

**BYLAWS  
OF  
THE KINGDOM NETWORK, INC.**

**Preamble and Definition**

The Kingdom Network, Inc. (sometimes called “The Kingdom Network” or the “Network”) has been created and exists to provide accountability and collaboration between like-minded churches as they seek to uphold the Christian faith as reflected in the Reformed tradition and fulfill the calling of the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations. It consists of member churches who covenant with each other for these purposes in Regional Networks that then network together to form a “Network of Networks.” Each Regional Network serves as an assembly and a judicatory for the member churches of the Network and stands as a permanent, continuing body which functions between stated sessions through teams. These Regional Networks come together as an assembly that stands as a permanent, continuing body which functions between stated sessions through a Global Board.

**ARTICLE I  
PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS**

It shall have the following purposes and functions:

**Section A.** It shall regularly consider the nature and extent of ministry of its congregations and partners in ministry in obedience to Holy Scripture and in response to the needs of the world. The Network may form such entities as may be needed for the ministry of the Church.

**Section B.** The Network shall exercise a general superintendence over its ordained pastors, and over the interests and concerns of the congregations of its member churches, and shall enforce the requirements of the covenantal agreement entered into when churches or pastors join this body through its Regional Networks.

**Section C.** The Network shall exercise original and appellate supervisory power over the acts, proceedings, and decisions of governing boards of member churches, both in temporal matters and in those relating to Christian discipline through the Regional Networks.

**Section D.** A Regional Network shall have the authority to receive under its jurisdiction as a local church, any congregation signifying such desire and to remove any churches that desire to disaffiliate or who are not faithful in keeping the covenantal commitments of the Network.

**Section E.** Regional Networks shall examine candidates for ministry credentials upon the request of a member church and the churches authorize the body to decide whether to ordain, install, transfer, suspend, depose, declare demitted, declare inactive, and declare retired pastors.

**ARTICLE II  
CENTER SET BELIEFS  
AND  
WISDOM DOCUMENTS**

**Section A. Center Set Beliefs & Values**

Our Center Set Beliefs are those tenets that are valued by our Network, clearly define who we are, and lay out the highest aims of member churches and ordained pastors of the Network.

Member churches and ordained pastors of the Network agree, adhere to and seek to live out the following beliefs and values:

1. Our foundation is Jesus Christ. We have a passion for him, and we love him. He is preeminent in all that we do. His fame is our concern.
2. We exist to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. Creation was good because God made it. Sin entered the world through the disobedience of Adam and Eve; all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Jesus Christ was born from a virgin, lived a sinless life, proclaimed the good news of the Kingdom of God, died a criminal's death, was buried and on the third day he rose again to save all those who believe in him. He now rules at the right hand of the Father. All who trust him as Lord will be saved.
3. We will act continually on the belief that the Word of God, the Bible, is the inspired and inerrant final authority in all issues of life and doctrine. We understand that the original authors and their historical contexts are the best guides to understanding the Bible. Outside 'wisdom' can often be yeast that ruins the bread.
4. We embrace the tradition articulated by Augustine: "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity." On essential issues of doctrine and Christian living, we are united. On disputable issues like infant versus adult baptism, women's ordination, and style of worship, we want to give liberty and cultivate charity.
5. We are a multiplying movement of like-minded churches that is committed to make disciples through raising up a new generation of leaders and starting new churches.
6. We are a movement that is passionate about embodying the great vision of heaven found in the book of Revelation, "every tribe, tongue and nation." We promise to partner with God to see this come about.
7. We are growing as people of love. This movement is based upon Christ-centered friendships that encourage us to stay faithful, accountable and that will work to see all our churches thrive (2 Timothy 3:16).

8. We intend to celebrate and defend a biblical view of sexuality. Man is for woman and woman is for man. Heterosexual marriage is the space for the good sexual intimacy. Any other relationship where there is sexual activity is sin and requires the grace and truth of the gospel. We will be communities of light and hope.

9. We stand on the shoulders of others. Our network is a descendant of the reformation and the ancient church, and we gladly adhere to the Heidelberg Catechism, the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed.

