

CONSTITUTION OF JAPAN EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS we recognize the unity of the Body of Christ and the divine purpose of the Head to call out a people for His name from all nations, and WHEREAS the members of the Body of Christ are enjoined to assemble and join themselves together, therefore BE IT RESOLVED that we constitute ourselves as a cooperative body of evangelicals in Japan.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be JAPAN EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

To provide such fellowship, liaison, cooperative action and representation as may be desired within the framework of this Constitution among the following:

- A. Members of this organization;
- B. Members of this organization and other organizations;
- C. Members of this organization and governmental authorities.

ARTICLE III. STATEMENT OF FAITH

- A. We believe in the Holy Scriptures as originally given by God, verbally inspired, infallible, entirely trustworthy; and the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. II Tim. 3:16; II Peter 1:21.
- B. We believe in one God, eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Deut. 6:4; Isa. 43:10,11; I Tim. 2:5; I Cor. 8:4; Matt. 28:19.
- C. We believe in our Lord Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, His virgin birth, His sinless human life, His divine miracles, His vicarious and atoning death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension, His mediatorial work, and His personal return in power and glory. Jn. 1:1; Jn. 1:18; Heb. 1:8; Tit. 2:13; I Jn. 5:20; I Cor. 15:3,4.
- D. We believe in the salvation of lost and sinful man through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ by faith apart from works, and regeneration by the Holy Spirit. Rom. 3:23; Jn. 3:7; Luke 24: 46,47; Jn. 1:12,13; I Pet. 1:18,19,23; Rom. 10:9,10.
- E. We believe in the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the believer is enabled to live a holy life, to witness and work for the Lord Jesus Christ. Tit. 3:5; Gal. 5:22,23; I Thess. 5:23,24.
- F. We believe in unity in the Spirit of all true believers, the Church, the Body of Christ. Rom. 12:5; I Cor. 10:17; Gal. 3:28; Jn. 17:21; Eph. 4:13.
- G. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost: they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation. Jn. 5:28,29; Rev. 14:11.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership shall be of two kinds: regular and associate.
 1. All members must subscribe to the Constitution and By-Laws of JEMA.
 2. Regular membership shall be open to:
 - a. Mission organizations with four (4) or more missionaries on the field, and
 - b. Individual missionaries (not members of JEMA through a mission organization).
 - 1) The quota for individual voting members attending the Annual Session shall be set at 10.
 - 2) Individual members desiring to attend the JEMA Plenary shall notify the JEMA Office by December 31 of the previous year.
 - 3) In case applications exceed the quota number the Commission on Liaison and Membership shall make the final selection, keeping in mind an equitable geographic distribution.
 3. Associate membership shall be open to:
 - a. Mission organizations with less than four (4) missionaries on the field, and
 - b. Individual missionaries.
 4. Associate individual members shall declare their associate status at the time of payment of dues. They shall have all the privileges of regular membership except that of vote at Plenary Sessions.
- B. New regular members may be accepted upon receipt of application and by a three-fourths vote of those members of the Plenary Council, or, when recommended by the Executive Committee, by a mail-poll of the members, provided that:
 1. Two-thirds of the total potential vote is favorable, and that

- 2. No dissenting vote is received within sixty days after notice of such a poll has been given;
- 3. Any dissenting vote will defer the application until the next Plenary Council session.
- C. Associate members shall be received by the Executive Committee upon agreement to the Constitution and By-Laws of JEMA and upon payment of dues.
- D. Membership privilege may be withdrawn from any member of JEMA by a three-fourths vote of those members present at any Plenary Council.

ARTICLE V. VOTING POWER

- A. All decisions in this organization shall be made on the basis of a simple majority of the total potential vote unless otherwise specified in the Constitution.
- B. Each regular member shall send one representative to the Plenary Council with voice and power to vote on the basis of the number of members within his group as follows:

Number of Missionary Votes

4-10	1
11-20	2
21-30	3
31-50	4
51-75	5
76-100	6
101-150	7
151-200	8
201-	9

- C. Regular members may send observers to any Plenary Council.
- D. Associate members may attend the Plenary Council session as observers.

ARTICLE VI. AUTONOMY OF REGULAR MEMBERS

- A. The autonomy of members shall be safeguarded by allowing its representative the privilege of abstention and exclusion from any concerted action with which he/she is not in agreement. The organization will not publicly represent members which request exclusion from any stipulated action. All matters calling for the concerted action of JEMA must pass by one-half of the potential vote at the time of any Plenary Council or three-fourths of the total potential vote by mail ballot before it can be carried out under the JEMA name.
- B. The minutes of the Plenary Council or the results of a mail ballot shall be submitted to the members immediately after each session or mail ballot. If any member wishes exclusion from any JEMA action, notification must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of JEMA within 40 days of the dispatch of the minutes or report.

ARTICLE VII. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- A. **Governing Body**
The governing body of this organization shall be called the Plenary Council and shall be composed of all representatives holding membership credentials in accordance with the rules stated in Article IV of this constitution. The Council shall elect a President, Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer for two-year terms with the term of two officers expiring each year.
- B. **Executive Committee**
The Executive Committee shall be composed of seven members including the President, Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer of the Plenary Council and three additional members. The officers of the Plenary Council shall act in the same capacity of the Executive Committee. The additional members of this committee shall be elected by the Plenary Council at the annual meeting for a term of two years, with the term of at least one member expiring each year. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to take any action necessary to administer the program outlined by the Plenary Council.

