

BY-LAWS

The name of the organization will be the Southeast District Mission and Church Extension Society of the United Methodist Church (Society).

The period of duration of the organization shall be perpetual.

The name and address of the Registered Agent is Dr. Steve Breon, 101 N. Kingshighway, Suite 200, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Society shall be to promote the work of the United Methodist Church in the Southeast District; to further the work of evangelism; to perform services proper for the Mission and Church Extension Society; to organize, establish and support churches; to assist in building and improving churches.

The Society shall have authority to receive and hold money and other property acquired by bequest, gift and donation; to enter into agreements as beneficiary to a Trust; and to exercise all rights and privileges found in the United Methodist Church Discipline governing such organizations.

II. MEMBERSHIP/OFFICERS

The membership of the Society shall be composed of the resident Bishop, the District Superintendent, nine members selected through the District nominating Committee and/or appointed by the District Superintendent and approved by the District Council.

The officers of the Society shall be a President (chair of meetings), Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer. The officers shall be appointed by the District Superintendent and approved by the District Council.

The duties of the officers will be as follows:

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and shall have general supervision of the Society's affairs; sign all papers requiring corporate execution.

The Vice President shall, in the event of the absence or illness of the President, perform the duties of the President. The Secretary-Treasurer shall prepare and keep minutes of the Society meetings; be custodian of property; and when requested, make reports as required by the District Superintendent. The Secretary-Treasurer shall

receive all funds belonging to the Society, make deposits to the Society bank account, make approved disbursements of Society funds, report current receipts and disbursements at regular meetings of the Society; and submit reports to the District Council showing receipts and disbursements for the preceding year and balances of loans outstanding.

III. MEETINGS

There shall be at least one annual meeting held after the adjournment of the Missouri Annual Conference. The President and/or District Superintendent shall call meetings as needed. A quorum for any called meeting shall consist of members attending said called meeting.

IV. USE OF FUNDS

A. Criteria

Since the funds controlled by the Society are to be used for expansion of the Church, the following criteria are established. As funds are available, these priorities shall be used:

FIRST: Purchase of church sites and the erection of suitable buildings for new congregations.

SECOND: Loans to existing congregations for building new church facilities, educational buildings, and the acquiring of additional land for expansion.

THIRD: Loans to existing congregations for repairs and alterations to church and educational buildings.

FOURTH: Loans to build parsonages.

FIFTH: Loans to repair parsonages (not redecorate)

B. Loan Terms and Conditions

1. Loans are to be made for varying terms of years, subject to the situation and the judgment of the Society, but not to exceed ten (10) years.
2. If church sites are purchased outright for new or relocating congregations, title will be held by the Society until the Church is fully organized and able to function on its own.

3. In existing churches, a note shall be taken, signed by the Trustees of the applying church. Second mortgages can be taken if, in the judgment of the Society, it seems necessary.
4. In the case of existing churches, all loans shall require at least annual payments or monthly amortization over the life of the loan. There will be no penalty for prepayment of any portion of principal.
5. Interest is to be paid per monthly amortization, semi-annually, or annually; graduated interest rates may be used for new and prospective congregations at the judgment of the Society. Graduated rates can range from 2-4% under priorities First and Second, above. All other priorities shall have 4% interest rates.
6. Approved loan amounts are to be determined solely by the Society, based on the situation.
7. New loans from the Society cannot be made to a congregation with unpaid loan balances outstanding to the Society.
8. Loans cannot be approved for churches/congregations outside the boundaries of the Southeast District.
9. Disbursement of funds will be made upon approval of the District Superintendent for the commencement of the project.
10. Timely payment of church's District and Conference apportionment monies will be considered when determining loan eligibility. Application of this criteria will be at the Society's discretion, after reviewing facts and circumstances of each situation.

C. Local Funding

The basic purpose of the Society is to establish new congregations and to help expand existing congregations. Except under Priority First above (prospective congregations), churches applying for loan funding must show evidence of having done everything possible to obtain funds from the local church before making application to the Society.

D. Loan Procedure

1. Prior to Application

Local – The local church should undertake a demographic study and survey of needs to be met by the project. This should involve consultation with all local groups affected by the project. An estimated cost budget for the project should be prepared to present to the local congregation.

District/Other – As the project develops, the pastor and/or leader of the congregation should contact the District Superintendent for his input. At this point, outside resources should be contacted (i.e., architects, suppliers, engineers, financial institutions).

District Consultation – At the point that the scope of work is known and estimated costs prepared, and after obtaining approval of the local congregation, the local church should make application to the District Committee on Church Location and Building. This Committee must review and approve all new building projects and any plan involving loan funding from the District Mission and Church Expansion Society.

Application – Application to the District Mission and Church Expansion Society should be made only after all of the preceding steps are completed. Funds are available under the criteria established in Section A above. Loan processing may take from 60 to 90 days.

2. Loan Application

Application should be made on the District's application form. The application should be complete and contain all required attachments before presentation to the Committee.

E. Other uses of funds

The Society shall have authority to make non-recurring grants from the earnings of the funds controlled by the Society. At least annually, the Society shall return 50% of the earnings on funds to the District.

IV. AMENDMENTS

The Society may repeal or amend the by-laws of this organization and may adopt new or additional by-laws, with the approval of the District Council.