretary. These officers shall be elected or appointed pursuant to the procedures established in the Bylaws of CNC.

### **Article IX**

These Articles may be amended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of delegates present at any regular session of a Biennial Meeting, provided such amendment has been proposed to CNC and entered in the minutes of the previous Biennial Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION



**AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS  
OF CONVERGE NORTH CENTRAL**

**Article I**

**Meetings of the Member Churches**

**1.1 Procedure and Policy for the Meetings of Converge North Central**

- a. Converge North Central (CNC – rest of document) shall hold a business meeting once every two (2) years (“Biennial Meeting”) on a date and at a location selected by the Board of Stewards.
- b. Each session of the Biennial Meeting and any Special Meetings of the Member Churches (“Meetings”) shall open and close with prayer, and business shall be conducted in a manner consistent with Christ’s teachings.
- c. When the delegates of the Member Churches function as a deliberative assembly, the Board of Stewards may require Robert’s Rules of Order, as currently revised to be used.
- d. At the discretion of the Board of Stewards, Delegates may participate in meetings by any means of communication through which the Delegate with other Delegates so participating physically present or by electronic means at the meeting may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting. A Delegate so participating shall be deemed present in person at the meeting.
- e. The Board of Stewards shall prepare and present the agenda for the Meeting.

**1.2 Moderator and Vice-Moderator**

- a. The Moderator and Vice-Moderator shall be elected at CNC’s Biennial Meeting and shall serve through the next Biennial Meeting. A Committee on Nominations shall present nominees for these offices and additional nominations may be made from the floor. Election shall be by closed ballot. The Moderator and Vice-Moderator shall serve as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Stewards.
- b. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over the business sessions of CNC’s Meetings and shall appoint the necessary personnel, including a Parliamentarian to assist if needed with Roberts Rules of Order for the meeting. The Moderator shall endeavor to cooperate closely with the Regional President.
- c. The Moderator and Vice-Moderator will work with the Regional President and staff in preparation leading up to the meeting. The Vice-Moderator shall assist the Moderator and may preside over certain sessions at the direction of the Moderator.

**1.3 Recording Secretary**

- a. The Recording Secretary shall be appointed by the Moderator prior to the Meetings and shall serve during the meeting.
- b. The Recording Secretary shall be responsible for taking minutes at the Meeting and for preparing them for subsequent publication. The Recording Secretary shall also be responsible for having available the minutes of the previous Biennial and any Special Meetings in order to provide information at the request of the Moderator. Any minutes recorded are to be approved by the Board of Stewards before publication.

#### **1.4 Emergency**

In the event an emergency shall prevent the Biennial Meeting of the Conference, the business of CNC shall be conducted by its Board of Stewards. Decisions made by the Board of Stewards shall be in effect until acted upon by the Delegates in the next Biennial or Special Meeting of Converge North Central. At such a Special Meeting, no decision affecting the nature of the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws nor any expenditures other than as ordinary and necessary to conduct the business of CNC shall be approved. The decision canceling the Biennial Meeting of the Conference shall be made by the Board of Stewards.

#### **1.5 Special Meetings**

Special business meetings of CNC may be called by the Board of Stewards. Thirty (30) days prior to the Special Meeting written notice shall be mailed and/or e-mailed to all member churches specifying the time, place, and purpose of the meeting. Only matters specified in the meeting notice shall be acted upon at the Special Meeting.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **Nomination and Election Procedures**

#### **2.1 Nominating Committee**

- a. There will be a Nominating Committee elected during each Biennial Meeting to present a ballot to the Board of Stewards and from the Board of Stewards and Nominating committee to the Member Churches at the Biennial or Special Meetings of the Conference for approval of the Chair, Vice-Chair and of all members of the Board of Stewards.
- b. The Nominating Committee shall consist of one (1) designee from the Board of Stewards and two (2) representatives from member churches located in Iowa and two (2) representatives from member churches located in Minnesota. Nominating Committee representatives must be members of CNC churches. The Regional President shall be responsible to convene the Nominating Committee.
- c. All nominees presented by the Nominating Committee, or nominated from the floor, shall have given prior consent.
- d. The term of the Nominating Committee members shall be two (2) years with all four (4) non-Board of Steward members being elected every two years at the Biennial Meeting of the Conference. No member of the Nominating Committee may serve more than two (2) consecutive terms.
- e. A copy of the proposed ballot prepared by the Nominating Committee will be mailed or e-mailed to each member church at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Biennial Meeting.
- f. The Nominating Committee shall meet at least four (4) times a year during the year of the Biennial Meeting, and at least twice (2) during the non-Biennial year.

#### **2.2 Election of Members of the Board of Stewards**

- a. Nominations for elected members of the Board of Stewards shall be submitted by the Nominating Committee, which will prepare a non-competitive ballot pursuant to Paragraph b. of this Section 3.2. Election shall be by closed ballot.
- b. The name and church membership of each nominated member of the Board of Stewards shall be listed on the ballot. All of the names of the nominated members of the Board of Stewards shall be submitted for election by the Conference at the Biennial Meeting.



- c. Election shall be for a term of two (2) years.
- d. Newly elected Board members shall take office at the close of the Biennial Meeting and shall serve their designated term.
- e. After having served one full term, a member of the Board shall be eligible for re-election for a second and third full term. After three full terms, a member is ineligible for re-election for an interval of one full term.
- f. Vacancies occurring in any CNC elected office shall be filled at its Biennial Meeting, and in the interim, may be filled by appointment of the Board of Stewards. Persons thus elected shall serve until the completion of the unexpired term.

### **ARTICLE III** **Board of Stewards**

#### **3.1 Composition**

- a. The Board of Stewards shall consist of the steward members elected by the delegates in the Biennial Meeting, together with the CNC Chair and Vice-Chair.
- b. The Regional President shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Stewards without the privilege of voting.

#### **3.2 Officers**

- a. The officers of the Board shall be: the Chair and meeting moderator, who preferably will have served the previous year as a Steward; the Vice-Chair and vice moderator; and Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be appointed by the Board of Stewards.
- b. All official documents of the Conference including deeds conveying or mortgaging real property owned by it, agreements of guaranty, notes, bonds or other documents evidencing indebtedness of the Conference shall bear the signatures of two of the following officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, or Treasurer of the Board of Stewards. In the event it is not possible to secure a required signature, the Board of Stewards may, by resolution, authorize another member of the Board of Stewards to sign a specific document.