C. Executive Secretary

The Plenary Council may procure the services of an executive secretary at any time it deems advisable. The term and conditions of his/her tenure shall be decided by the Plenary Council at the time of his/her procurement. His/her duties shall be defined and directed by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII. FINANCES

- A. This shall be a non-profit organization with the following sources of income:
 - 1. Annual membership fees
 - 2. Income from services rendered and publication
 - 3. Special contributions from members and friends.
- B. An annual budget for the ordinary administrative work of the organization shall be prepared by the Executive committee and presented to the Plenary Council for adoption.
- C. Regular Membership fees shall be recommended by the Executive Committee to the Plenary Council for approval annually and shall be in proportion to the voting privilege.
- D. Associate membership fees shall be recommended by the Executive Committee to the Plenary Council for approval annually.
- E. When the organization votes to carry out a cooperative program which necessitates special financing, the Plenary Council shall first determine the sources of income for that program, the entire cost of which must be underwritten by voluntary contributions from member missions or interested parties.

ARTICLE IX. COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

- A. The Plenary Council shall have power to establish new commissions as may be necessary to carry out its program.
- B. The Plenary Council and/or the Executive Committee shall have power to appoint such temporary and/or standing committees as may be necessary to carry out its program.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

The constitution of this organization may be amended at any annual or legally constituted session by a two-thirds vote of the total potential vote, provided at least thirty-days' notice of the proposed amendment shall have been submitted to all members of this organization.

BY-LAWS OF JAPAN EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I. OFFICE

The office of the Japan Evangelical Missionary Association shall be located at 1, 2 Chome, Surugadai, Kanda, Chiyoda Ku, Tokyo in the Ochanomizu Christian Center.

ARTICLE II. OFFICIAL ORGAN

The Japan Harvest shall be the official organ of the Japan Evangelical Missionary Association.

ARTICLE III. MEETINGS

- A. **Time.** The Plenary Council shall convene annually. At least thirty days advance written notice of the annual meeting shall be sent to all council members by the Executive Committee. Extraordinary meetings of the Plenary Council may be called at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- B. **Quorum.** The Executive Committee shall determine the number of missionaries of member organizations who are present in Japan at the close of the fiscal year, and thereby calculate the number of votes to which each representative is entitled. The number of votes shall remain unchanged until the next annual computation is made. A simple majority of the potential voting constituency shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Plenary Council.

ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

- A. **Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee shall expedite the program outlined by the Plenary Council, and may also initiate action which is in accordance with said program and the Constitution and By-Laws.
- B. **Commissions.** The Executive Committee shall annually appoint the membership of each Commission and shall name the commission chairmen. Each commission shall be composed of at least three members, including the chairman, and shall be amenable to the Executive Committee through the chairman of the commission, who shall be a consultant to the Executive Committee.
 - 1. **Commission of Liaison and Membership.** This commission shall act as a liaison agency in behalf of JEMA between its members and other organizations and government authorities. It shall assist members in the correlation of mission work and shall disseminate information relating to the activities of mission organizations. It shall keep members informed as to Japanese law and changes in legal procedures. This commission shall also act as a press agency for all JEMA activities. It shall promote JEMA to the missionary community in order to increase membership, as well as encourage and assist individual missionaries to become members of JEMA.
 - 2. **Commission on Pioneer Evangelism.** This commission shall explore and uncover any and every neglected geographical area or type of evangelism in Japan and shall arrange seminars and workshops to assist and encourage the evangelical Christian, both national and missionary, to take these opportunities for Christ.
 - 3. **Commission on Publications.** This commission shall oversee the publication of the Japan Harvest, the JEMA Directory, and any other publications deemed necessary by JEMA. The President of JEMA shall be the Editor-in-Chief of the official organ of JEMA and shall be a member of this commission. The Editor of the official organ of JEMA shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and shall serve as chairman of this commission, as well as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee. All editorial policies shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.
 - 4. **Commission on Fellowship and Conferences.** This commission shall be responsible for arranging fellowship meetings and conferences for JEMA, including an annual summer conference for the edification, fellowship and education of its members and others. Other activities may include fellowship dinners for the missionary community, women's luncheons, prayer conferences, and the annual Strategy Conference.
 - 5. **Commission on Prayer.** This commission shall seek to motivate a vital prayer movement in the evangelical missionary community. It shall accomplish this by distribution of praise and prayer items and mobilizing the missionary community to prayer.
 - 6. **Commission on Women In Ministry.** This commission shall seek to enhance, equip, and encourage missionary women in their privileged roles by providing resource materials, workshops, seminars, retreats, and a forum for communication.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

- A. The **President** shall preside at the Plenary Council sessions and meetings of the Executive Committee and shall call special meetings of the Council upon the request of the Executive Committee.
- B. The **Vice-president** shall act in the absence or inability of the President, and shall exercise the same powers and duties while so acting.
- C. The **Secretary** shall keep the minutes of all sessions of the Plenary Council, as well as the meetings of the Executive Committee, and shall distribute the same to all members, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President or Executive Committee.
- D. The **Treasurer** shall receive and disburse funds and keep an account of all financial matters of this organization, shall solicit and/or expend funds, which are the property of this organization, as authorized by the Plenary Council or the Executive Committee, and shall prepare a Statement of Financial Condition and a Statement of Financial Operation for presentation at the annual Plenary Council.

ARTICLE VI. VACANCIES

In case of a vacancy on the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee shall have the authority to appoint another member to serve until the close of the next annual Plenary Council.

ARTICLE VII. DUES AND PAYMENTS

- A. Membership dues for any fiscal year are due on or before March 31. Any member whose membership dues are in arrears for more than one year shall forfeit his right to vote until the time payment is made.
- B. A member with any other accounts outstanding for over one year shall forfeit his voting privilege until time of payment.

ARTICLE VIII. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year shall be from January 1 to December 31.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended at any annual or legally constituted session of the Plenary Council by a simple majority vote of the total potential votes, provided that notice of the proposed is submitted to all members of this organization at least thirty days prior to the designated time of voting on the amendment.

As of May 1996.