### **Section B. Wisdom Documents**

The following canons, confessions, catechisms, and statements reflect and provide wisdom for member churches and ordained pastors of the Network:

1. The Belgic Confession
2. The Canons of Dort
3. The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy
4. The Belhar Confession
5. The Great Lakes Catechism on Sexuality and Marriage

## **ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP**

**Section A.** The Network shall consist of the member churches and ordained pastors.

**Section B.** Churches will be accepted into membership by a two-thirds vote of voting members present at a stated or other Regional Network session. Ordained pastors petitioning to join the Network will be accepted into membership of the body by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Team of a Regional Network.

**Section C.** Member churches and pastors will be organized into Regional Networks that are composed of at least three churches and have a leadership team. Each Regional Network will be focused on the growth of God's Kingdom in their geographic region by covenanting together to make disciples, raise up leaders, multiply ministries and churches, and reflect the beauty and diversity of the Kingdom of Heaven. Each Regional Network shall have the authority to operate as it wishes as long as it does not deviate from the rules for Networks set forth in the Kingdom

Network By-Laws and the Rules of Church Order. Regional Networks must agree in writing on an annual basis to adhere to and seek to live out the Kingdom Network's Center Set Beliefs and Wisdom Documents.

**Section D.** The Regional Networks will be linked together through a Global Board and Global Gatherings. The Global Board shall steward and guard the Center Set Beliefs and Values of the Network and shall support the Regional Networks by offering encouragement, support and resources that equip Regional Networks and their churches to live out those beliefs and values in their respective regions. Part of their work will be to organize a Global Gathering of all Kingdom Network members. The Kingdom Network shall not be liable for any agreement, contract or obligation of any Regional Network.

## **ARTICLE IV REGIONAL NETWORK**

### **Section A. Quorums**

Quorums at Regional Network sessions shall be the presence of (a) a majority of elder delegates from the churches and (b) a majority of ordained pastors who are actively serving in churches.

### **Section B. Stated and Special Sessions**

1. After its public launch celebration, each Regional Network will have a minimum of two stated sessions each year. Stated sessions will be held on dates determined by the Regional Network's Executive Team with a minimum of thirty (30) days' notice of the date given to Network member churches. The locations and times of the stated sessions will be determined by the Executive Team.
2. Special sessions may be called by the President upon recommendation of the Executive Team or by two-thirds of the member churches. Written notice of such special sessions shall be sent ten days in advance giving the time, place and agenda for such special session.
3. Stated sessions shall include a devotional service. All meetings shall be opened and closed with prayer.
4. Meetings may be held utilizing conference telephone or other interactive technology, including but not limited to electronic transmission, Internet usage, or remote communication, by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can communicate with each other. Participation via any of these methods in such meeting shall constitute attendance and presence in person at the meeting of the person or persons so participating.

### **Section C. Members and Delegates**

1. Ordained ministers become members of the Network when they sign the Declaration for Ordained Pastors.

2. A church with three hundred or fewer confessing members shall have one elder delegate. A church with more than three hundred confessing members shall also have one elder delegate for each additional three hundred confessing members or fraction thereof, up to a maximum of three additional delegates. A church shall not have more than the greater of (a) four elder delegates, or (b) one elder delegate for each campus of a member church. Elder delegates shall be chosen from the entire body of the elders in a church, whether or not presently a member of the board of elders.
3. Voting rights shall be limited to elder delegates and ordained pastors who are members of that Regional Network.
4. Visiting pastors and elders and other guests may be seated as guests at sessions of a Regional Network and granted the privilege of the floor at the discretion of the Regional Network.

#### **Section D. Parliamentary Rules**

1. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Bylaws of the Network, and the Network's Rules of Church Order, and Robert's Rules of Order. If there is any conflict, the Bylaws of the Network take precedence first over the Rules of Church Order, and then over Robert's Rules of Order.
2. The Bylaws of the Network may be set aside, in whole or in part, for a single Network session by two-thirds vote of the voting members present at such meeting, providing such action is in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

### **ARTICLE V REGIONAL NETWORK OFFICERS**

#### **Section A. Officers**

The officers of a Regional Network shall be a President, Vice President, and Clerk. Officers may be added as approved by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the voting members at a stated session of the Network.