#### **3.3 Responsibilities**

- a. Under the authority of the delegates, the duties of the Board are oversight and accountability.
- b. The Board shall propose a two (2) year budget for presentation and approval at the Biennial Meeting. All member churches shall be notified of the proposed budget not less than thirty (30) days before the Biennial Meeting.
- c. The Board is hereby given the power and authority to invest funds or re-invest funds, to purchase and acquire property, and to sell and convey property, for such price and upon such terms as they may consider proper under the circumstances, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the powers given to and imposed upon the Board of Stewards by the Conference.
- d. Under the specific decisions and according to the biennial budget adopted by the delegates, the Board and through its delegation the Regional President is empowered to employ and support full and part-time personnel, to receive and disburse funds, and to concern themselves with the raising of the total budget.
- e. The Board in conjunction with the Regional President and the CNC staff is charged with extending the mission of the churches in Converge North Central in the following ways:

- 1.) Provide, according to its own discretion, financial assistance to churches in support of the pastoral ministry or of special programs of Converge North Central;
  - 2.) Provide assistance in pastoral placement, shall seek to find ways to make pastors more effective in their ministry through encouragement and enrichment, and shall establish procedures and standards of ordination;
  - 3.) Maintain liaison with the Converge Board of Overseers through the Regional President;
  - 4.) Create standing committees and/or task force groups in order to facilitate and implement its plans and work. Such committees and groups shall receive their assignments from the Board and shall be accountable to the Board. Membership on these committees and groups shall be open to both members and non-members of the Board. Each committee or group shall have at least three (3) members with the recognition that the Regional President will be an ex officio member of all committees;
  - 5.) Provide job descriptions for the CNC staff.
- f. The Board shall have the authority and responsibility to exercise the functions of the Board of Directors of nonprofit religious corporations organized under the laws of the State of Minnesota.

#### **3.4 Executive Committee**

- a. The officers of the Board and the Regional President shall serve as the Executive Committee of the Board of Stewards. Additional members may be appointed to the Executive Committee by the Board of Stewards.
- b. The Executive Committee of the Board of Stewards shall have the authority to manage the affairs referred to it by the Board. It shall have authority to act for the Board in the event that it is not feasible to call a meeting of the Board. The Executive Committee shall at all times be subject to the control and direction of the Board.

#### **3.5 Meetings and Notice**

- a. At least four (4) regular meetings of the Board of Stewards will be held throughout the Regional year ("Regular Meeting").
- b. Special meetings of the Board of Stewards may be called by the Regional President of CNC, or the Chair of the Board or by any five (5) members of the Board ("Special Meeting").
- c. A written notice of Regular or Special Meetings of the Board will be sent via email, US Mail or other means of written notification ("Sent") to each Board at least seven (7) days prior to the scheduled meeting ("Notice").
- d. The Notice shall specify the time, place, and purpose of the meeting. Any business may be considered at Regular Meetings of the Board, but only matters mentioned in the notice of meeting may be acted upon at a Special Meeting.
- e. A majority of the voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business at either a Regular or Special Meeting of the Board. When a quorum is not present, any meeting may be adjourned and a new meeting scheduled, provided notice of the new meeting time is sent to all Board members. When a quorum has been present at a meeting and Board members have withdrawn from that meeting so that less than a quorum remains, the members still present may continue to transact business until adjournment.



- f. Any action that could be taken at a meeting of the Board of Stewards may be taken without a meeting when, when approved through electronic vote, authorized in writing signed by all of the Board members, or as otherwise permitted by law.
- g. Members of the Board of Stewards may participate in meetings by any means of communication through which the Member, other Members so participating and all Members physically present at the meeting may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting. A Member so participating shall be deemed present in person at the meeting.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **Regional President and Staff**

#### **4.1 Regional President**

##### **a. Qualifications:**

- 1) Education at a level necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of the job;
- 2) Experience as a pastor and/or administrator/CEO necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of the job;
- 3) Long-term familiarity with Converge;
- 4) Possessing pastoral qualities of character, integrity and ministry giftedness as described in Scripture;
- 5) Gifted in visionary and executive leadership;
- 6) Able to preach and teach the Bible and to effectively communicate the vision and mission of CNC.

##### **b. Responsibilities:**

- 1) The Regional President shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer of CNC;
- 2) The Regional President shall lead CNC in developing and fulfilling its mission and vision;
- 3) The Regional President shall affirm the Baptist heritage of CNC and its unique character as represented in the Converge Identity Statement;
- 4) The Regional President shall oversee the decisions of CNC Biennial and Special Meetings and those Regular and Special Meetings of the Board of Stewards, informing members of the progress of CNC in achieving its objectives;
- 5) The Regional President shall develop a team of competent staff through selection, compensation, training and regular evaluation and shall oversee the management of CNC;
- 6) The Regional President shall monitor the financial operations of CNC by working with the Board of Stewards in presenting CNC with a biennial budget, raising its support, and maintaining effective accounting practices;
- 7) The Regional President, along with CNC staff, shall oversee ministries to CNC churches to assist with placement, crisis management, and growth and development;
- 8) The Regional President, along with CNC staff, shall encourage the fellowship and development of CNC pastors, shall provide counseling for them as needed, and shall oversee pastoral placement;

- 9) The Regional President shall seek to maintain an effective relationship with Converge (national) by serving on its board representing the interests of CNC. The Regional President shall also seek to maintain an effective relationship with the wider evangelical community;
  - 10) The Regional President shall submit a report at each Regular Meeting of the Board of Stewards; and
  - 11) The Regional President shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Stewards and of all CNC Committees.
- c. Accountability:
- 1) The Regional President shall be accountable to the Board of Stewards of CNC;
  - 2) The Board of Stewards shall maintain a detailed and updated job description for the Regional President and
  - 3) The Board of Stewards will carry out a comprehensive pastors review of the Regional President's work every term and carry out board-based performance evaluations annually.

#### **4.2 Staff Members**

- a. Staff Members shall be appointed by the Regional President. The Staff Members will be reviewed annually by the Regional President or designee.
- b. The Staff Members shall be accountable to and assist the Regional President in carrying out the mission of the CNC and shall assume such tasks as assigned them by the Regional President or designee.
- c. The Staff Members shall serve as staff resource members, without the privilege of voting, of those committees to which they may be assigned by the Regional President.

#### **4.3 Election Procedures and Terms for Regional President**

- a. The Regional President of CNC shall be elected for a term of six (6) years. The Regional President will be reviewed periodically by the Executive Committee, with a comprehensive review in the year prior to re-nomination for an additional term.
- b. At least one (1) nomination for Regional President shall be presented to the Biennial meeting (or a Special Meeting) of CNC by the Board of Stewards. The name of the nominee or nominees shall be presented to the member churches at least sixty (60) days prior to the meeting. Other nominations may be made by members of CNC churches provided that the nominee meets the qualifications listed in article 4.1 and that fifty (50) active members of at least eight (8) CNC churches shall sign a petition of support for the nominee and shall secure the written consent of the nominee. This petition along with the nominee's consent shall be submitted to the Board of Stewards at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting when the election shall be held so that written information on all candidates can be provided for the delegates.
- c. If there are more than two (2) candidates, and if no candidate receives more than 50% of all votes cast, there shall be a run-off election of the two (2) candidates having the greatest number of votes before the end of that meeting.
- d. In the event that there is only one (1) candidate for Regional President, there shall be a written or electronic ballot with a two-thirds (2/3rds) affirmative vote required for ratification.

#### **4.4-1 Dissolution of Relationship – Staff Member**

- a. If a Staff Member resigns, his or her letter of resignation shall be submitted to the Regional President.
- b. Any charges concerning gross misconduct, doctrinal deviation, or obvious incompetence must be thoroughly investigated by the Regional President in accordance with the pattern of Matthew 18:15-17. If the grievances are substantiated and are not or cannot be corrected, this relationship shall be terminated by the Regional President.
- c. In the event of resignation or removal of a Staff Member, reasonable termination conditions shall be agreed upon by the Regional President in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Board of Stewards.

#### **4.4-2 Dissolution of Relationship – Regional President**

- a. If the Regional President resigns, his or her letter of resignation shall be submitted to the Board of Stewards.
- b. Any charges concerning gross misconduct, doctrinal deviation, or obvious incompetence must be thoroughly investigated by the Board of Stewards in accordance with the pattern of Matthew 18:15-17. Such grievances must be written and signed by at least one member in good standing of each of three CNC churches. If the grievances are substantiated and are not or cannot be corrected, the Board by two-thirds (2/3rds) majority vote of its total voting membership shall terminate this relationship subject to ratification by CNC at a Biennial or Special Meeting. In the event of a vote of termination by the Board of Stewards, the Regional President shall be placed on a paid or unpaid leave of absence until the convening of the annual or specially called business meeting of CNC.
- c. In the event of resignation or removal of an Regional President, reasonable termination conditions shall be agreed upon by the Board and the Regional President.

### **ARTICLE V** **Amendments**

#### **5.1 Procedure**

These articles may be amended by the affirmative vote of the majority of delegates present at any regular session of any Biennial or Special Meeting, provided notice of such amendment has been submitted to all member churches not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Biennial or Special Meeting. These Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were adopted in 1972.

Amendments to these Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were made:

October 26, 1973	November 1, 1991
October 27, 1977	October 26, 2002
November 9, 1979	October 26, 2013
October 29, 1984	October 26, 2018
October 24, 1986	October 30, 2020

## STANDING RESOLUTIONS

### 1. CONFERENCE BOARDS AND OFFICERS

Recognizing the worthy ministry of our officers, boards and departmental personnel, we express our confidence and deep appreciation to them for their faithful leadership.

### 2. SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

Whereas, there is a growing challenge to the basic freedoms guaranteed to us by our Constitution, be it resolved that we reaffirm our commitment to the adequacy of the Declaration of the First Amendment that "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. . ."

### 3. ECUMENICITY

Whereas, we are aware that inherent in the popular cry for ecumenicity are ingredients that blend all too easily with the subtle voice of compromise that could place us in the perilous position of having gained organizational union at the expense of spiritual principles, be it resolved that we urge our churches, our Conference boards and officers, to prayerfully evaluate all overtures to unite, in the light of historic Baptist distinctives, with a careful eye to their Scriptural warranties.

### 4. SOCIAL EVILS

We are sadly conscious of the fact that we live in a day which may be characterized by the Scriptural statement, "as it was in the days of Noah."

We view with great alarm the corrupting forces of evil so strongly entrenched in the life of our society. Of these evils we make particular note: (1) the ever increasing production and consumption of alcoholic beverages; (2) the similar production and use of tobacco; (3) the illegal traffic in and use of narcotics; (4) the publication and sale of indecent literature; (5) the offensive dramatization in movies and on television which exploits murder and sex; (6) the increasing participation of our population in the nefarious forms of gambling and lottery; (7)1 the practice of abortion on demand, which is the deliberate and unjustified taking of an innocent human life; and (8)2 the practice of homosexuality, along with other forms of sexual behavior that deviate from Scriptural norms.

We look upon these evils without compromise, as a serious danger to the physical health and well-being of participants, to the lives of others and unborn generations. We therefore protest against these degrading practices and against those whom we hold responsible for this curse, those who so shamefully and without respect for decency and the common good of all society and of our youth in particular, propagandize and exploit only for their own personal gain.

We therefore earnestly urge upon the members of our churches to take a definite stand against these evils; that members cooperate in such non-racial movements and organizations which have as their objective to combat and suppress these aforementioned evils and to enlighten the public of their dangers as a threat to the very life of our nation; that we deal with these problems, not by a negative approach alone, but by a positive educational program and by setting an example of godly living to counteract all these evils.

1Amendment approved October 1988

2Amendment approved October 1988

3Amendment approved October 1988

### 5. HUMAN RELATIONS

We believe that:

God created one human family and that all people everywhere, whatever their color, culture, class or caste, are inseparably related and bound together as members of that one human family.

All persons are created in the image of God and are equally precious in His sight. All decisions about the



life, health and safety of an unborn child and/or its mother must be made recognizing that both the child from the moment of conception and its mother are fully human beings.

Jesus Christ, Himself the God-man, by His redemptive act lives now as the Savior and Lord of people everywhere, whatever their color, culture, class or caste.

All persons are by nature selfish and in rebellion against God; and that only through God's reconciling grace can they be set free from the dominions of sin to live as one in Christ.

Through the Word, the Holy Spirit established the fellowship of believers to which persons are called for corporate worship, compassionate concern and evangelistic outreach. Since the Church is created by God, the decisive factor in controlling its mission is not based primarily upon the variable cultural patterns in the world but upon the revealed principles of the Word of God.

Therefore, the mandate of Jesus Christ, to bring salvation to all people, makes it obligatory for the church to communicate the Gospel to all persons without discrimination or distinction.

Further, we maintain that to exclude from worship or membership in the local congregation any person on the basis of color, culture, class or caste is to sin against God and humanity.

Furthermore, Christians ought to exercise their God-given responsibility by acting to remove whatever injustices exist in the community and to insure for all persons, without discrimination, just and equal opportunities, especially in housing, employment, education and full rights of citizenship including equitable voting privileges.

## **6. SOCIAL MINISTRIES**

We believe that:

God created man both material and spiritual and that he has a concern for the whole person.

The Scriptures explicitly admonish us to a ministry of compassion; "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and truth" (I John 3:17-18).

Consistent with the example of Christ, the Church fulfills its ministry when it expresses the redemptive love of God for individuals in their total life situation, both spiritual and social.

It is the Christian's duty to visit orphans and widows and to feed the hungry, give the thirsty drink, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked and visit the sick and imprisoned. The Minnesota Baptist Conference and its members should support and perform services directed toward the well-being of their fellow men as a natural result of their faith in God and their Christian love for their fellow human beings. Therefore, we urge our membership, both as individuals and congregations, to develop a critical awareness of social needs and to develop relevant programs to relieve stress, to improve the well-being of the community, and to work toward an environment favorable to the fullest development of individual human capacities. Further, we believe that our Conference should seek ways to quicken the social consciousness of our people by:

- (1) Educating our membership to the relationship between social responsibilities and the mandate of the Gospel;
- (2) Expressing corporate opinions on social issues through stated resolutions and through the development of such programs that validate social concern;
- (3) Promoting and sustaining social ministries commensurate with its resources and skills.