#### **Section B. Election of Officers**

1. The President, Vice President, and Clerk will be elected by a majority vote of members present at a stated session of the Network.
2. Elections will occur at the second stated session of the Regional Network each year.
3. In the event of a vacancy the Executive Team of a Regional Network shall make an appointment until a successor is elected at the next stated session of the Regional Network.

4. These officers can be removed from their position by a two-thirds vote of members present at a stated session of a Regional Network.

### **Section C. Terms of Officers**

1. The President, Vice President, and Clerk shall have 3-year, renewable terms. The terms are to be staggered so as to prevent a complete rotation of officers in a given year.
2. Terms will begin at the close of the same meeting where the election occurred and shall continue until a successor is elected.

### **Section D. Duties of Officers**

1. The President shall:
  - a. Preside at all Regional Network meetings or appoint a presiding officer.
  - b. Conduct meetings.
  - c. Appoint special teams or task forces unless otherwise provided.
  - d. Serve as chair of the Executive Team.
  - e. Preside at ordinations and installations or appoint one or more representatives from the Regional Network to do so.
2. The Vice President shall:
  - a. Assist the President as needed.
  - b. Preside when the President is absent, when the President desires to speak to an issue, or as otherwise requested by the President.
  - c. Be a member of the Executive Team.
3. The Clerk shall:
  - a. Send notices of meetings in accordance with these By-Laws and the Rules of Church Order.
  - b. Send reports and other information to the membership in advance of stated sessions.
  - c. Prepare Network minutes and handle correspondence.
  - d. Review minutes from the governing boards of member churches and make sure they are in accordance with the requirements of the Network's Rules of Church Order.
  - e. Have at meetings copies of Robert's Rules of Order, Network By-laws, and Network minutes.
  - f. Bring a financial report of the Network to every stated meeting for review by the Network.
  - g. Communicate with the Network Board as needed.
  - h. Perform other duties assigned by the Regional Network Executive Team.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**REGIONAL NETWORK MINISTRY TEAMS AND TASK FORCES**

**Section A. Executive Team**

1. The Regional Network Executive Team shall be the guardian of the Network's mission and vision at the Regional Network level and facilitate the working of the Regional Network in accordance with the core values of the Network. It shall function as the executive committee of the Regional Network and shall serve as the Board of Directors of that corporation.
2. The Executive Team will consist of the President, Vice President, Clerk, and other members as defined by the rules and/or actions of a particular Regional Network.
3. Meetings may be called by the President or by any two or more members.
4. A quorum is defined as three voting members; if the Executive Team consists of less than five members, then two will be considered a quorum.
5. The Executive Team is empowered to act on behalf of the Regional Network between sessions. This includes having authority to appoint interim officers, approve calls between churches and ordained pastors and candidates for ministry, grant and receive certificates of dismissal, and approve the dissolution of pastoral relationships.
6. It shall act as trustee of Regional Network funds, with authority to manage its Network finances including acceptance, investment, transfer, mortgaging, and disbursement of money, real estate, personal property, both tangible and intangible, and devises and bequests. It may borrow money, make loans, and hold title to real estate upon approval received through a vote of the Regional Network.
7. It shall appoint a treasurer of the Regional Network. This person shall be custodian of all Regional Network funds and disburse funds as invoices are authorized for payment by the Executive Team. This individual will provide a financial report of the Regional Network for the Clerk to bring to each stated meeting.
8. It shall be responsible for the agenda of each session of Regional Network and will act as a clearinghouse of business brought to the Regional Network by assigning such business to the appropriate team if possible, including financial requests.
9. It will receive, review and recommend proper disposition of all grievances, complaints, appeals and other issues directed to the Regional Network.
10. It shall meet at least two weeks prior to each stated session of Regional Network and at any other time deemed necessary.
11. It prepares and recommends to the Regional Network any amendments of the By-laws.
12. It shall act as a nominating team for officers and task force champions and coordinators.
13. It will appoint members to teams and task forces.
14. It shall meet with all churches and pastors desiring to join the Regional Network and/or shall designate a team to meet with the interested individuals.
15. Executive Team meetings may be held utilizing conference telephone or interactive technology, including but not limited to electronic transmission, internet usage, or remote communication, by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can

communicate with each other. Participation in such meeting shall constitute attendance and presence in person at the meeting of the person or persons so participating.