## **7. REVIVAL**

Whereas, there are evidences of dissatisfaction with spiritual conditions in the world and church, and Whereas, there are evidences of a hunger on the part of Christians for revival, and whereas, we believe that God has led our Conference to look to Him for renewed spiritual life: Be it resolved, that we humble ourselves, consecrate ourselves anew unto God, and pray that God will send us a great awakening and greatly increase our burden for souls. Be it further resolved, that we urge our churches to sponsor evangelistic meetings and personal visitation campaigns.

And whereas, there is a danger of churches and individuals being swept into currents of heresy by those

who emphasize the doctrine of the Holy Spirit without regard for the clear New Testament revelation concerning His person and work, resulting in serious division among churches and Christians. Be it resolved, that we urge our pastors to teach and preach the New Testament truth concerning the baptism, filling and gifts of the Holy Spirit, after careful, unbiased study of what the Bible says about these matters, and be it further resolved, that we ask our Sunday Bible schools to offer a carefully conceived course on the Holy Spirit to adults for at least one quarter.

**8. (1971 Conference Resolution) - CHURCH AND STATE - FRIEND OR FOE**

Whereas, the Bible teaches mutual respect and responsibility between the church and the state; and Whereas, the necessary historic battle between church and state laws has been successfully fought; and Whereas, at present there is cooperation between church and state: Be it resolved, that as the Minnesota Baptist Conference we recognize the legitimate roles of both church and state and that we recognize that both church and state function most effectively when there is a spirit of cooperation between them.

**9. (1972 Conference Resolution) - THAT WE BECOME THE FRIENDS OF THE POOR**

We, the churches of the Minnesota Baptist Conference, resolve to become the friends of the poor; That this be done by fulfilling the biblical injunctions concerning the poor; that the churches of the Minnesota Baptist Conference cultivate a sensitivity to the problems connected with poverty; and that our churches make every effort possible to become involved in the alleviation of poverty at the local, national and world levels, and to encourage our people to become personally involved with those who live in poverty of both body and spirit.

**10. (1973 Conference Resolution) - WE RESOLVE TO ENCOURAGE THE CHURCHES OF THE MINNESOTA BAPTIST CONFERENCE:**

To discover creative new ways of involving the older person in the ministry within the church and the community; to become educated to the needs and the potential of older persons and to prepare our people for the retirement years through meaningful education programs; to serve as a resource center for information that would aid older persons in adjusting to and meeting the total needs of retirement.



# **AMENDED AND RESTATED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**

## **Minnesota Iowa Baptist Conference**

### **Article I**

The legal name of this nonprofit corporate organization shall be the MINNESOTA IOWA BAPTIST CONFERENCE, hereinafter referred to as the "MIBC" or "Conference." MIBC will do business under the name "Converge North Central", or "CNC". The registered office of this nonprofit corporation is 2 Pine Tree Drive #510, St. Paul, Ramsey County, Minnesota 55112.

### **Article II**

- A. The general purpose of the MIBC shall be to carry out the command of Christ as embodied in Matthew 28:18-20: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

As a fellowship of churches with this vision for mission, we covenant together to do together what we cannot do alone in reaching people for Christ. The great commission in Acts 1:8 compels us to not only reach our Jerusalem (local communities), but to strategize together how to reach our Judea (our states), our Samarias (peoples within our region who are culturally separated from us) and the uttermost parts of the earth.

This shall be accomplished through:

1. Encouraging churches which subscribe to the Affirmation of Faith, set forth in this Article, to affiliate with the Conference.
2. Establishing new churches and strengthening existing churches.
3. Acquiring and maintaining camps and their properties necessary for its ministries.
4. Sponsoring and supporting such evangelistic, educational, social and benevolent ministries as may be deemed appropriate to these purposes.
5. Acquiring, holding, selling, mortgaging real or personal property as necessary for the fulfillment of these purposes.
6. Supporting member churches in the conduct of their activities through gifts or loans of money.
7. Providing placement, encouragement, counsel and educational experiences for pastors.
8. Encouraging short-term mission experiences within the state and beyond.
9. Affiliation and cooperation with Converge (formerly the Baptist General Conference), a not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Illinois.
10. Encouraging faith, spiritual growth and wholeness and fellowship within and between MIBC churches.
11. Carrying out such other activities and actions as may be essential to the fulfillment of the purposes herein stated, including developing and maintaining relations to other denominations and Christian ministries for the larger expression of our Christian faith.

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

- B. Baptists have held that the Old and New Testaments are the inspired record of God's revelation and thus are the final authority for faith and life. Therefore, we believe that manmade creeds and confessions should not be held as final expressions of faith. In light of this, we set forth the following "Affirmation of Faith" as a contemporary expression of beliefs held by churches of the Minnesota Iowa Baptist Conference.

1. **The Word of God**  
We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts; that it was written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit; and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
2. **The Trinity**  
We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; that these are equal in every divine perfection; and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption.

3. God, the Father  
We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of people, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.
4. Jesus Christ  
We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual Intercession for His people, and personal, visible return to earth.
5. The Holy Spirit  
We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide.
6. Regeneration  
We believe that all people are sinners by nature and by choice and are therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.
7. The Church  
We believe in the universal Church, a living, spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.
8. Christian Conduct  
We believe that Christians should live for the glory of God and the well-being of others; that their conduct should be blameless before the world; that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions; and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ.
9. The Ordinances  
We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.
10. Religious Liberty  
We believe that every human being has direct relations with God and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; and that therefore Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other.
11. Church Cooperation  
We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with each other in denominational organizations. Such an organization, whether a regional or district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may likewise cooperate with interdenominational fellowships on a voluntary, independent basis.
12. The Last Things  
We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked.

### **ARTICLE III**

This Corporation does not afford pecuniary gain, incidentally or otherwise, to its members.

#### **ARTICLE IV**

The existence of this Corporation shall be perpetual.

#### **ARTICLE V**

1. The Conference shall consist of Baptist churches that accept the purpose and doctrinal position as set forth in Article II and comply with the formalities of membership as hereinafter set forth.
2. A Baptist church that wishes to unite with the Conference shall send to the Board of Stewards a letter of application, a written record of its history, its financial statement, evidence of incorporation under the laws of the state in which the church is located, a copy of its constitution and bylaws, and a record of church action indicating agreement with the Articles and Bylaws of the Conference. If these be regarded as satisfactory, the Board will recommend to the Biennial Meeting of the Conference the acceptance of said church. At the Biennial Meeting, time shall be set aside for consideration of such recommendations and for the welcoming of churches into the Conference. Upon favorable action by the Conference, the Executive Minister shall send written notice of acceptance to the applying church. In addition, he shall send written notice to the Board of Overseers of the Baptist General Conference.
3. If a church ceases to function as an organized congregation, it shall be removed from the Conference. In the event of gross deviation in doctrine or polity, or of failure to participate in the program of the Conference, the Board of Stewards shall be authorized to make recommendations to the Biennial Meeting of the MIBC regarding the termination of membership in the Conference.

#### **ARTICLE VI**

1. The Conference shall hold a general meeting of the delegates from its member churches at least every other year.
2. The time and place of the Biennial Meeting of the Conference shall be decided by the Conference, or, when necessary, by the Board of Stewards or its Executive Committee.
3. Each church of the Conference shall be allowed to send four delegates to the Biennial Meeting for its first one hundred members or less and one delegate for each additional fifty members or major portion thereof. Regularly elected members of the Board of Stewards shall be delegates-at-large to the Biennial Meeting.
4. The procedure for conducting the Biennial Meeting shall be set forth in the Bylaws adopted pursuant to Article X hereof.

#### **ARTICLE VII**

1. The management of the corporate and business affairs of the Conference shall be assigned to a Board of Stewards consisting of not less than eleven members and established pursuant to the Bylaws of the Conference.
2. The procedure for electing the Board of Stewards and their terms of office will be as set forth in the Bylaws of the Conference. All candidates for election to the Board of Stewards must be members in good standing of a church which is a member of the Conference.
3. The Board of Stewards will be responsible for the management of the Conference when the Conference is not in Biennial Meeting. It shall be the official voice of the Conference, competent to commence and to respond to legal actions on behalf of the Conference.
4. The Board of Stewards will not be permitted to grant loans to member churches unless the applicant church demonstrates that it is a corporation in good standing at the time the loan is granted.

#### **ARTICLE VIII**

The officers who will preside at the Biennial Meeting of the Conference shall be a Moderator, a Vice-Moderator, a Recording Secretary, and an Assistant Recording Secretary. These officers shall be elected or appointed pursuant to the procedures established in the Bylaws of the Conference.

#### **ARTICLE IX**

These Articles may be amended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of delegates present at any regular session of a Biennial Meeting, provided such amendment has been proposed to the Conference and entered in the minutes of the previous Biennial Meeting.

# **AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS**

## **Minnesota Iowa Baptist Conference**

### **Article I**

#### **Meetings of the Member Churches**

##### **1.1 Procedure and Policy for the Meetings of the Conference**

- a. The Minnesota Iowa Baptist Conference ("Conference") shall hold a business meeting once every two (2) years ("Biennial Meeting") at a location selected by the Board of Stewards.
- b. Each session of the Biennial Meeting and any Special Meeting of the Member Churches ("Meetings") shall open and close with prayer, and business shall be conducted in a manner consistent with Christ's teachings.
- c. When the delegates of the Member Churches function as a deliberative assembly, they shall do so according to Robert's Rules of Order, as currently revised.
- d. At the discretion of the Board of Stewards, Members of the Conference may participate in meetings by any means of communication through which the Member, other Members so participating and all Members physically present at the meeting may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting. A Member so participating shall be deemed present in person at the meeting.
- e. The Board of Stewards shall prepare and submit to the Biennial Meeting for adoption a proposed program setting forth the time and procedure for elections and for the orderly presentation of business at the Biennial Meeting.

##### **1.2 Moderator and Vice-Moderator**

- a. The Moderator and Vice-Moderator shall be elected at the Biennial Meeting of the Conference and shall serve through the next Biennial Meeting. A Committee on Nominations shall present nominees for these offices and additional nominations may be made from the floor. Election shall be by closed ballot. The Moderator and Vice-Moderator shall serve as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Stewards.
- b. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over the business sessions of the Meetings of the Conference and shall appoint the necessary personnel, including the Parliamentarian, to assist at the Meetings. The Moderator shall endeavor to cooperate closely with the Executive Minister.
- c. The Vice-Moderator shall assist the Moderator in preparation for and during the Meetings and may preside over certain sessions at the direction of the Moderator.

##### **1.3 Recording Secretary**

- a. The Recording Secretary shall be appointed by the Moderator prior to the Meetings and shall serve during the meeting.
- b. The Recording Secretary shall be responsible for taking minutes at the Meeting and for preparing them for subsequent publication. The Recording Secretary shall also be responsible for having available the minutes of the previous Biennial and any Special Meetings in order to provide information at the request of the Moderator. Any minutes recorded are to be approved by the Board of Stewards before publication.

##### **1.4 Committee and Functions**

- a. The Moderator shall appoint the following committees to work with the Executive Director and other staff members of the MIBC to facilitate the planning and the conducting of the Biennial Meeting. Members of these committees are to be approved by the Board of Stewards.
- b. **Steering Committee:** The Steering Committee shall work with the Executive Director to make arrangements for the program of the Biennial Meeting, including selecting and contacting speakers, arranging the time of the various sessions and services, and determining any particular theme of the Biennial Meeting if there is to be one.

- c. **Business Committee:** The Business Committee shall be responsible for any new business presented at the Biennial Meeting (i.e., business not included on the printed agenda) and shall determine the time and manner in which it is to be introduced for debate and action. The names of those on this committee shall be presented to the assembly near the beginning of the Biennial Meeting for ratification.

### **1.5 Emergency**

In the event an emergency shall prevent the Biennial Meeting of the Conference, the business of the Conference shall be conducted by its Board of Stewards. Decisions made by the Board of Stewards shall be in effect until acted upon by the Conference in the next Biennial or Special Meeting of the Conference. At such a Special Meeting, no decision affecting the nature of the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws nor any expenditures other than as ordinary and necessary to conduct the business of the MIBC shall be approved. The decision canceling the Biennial Meeting of the Conference shall be made by the Board of Stewards.

### **1.6 Special Meetings**

Special business meetings of the Conference may be called by the Board of Stewards ("Special Meeting"). Thirty (30) days prior to the Special Meeting written notice shall be mailed to all member churches specifying the time, place, and purpose of the meeting. Only matters specified in the meeting notice shall be acted upon at the Special Meeting.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **Nomination and Election Procedures**

### **2.1 Nominating Committee**

- a. There will be a Committee on Nominations elected during each Biennial Meeting to present a ballot to the Board of Stewards and from the Board of Stewards to the Member Churches at the Biennial or Special Meeting of the Conference for approval of the Chair, Vice-Chair and of all members of the Board of Stewards ("Nominating Committee").
- b. The Nominating Committee shall consist of one (1) designee from the Board of Stewards and two (2) representatives from the churches located in Iowa and two (2) representatives from the churches located in Minnesota. The Executive Minister or the Board of Stewards shall be responsible to convene the Nominating Committee.
- c. All nominees presented by the Nominating Committee, or nominated from the floor, shall have given prior consent.
- d. The term of the Nominating Committee members shall be two (2) years with all four (4) non-Board of Steward members being elected every two years at the Biennial Meeting of the Conference. No member of the Nominating Committee may serve more than two (2) consecutive terms.
- e. A copy of the proposed ballot prepared by the Nominating Committee will be mailed to each member church at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Biennial Meeting.
- f. The Nominating Committee shall meet at least four (4) times a year during the year of the Biennial Meeting, and at least twice (2) during the non-Biennial year.