16. Discussion and decision on specific issues may be held by utilizing email or other text-only technology, provided that no objection is made by any member of the Executive Team. Upon such objection, regular methods of meeting shall be employed.

### **Section B. Ministry Team and Task Forces**

1. Standing Task Forces or Teams may be appointed to carry out the work of the Regional Network. Such teams may include a Leadership Development Team, Church Multiplication Team, and Care/Church Relations Team as well as any other teams that a Regional Network sees fit. Membership of the teams shall be composed of member pastors and active members of member churches with special gifts, or interests, specific to the ministry focus of a particular commission.
2. Special or temporary teams may be formed by the Executive Team to facilitate required Regional Network work that is not assigned to a particular team or Task Force and cannot be done by the Network as a whole.
3. A Judicial Business Team shall be appointed when the President of the Regional Network or designated member determines that there is a possibility of formal judicial action as defined in the Rules of Church Order.
  - a. The team shall meet promptly after the members have been selected and shall select a chairperson from the members of the team.
  - b. The Judicial Business Team shall:
    - i. Review and recommend appropriate action on complaints and appeals as provided in the Rules of Church Order.
    - ii. Bring a charge under Rules of Church Order Chapter 2, Part I of an offense as defined therein when it determines that the filing of a charge is appropriate.
    - iii. Investigate all charges brought by individuals or filed by the team to determine whether there is sufficient merit to the charges to warrant further consideration.
    - iv. Determine whether efforts to resolve a matter, which is the subject of a charge, short of trial would be appropriate.
    - v. Dismiss a charge or bring it to trial as may be appropriate.
    - vi. If the team is the accuser, move forward with evidence at a trial.
    - vii. Judicial Business Team shall operate independently of all Network teams.
  - c. The team shall disband when it has completed the business for which it was created.

## **ARTICLE VII GLOBAL BOARD**

### **Section A. Composition**

1. The Global Board shall consist of between 8 and 12 members.



2. After the initial formation of the board, a particular Regional Network may not have more than 3 representatives on the board at one time. If a Global Board Member moves during a term so that there are more than 3 representatives from one Region at one time, the individual may serve out the term but could not serve an additional term unless one of the other Global Board Members from that region rotates off.
3. The Global Board may create positions that will serve as ex officio members.

### **Section B. Selection and Terms**

1. The Global Board will solicit nominations from the Regional Networks and shall review them to determine the best candidates to fill vacancies that will then be presented as a single slate at a Global Gathering for affirmation. The Global Board may appoint a team to assist in the vetting process for new members.
2. The representative will serve a 4 year term and the terms will be staggered so that all members of the Global Board do not rotate off in the same year. Terms are renewable, but an individual may not serve more than 2 consecutive terms.

### **Section C. Officers**

1. Members of the Global Board will select a President and a Vice President from their number. Each will serve a 2 year term, with the normal practice being that the Vice President will become the next President. Presidents cannot serve successive terms.
2. The Global Board shall have a clerk who serves as an ex officio member of the board. The clerk will serve a 4 year (renewable) term.
3. The Global Board may appoint a treasurer from within the board or from outside the board who shall be custodian of Network funds and disburse funds as invoices are authorized for payment by the Global Board. Such treasurer will provide an annual financial report.

### **Section D. Meetings**

1. The Global Board will meet at least twice a year.
2. Quorum will be one half of Board members.
3. Meetings may be held utilizing conference telephone or other interactive technology, including but not limited to electronic transmission, Internet usage, or remote communication, by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can communicate with each other. Participation via any of these methods in such meeting shall constitute attendance and presence in person at the meeting of the person or persons so participating.