### **2.2 Election of Members of the Board of Stewards**

- a. Nominations for elected members of the Board of Stewards shall be submitted by the Nominating Committee, which will prepare a ballot pursuant to Paragraph b. of this Section 3.2. Election shall be by closed ballot.
- b. The name and church affiliation of each nominated member of the Board of Stewards shall be listed on the ballot. All of the names of the nominated members of the Board of Stewards shall be submitted for election by the Conference at the Biennial Meeting.
- c. Election shall be for a term of two (2) years.
- d. Newly elected Board members shall take office at the close of the Biennial Meeting and shall serve their designated term.

- e. After having served one full term, a member of the Board shall be eligible for re-election for a second and third full term. After three full terms, a member is ineligible for re-election for an interval of one full term.
- f. Vacancies occurring in any MIBC elected office shall be filled by the Conference at its Biennial Meeting, and in the interim, may be filled by appointment of the Board of Stewards. Persons thus elected shall serve until the completion of the unexpired term.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **Board of Stewards**

#### **3.1 Composition**

- a. The Board of Stewards shall consist of the steward members elected by the Conference in the Biennial Meeting, together with the Conference Moderator and Conference Vice-Moderator, who shall be the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Stewards respectively.
- b. The Executive Minister shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Stewards without the privilege of voting.

#### **3.2 Officers**

- a. The officers of the Board shall be: the Chair, who preferably will have served the previous year as a Steward; the Vice-Chair; Secretary; and Treasurer. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be appointed by the Board of Stewards.
- b. All official documents of the Conference including deeds conveying or mortgaging real property owned by it, agreements of guaranty, notes, bonds or other documents evidencing indebtedness of the Conference shall bear the signatures of two of the following officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary or Treasurer of the Board of Stewards. In the event it is not possible to secure a required signature, the Board of Stewards may, by resolution, authorize another member of the Board of Stewards to sign a specific document.

#### **3.3 Responsibilities**

- a. Under the authority of the Conference, the duties of the Board are executive and supervisory.
- b. The Board shall propose a two (2) year budget for presentation and approval at the Biennial Meeting of the Conference, including compensation and any employee benefits for all employees of the MIBC. All member churches shall be notified of the proposed budget not less than thirty (30) days before the Biennial Meeting.
- c. The Board is hereby given the power and authority to invest funds or re-invest funds, to purchase and acquire property, and to sell and convey property, for such price and upon such terms as they may consider proper under the circumstances, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the powers given to and imposed upon the Board of Stewards by the Conference.
- d. Under the specific decisions and according to the biennial budget adopted by the Conference, the Board and by its delegation, the Executive Director is empowered to employ and support full and part-time Conference personnel, to receive and disburse Conference funds, and to concern themselves with the raising of the total Conference budget.
- e. The Board in conjunction with the Executive Director and the MIBC staff is charged with extending the mission of the churches in the Minnesota Iowa district, including in the following ways:
  - 1.) Provide, according to its own discretion, financial assistance to churches in support of the pastoral ministry or of special programs of the Conference;
  - 2.) Provide assistance in pastoral placement, shall seek to find ways to make pastors more effective in their ministry through encouragement and enrichment, and shall establish procedures and standards of ordination;
  - 3.) Maintain liaison with the Converge Board of Overseers through its District representatives. They shall be nominated by the Board and elected by the MIBC. Provision shall be made for periodic reports to the Board of Minnesota Iowa's representatives to the Baptist General Conference Board of Overseers; and
  - 4.) Create standing committees and/or task force groups in order to facilitate and implement its plans and work. Such committees and groups shall receive their assignments from the Board and shall be accountable to the Board. Membership on these committees and groups shall be



open to both members and non-members of the Board. Each committee or group shall have at least three (3) members;

5.) Provide job descriptions for the Directors.

- f. The Board shall have the authority and responsibility to exercise the functions of the Board of Directors of nonprofit religious corporations organized under the laws of the State of Minnesota.

### **3.4 Executive Committee**

- a. The officers of the Board and the Moderator shall serve as the Executive Committee of the Board of Stewards. Additional members may be appointed to the Executive Committee by the Board of Stewards.
- b. The Executive Committee of the Board of Stewards shall have the authority to manage the affairs referred to it by the Board. It shall have authority to act for the Board in the event that it is not feasible to call a meeting of the Board. The Executive Committee shall at all times be subject to the control and direction of the Board.

### **3.5 Meetings and Notice**

- a. At least four (4) regular meetings of the Board of Stewards will be held throughout the Conference year ("Regular Meeting").
- b. Special meetings of the Board of Stewards may be called by the Executive Minister of the Conference, or the Chair of the Board or by any five (5) members of the Board ("Special Meeting").
- c. A written notice of Regular or Special Meetings of the Board will be sent via email, US Mail or other means of written notification ("Sent") to each Board at least seven (7) days prior to the scheduled meeting ("Notice").
- d. The Notice shall specify the time, place, and purpose of the meeting. Any business may be considered at Regular Meetings of the Board, but only matters mentioned in the notice of meeting may be acted upon at a Special Meeting.
- e. A majority of the voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business at either a Regular or Special Meeting of the Board. When a quorum is not present, any meeting may be adjourned and a new meeting scheduled, provided notice of the new meeting time is Sent to all Board members. When a quorum has been present at a meeting and Board members have withdrawn from that meeting so that less than a quorum remains, the members still present may continue to transact business until adjournment.
- f. Any action that could be taken at a meeting of the Board of Stewards may be taken without a meeting when authorized in writing signed by all of the Board members or as otherwise permitted by law.
- g. Members of the Board of Stewards may participate in meetings by any means of communication through which the Member, other Members so participating and all Members physically present at the meeting may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting. A Member so participating shall be deemed present in person at the meeting.
- h. A member of the Board of Stewards may submit a written waiver of notice before, at, or after a meeting of the Board. The waiver shall be filed with the person who has been designated to act as Secretary of the meeting, who shall enter it upon the records of the meeting. Appearance at a meeting is deemed a waiver unless it is solely for the purpose of asserting the illegality of the meeting.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **Executive Minister and Directors**

#### **4.1 Executive Minister**

- a. Qualifications:
  - 1) Education at a level necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of the job;
  - 2) Experience as a pastor and/or administrator/CEO necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of the job;
  - 3) Long-term familiarity with Converge;

- 4) Possessing pastoral qualities of character, integrity and ministry giftedness as described in Scripture;
  - 5) Gifted in visionary and executive leadership;
  - 6) Able to preach and teach the Bible and to effectively communicate the vision and mission of the MIBC.
- b. Responsibilities:
- 1) The Executive Minister shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the MIBC;
  - 2) The Executive Minister shall lead the MIBC in developing and fulfilling its mission and vision;
  - 3) The Executive Minister shall affirm the Baptist heritage of the MIBC and its unique character as represented in the Converge Identity Statement;
  - 4) The Executive Minister shall execute the decisions of the MIBC Biennial and Special Meetings and those Regular and Special Meetings of the Board of Stewards, informing members of the progress of the MIBC in achieving its objectives;
  - 5) The Executive Minister shall develop a team of competent staff through selection, compensation, training and regular evaluation and shall oversee the management of the MIBC Conference Center;
  - 6) The Executive Minister shall monitor the financial operations of the MIBC by working with the Stewards in presenting the MIBC with a biennial budget, raising its support, and maintaining effective accounting practices;
  - 7) The Executive Minister, along with the MIBC staff, shall oversee ministries to MIBC churches to assist them with placement, crisis management, and growth and development;
  - 8) The Executive Minister, along with the MIBC staff, shall encourage the fellowship and development of MIBC pastors, shall provide counseling for them as needed, and shall oversee pastoral placement;
  - 9) The Executive Minister shall seek to maintain an effective relationship with Converge, representing the interests of the MIBC in the Conference. The Executive Minister shall also seek to maintain an effective relationship with the wider evangelical community;
  - 10) The Executive Minister shall provide for a representative from the MIBC at all events and occasions where a representative spokesperson is expected, whether within the MIBC or in other relationships;
  - 11) The Executive Minister shall submit a report at each Regular Meeting of the Board of Stewards; and
  - 12) The Executive Minister shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Stewards and of all MIBC Committees.
- c. Accountability:
- 1) The Executive Minister shall be accountable to the Board of Stewards of the MIBC;
  - 2) The Board of Stewards shall maintain a detailed and updated job description for the Executive Minister; and
  - 3) The Board of Stewards will carry out a comprehensive constituent review of the Executive Minister's work every term and carry out board-based performance evaluations annually.

## **4.2 Staff Members**

- a. Staff Members shall be appointed by the Executive Minister. The Staff Members will be reviewed annually by the Executive Minister.
- b. The Staff Members shall be accountable to and assist the Executive Minister in carrying out the mission of the MIBC and shall assume such tasks as assigned them by the Executive Minister.
- c. The Staff Members shall serve as staff resource members, without the privilege of voting, of those committees to which they may be assigned by the Executive Minister.

## **4.3 Election Procedures and Terms for Executive Ministers**

- a. The Executive Minister of the MIBC shall be elected for a term of six (6) years. The Executive Minister will be reviewed periodically by the Executive Committee, with a comprehensive review in the year prior to re-nomination for an additional term.
- b. At least one (1) nomination for Executive Minister shall be presented to the Biennial meeting (or a Special Meeting) of the MIBC by the Board of Stewards. The name of the nominee or nominees

shall be presented to the member churches at least sixty (60) days prior to the meeting. Other nominations may be made by members of MIBC churches provided that the nominee meets the qualifications listed in article 5.1 and that fifty (50) active members of at least eight (8) MIBC churches shall sign a petition of support for the nominee and shall secure the written consent of the nominee. This petition along with the nominee's consent shall be submitted to the Board of Stewards at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting when the election shall be held so that written information on all candidates can be provided for the delegates.

- c. If there are more than two (2) candidates, and if no candidate receives more than 50% of all votes cast, there shall be a run-off election of the two (2) candidates having the greatest number of votes before the end of that meeting.
- d. In the event that there is only one (1) candidate for Executive Minister, there shall be a written ballot with a two-thirds (2/3rds) affirmative vote required for ratification.

#### **4.4-1 Dissolution of Relationship – Staff Member**

- a. If a Staff Member resigns, his or her letter of resignation shall be submitted to the Executive Minister .
- b. Any charges concerning gross misconduct, doctrinal deviation, or obvious incompetence must be thoroughly investigated by the Executive Minister in accordance with the pattern of Matthew 18:15-17. If the grievances are substantiated and are not or cannot be corrected, this relationship shall be terminated by the Executive Minister.
- c. In the event of resignation or removal of a Staff Member, reasonable termination conditions shall be agreed upon by the Executive Minister in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Board of Stewards.

#### **4.4-2 Dissolution of Relationship - Executive Minister**

- a. If an Executive Minister resigns, his or her letter of resignation shall be submitted to the Board of Stewards.
- b. Any charges concerning gross misconduct, doctrinal deviation, or obvious incompetence must be thoroughly investigated by the Board of Stewards in accordance with the pattern of Matthew 18:15-17. Such grievances must be written and signed by at least one member in good standing of each of three MIBC churches. If the grievances are substantiated and are not or cannot be corrected, the Board by two-thirds (2/3rds) majority vote of its total voting membership shall terminate this relationship subject to ratification by the MIBC at a Biennial or Special Meeting. In the event of a vote of termination by the Board of Stewards, the Executive Minister shall be placed on a paid or unpaid leave of absence until the convening of the annual or specially called business meeting of the MIBC.
- c. In the event of resignation or removal of an Executive Minister, reasonable termination conditions shall be agreed upon by the Board and the Executive Minister.

### **ARTICLE V**

#### **Amendments**

#### **5.1 Procedure**

These articles may be amended by the affirmative vote of the majority of delegates present at any regular session of any Biennial or Special Meeting, provided notice of such amendment has been submitted to all member churches not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Biennial or Special Meeting. These Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were adopted in 1972.

Amendments to these Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were made:

October 26, 1973	November 1, 1991
October 27, 1977	October 26, 2002
November 9, 1979	October 26, 2013
October 29, 1984	October 26, 2018
October 24, 1986	October 30, 2020

## STANDING RESOLUTIONS

### 1. CONFERENCE BOARDS AND OFFICERS

Recognizing the worthy ministry of our officers, boards and departmental personnel, we express our confidence and deep appreciation to them for their faithful leadership.

### 2. SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

Whereas, there is a growing challenge to the basic freedoms guaranteed to us by our Constitution, be it resolved that we reaffirm our commitment to the adequacy of the Declaration of the First Amendment that "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. . ."

### 3. ECUMENICITY

Whereas, we are aware that inherent in the popular cry for ecumenicity are ingredients that blend all too easily with the subtle voice of compromise that could place us in the perilous position of having gained organizational union at the expense of spiritual principles, be it resolved that we urge our churches, our Conference boards and officers, to prayerfully evaluate all overtures to unite, in the light of historic Baptist distinctives, with a careful eye to their Scriptural warranties.

### 4. SOCIAL EVILS

We are sadly conscious of the fact that we live in a day which may be characterized by the Scriptural statement, "as it was in the days of Noah."