4. Discussion and decision on specific issues may be held by utilizing email or other text-only technology, provided that no objection is made by any member of the Executive Team. Upon such objection, regular methods of meeting shall be employed.

### **Section E. Duties**

1. The Global Board shall steward and guard the Center Set Beliefs and Values of the Network.
2. The Global Board will hear ministry reports from each Regional Network and determine the best ways to encourage Regional Networks and churches and the churches and pastors in them, including but not limited to helping the Networks network with each other.
3. The Global Board will plan national gatherings of all Network pastors and churches.
4. The Global Board will propose the expected contribution of each member church with the approval of the majority of Regional Network Executive Teams.
5. It will oversee training processes and standards for ordination of pastors.
6. It will review applications of churches applying to join a Regional Network and express any concerns about churches seeking admission into a Regional Network of the Kingdom Network.
7. It will admit, create, remove, and dissolve Regional Networks with the approval of the majority of Regional Network Executive Teams.
8. It will assist and when required adjudicate references, complaints, and appeals from the Regional Networks.
9. It shall serve as the Board of Directors of the corporation.
10. It may, with approval of the majority of Regional Network Executive Teams, create and dissolve global staff positions and will decide the terms of such positions and how they shall be filled.

## **ARTICLE VIII GLOBAL GATHERING**

### **Section A. Purpose**

Representatives of all Network churches will gather at minimum every other year for a time of fellowship, encouragement, equipping and celebration and to conduct any necessary business.

### **Section B. Attendance, Voting Members, and Quorum**

1. It is expected that all Network pastors and churches attend this gathering, and ministry leaders, elders, and deacons are encouraged to attend as well.
2. Voting eligibility and quorum standards will follow the same guidelines as those for Regional Networks.

### **Section C. Required Business**

1. Any changes to the By-Laws and Network Core Values or Wisdom Documents must happen at a Global Gathering.
2. Business meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Bylaws of the Network, and the Network's Rules of Church Order, and Robert's Rules of Order. If there is any conflict, the Bylaws of the Network take precedence first over the Rules of Church Order, and then over Robert's Rules of Order.

## **ARTICLE IX MEMBER CHURCH PROPERTY**

All property of member churches (including, but not limited to, real estate, bank deposits, other personal property, and intellectual property) shall at all times remain the property of the member church. The Network shall have no claim against such member church property.

## **ARTICLE X CONTRIBUTIONS**

### **Section A. Network Contributions**

Member churches shall pay an annual contribution (Partnership Share) to the Network. This amount will be proposed by the Global Board and affirmed either through a majority of voting members at a Global Gathering or a majority of Regional Networks at their stated meetings if there is no Global Gathering that year. The contribution shall be used for the Global Gatherings and the work of the Global Board.

### **Section B. Regional Network Contributions**

Regional Networks may require an annual contribution from its members. The contribution shall be used to support the work of the Network, Network ministries, and other initiatives as approved by the Regional Network.

## **ARTICLE XI INDEMNIFICATION**

The Network shall indemnify and hold harmless any directors, officer, employee or volunteer from any suit, damage, claim, judgment, loss or liability arising out of, or asserted to arise out of,

the conduct of such person in his or her capacity as a director, officer, employee or volunteer to the fullest extent permitted by law. The Network shall have the power to purchase or procure insurance for such purposes.

Each Regional Network shall in writing indemnify and hold harmless the Kingdom Network, its directors, officers, employees, and volunteers, the Global Board, and other Regional Networks from any suit, damage, claim, judgment, loss or liability arising out of, or asserted to arise out of, the conduct of such person in his or her capacity as a director, officer, employee or volunteer to the fullest extent permitted by law.

#### **ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS**

These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed by a two-thirds vote of voting members present at a Global Board stated meeting or other Network session with the exception of Article II, which can only be altered or changed at a Global Gathering upon two-thirds vote of voting members present.