We view with great alarm the corrupting forces of evil so strongly entrenched in the life of our society. Of these evils we make particular note: (1) the ever increasing production and consumption of alcoholic beverages; (2) the similar production and use of tobacco; (3) the illegal traffic in and use of narcotics; (4) the publication and sale of indecent literature; (5) the offensive dramatization in movies and on television which exploits murder and sex; (6) the increasing participation of our population in the nefarious forms of gambling and lottery; (7)<sup>1</sup> the practice of abortion on demand, which is the deliberate and unjustified taking of an innocent human life; and (8)<sup>2</sup> the practice of homosexuality, along with other forms of sexual behavior that deviate from Scriptural norms.

We look upon these evils without compromise, as a serious danger to the physical health and well-being of participants, to the lives of others and unborn generations. We therefore protest against these degrading practices and against those whom we hold responsible for this curse, those who so shamefully and without respect for decency and the common good of all society and of our youth in particular, propagandize and exploit only for their own personal gain.

We therefore earnestly urge upon the members of our churches to take a definite stand against these evils; that members cooperate in such non-racial movements and organizations which have as their objective to combat and suppress these aforementioned evils and to enlighten the public of their dangers as a threat to the very life of our nation; that we deal with these problems, not by a negative approach alone, but by a positive educational program and by setting an example of godly living to counteract all these evils.

<sup>1</sup>Amendment approved October 1988

<sup>2</sup>Amendment approved October 1988

<sup>3</sup>Amendment approved October 1988

### 5. HUMAN RELATIONS

We believe that:

God created one human family and that all people everywhere, whatever their color, culture, class or caste, are inseparably related and bound together as members of that one human family.

All persons are created in the image of God and are equally precious in His sight. <sup>3</sup>All decisions about the life, health and safety of an unborn child and/or its mother must be made recognizing that both the child from the moment of conception and its mother are fully human beings.

Jesus Christ, Himself the God-man, by His redemptive act lives now as the Savior and Lord of people everywhere, whatever their color, culture, class or caste.

All persons are by nature selfish and in rebellion against God; and that only through God's reconciling grace can they be set free from the dominions of sin to live as one in Christ.

Through the Word, the Holy Spirit established the fellowship of believers to which persons are called for corporate worship, compassionate concern and evangelistic outreach. Since the Church is created by God, the decisive factor in controlling its mission is not based primarily upon the variable cultural patterns in the world but upon the revealed principles of the Word of God.

Therefore, the mandate of Jesus Christ, to bring salvation to all people, makes it obligatory for the church to communicate the Gospel to all persons without discrimination or distinction.

Further, we maintain that to exclude from worship or membership in the local congregation any person on the basis of color, culture, class or caste is to sin against God and humanity.

Furthermore, Christians ought to exercise their God-given responsibility by acting to remove whatever injustices exist in the community and to insure for all persons, without discrimination, just and equal opportunities, especially in housing, employment, education and full rights of citizenship including equitable voting privileges.

## **6. SOCIAL MINISTRIES**

We believe that:

God created man both material and spiritual and that he has a concern for the whole person.

The Scriptures explicitly admonish us to a ministry of compassion; "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and truth" (I John 3:17-18).

Consistent with the example of Christ, the Church fulfills its ministry when it expresses the redemptive love of God for individuals in their total life situation, both spiritual and social.

It is the Christian's duty to visit orphans and widows and to feed the hungry, give the thirsty drink, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked and visit the sick and imprisoned. The Minnesota Baptist Conference and its members should support and perform services directed toward the well-being of their fellow men as a natural result of their faith in God and their Christian love for their fellow human beings. Therefore, we urge our membership, both as individuals and congregations, to develop a critical awareness of social needs and to develop relevant programs to relieve stress, to improve the well-being of the community, and to work toward an environment favorable to the fullest development of individual human capacities.

Further, we believe that our Conference should seek ways to quicken the social consciousness of our people by:

- (1) Educating our membership to the relationship between social responsibilities and the mandate of the Gospel;
- (2) Expressing corporate opinions on social issues through stated resolutions and through the development of such programs that validate social concern;
- (3) Promoting and sustaining social ministries commensurate with its resources and skills.

## **7. REVIVAL**

Whereas, there are evidences of dissatisfaction with spiritual conditions in the world and church, and

Whereas, there are evidences of a hunger on the part of Christians for revival, and

Whereas, we believe that God has led our Conference to look to Him for renewed spiritual life:

Be it resolved, that we humble ourselves, consecrate ourselves anew unto God, and pray that God will send us a great awakening and greatly increase our burden for souls.

Be it further resolved, that we urge our churches to sponsor evangelistic meetings and personal visitation campaigns.

And whereas, there is a danger of churches and individuals being swept into currents of heresy by those who emphasize the doctrine of the Holy Spirit without regard for the clear New Testament revelation concerning His person and work, resulting in serious division among churches and Christians.

Be it resolved, that we urge our pastors to teach and preach the New Testament truth concerning the baptism, filling and gifts of the Holy Spirit, after careful, unbiased study of what the Bible says about these matters, and

Be it further resolved, that we ask our Sunday Bible schools to offer a carefully conceived course on the Holy Spirit to adults for at least one quarter.

**8. (1971 Conference Resolution) - CHURCH AND STATE - FRIEND OR FOE**

Whereas, the Bible teaches mutual respect and responsibility between the church and the state; and  
Whereas, the necessary historic battle between church and state laws has been successfully fought; and  
Whereas, at present there is cooperation between church and state:

Be it resolved, that as the Minnesota Baptist Conference we recognize the legitimate roles of both church and state and that we recognize that both church and state function most effectively when there is a spirit of cooperation between them.

**9. (1972 Conference Resolution) - THAT WE BECOME THE FRIENDS OF THE POOR**

We, the churches of the Minnesota Baptist Conference, resolve to become the friends of the poor;

That this be done by fulfilling the biblical injunctions concerning the poor;

That the churches of the Minnesota Baptist Conference cultivate a sensitivity to the problems connected with poverty; and

That our churches make every effort possible to become involved in the alleviation of poverty at the local, national and world levels, and to encourage our people to become personally involved with those who live in poverty of both body and spirit.

**10. (1973 Conference Resolution) - WE RESOLVE TO ENCOURAGE THE CHURCHES OF THE MINNESOTA BAPTIST CONFERENCE:**

To discover creative new ways of involving the older person in the ministry within the church and the community;

To become educated to the needs and the potential of older persons and to prepare our people for the retirement years through meaningful education programs;

To serve as a resource center for information that would aid older persons in adjusting to and meeting the total needs of retirement.





Mark Bjorlo – Regional President

Jonathan Dahl – Regional Vice President

Jan Eitzen – P3 Administrator

Mandy Johnson – Director of Placement

Carolyn Lenz – Executive Assistant and Office Manager

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Joel Nelson – Director of Strengthening

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