



East Coast
CONFERENCE

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Revised as Amended May 3, 2008

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
of the
EAST COAST CONFERENCE
of
THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

“The Evangelical Covenant Church has its roots in historical Christianity as it emerged in the Protestant Reformation, in the Biblical instruction of the Lutheran State Church of Sweden, and in the great spiritual awakening of the nineteenth century. These three influences have in large measure shaped its development and are to be borne in mind in seeking to understand its distinctive spirit.

“The Covenant Church adheres to the affirmations of the Protestant Reformation regarding the Holy Scriptures, the Old and the New Testaments, as the Word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct. It has traditionally valued the historic confessions of the Christian church, particularly the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds, while at the same time it has emphasized the sovereignty of the Word over all creedal interpretations. It has especially cherished the pietistic restatement of the doctrine of justification by faith as basic to its dual task of evangelism and Christian nurture, the New Testament emphasis upon personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, the reality of a fellowship of believers which recognizes but transcends theological differences, and the belief in baptism and the Lord’s Supper as divinely ordained sacraments of the church. While the denomination has traditionally practiced the baptism of infants, in conformity with its principle of freedom, it has given room to divergent views. The principle of personal freedom, so highly esteemed by the Covenant, is to be distinguished from the individualism that disregards the centrality of the Word of God and the mutual responsibilities and disciplines of the spiritual community.”

The East Coast Conference, in order to accomplish its objectives, has formulated and adopted a constitution in harmony with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Covenant. This document seeks to clarify and interpret the derivation of rights and responsibilities and the proper exercise thereof, and sets forth the name, confession, purpose, membership, management, and meetings of the conference. The constitution recognizes that the highest constituted authority of the conference is the general assembly known as the Annual Meeting of the Conference, which assembly alone can adopt and amend the constitution.

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this association shall be the *East Coast Conference* of The Evangelical Covenant Church. For the sake of convenience, the East Coast Conference may hereinafter be called the Conference and The Evangelical Covenant Church may hereinafter be called the Covenant.

The Conference is an association of Covenant Churches which have accepted this constitution and agree to work in harmony with the Conference and the Covenant.

ARTICLE II

Incorporation and Powers

Section 1

The East Coast Conference is a non-stock, non-profit corporation organized under the Laws of the State of Connecticut. The headquarters of the Conference shall be located by decision of the Annual Meeting of accredited delegates.

Section 2

The corporation shall have one class of members. The designation of such class and the qualifications and rights of the members of such class shall be as follows: The membership of this corporation shall be composed of the elected delegates to the Annual Meeting from the affiliated churches of the Conference.

A. Membership in this corporation shall coincide with service as a delegate from an affiliated church to any business meeting of the Conference.

B. Each member shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the membership or to the Annual Meeting.

C. The Annual Meeting of accredited delegates shall be the highest constituted authority of the East Coast Conference and shall have all the powers necessary or incidental to the control and administration of the business and affairs of the Conference and to the determination of its policies and recommendations.

Section 3

Earnings and Assets. No part of the Corporation's earnings or assets shall inure or be distributable to its members, directors, officers or employees, except as reasonable compensation for bona fide services performed in carrying out one or more of its purposes. This restriction shall not preclude any of the aforementioned class of individuals from benefiting as a proper beneficiary of any of the Corporation's charitable purposes. This Corporation shall be religious, educational, charitable and non-profit and shall not have or issue shares of stock or pay dividends.

ARTICLE III

Confession

The Conference believes in the Holy Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, as the Word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine and conduct.

ARTICLE IV

Membership

Section 1

Affiliation in this Conference is open to any Christian church which is in accord with the traditions of the Covenant as stated in the Preamble and which meets the requirements stated in this constitution.

Section 2

Application for affiliation in this Conference and in the Covenant shall be made concurrently according to the procedure determined by the Covenant Executive Board. Approval of the application by the Conference shall constitute its recommendation to the Covenant Executive Board and the Annual Meeting of the Covenant. Membership in the Conference and the Covenant shall begin with an affirmative vote taken by the Covenant Annual Meeting.

Section 3

A church by its affiliation in the Conference signifies its intention of supporting the principles, policies and decisions of the Conference and the Covenant, and of contributing according to its ability to the agencies and causes of both bodies.

Section 4

A member church of the Conference shall enjoy freedom in the management of its local affairs. However, a church that is aided by the Conference and/or Covenant with subsidies shall work under the supervision and direction of the Conference Board and the Covenant Board of Church Growth and Evangelism.

Section 5

A church which through decision or practice does not abide by this constitution shall be subject to discipline and possible dismissal by the Covenant according to the procedure stipulated in the by-laws of this document.

ARTICLE V

Territory

The territory of this Conference shall be the states of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia (excepting Lee County), Maryland, the District of Columbia, the eastern section of New York and Pennsylvania and those parts of adjoining states which are not included within the jurisdiction of another conference of The Evangelical Covenant Church.

ARTICLE VI

Mission

Section 1

The East Coast Conference is both an extension of and a servant to the churches of which it is comprised.

As such, the Conference shall provide support, resources, services and activities which will enable local congregations to effectively do the work of Christ.

The Conference shall assist congregations in the calling of pastors and other ministerial staff and shall also provide support and nurture for these persons.

As an extension of the churches, the Conference shall enable the congregations to participate in the creation of new churches and the strengthening of established churches in need of assistance.

Further, the Conference shall be an extension of the local congregations through the establishing, maintaining and overseeing of agency ministries which serve both those within and beyond our constituency.

Section 2

For the accomplishment of the afore stated purpose, the Conference, in cooperation with the Covenant, shall own, operate, maintain, acquire and transfer, such real or personal property and shall have all other powers as may be necessary or reasonably related to the effectuation of said purpose.

ARTICLE VII

Administration

Section 1 General Administration

A. The general administration of the entire work of the Conference shall be vested in a body known as the Conference Board and in the Conference Superintendent, elected by and responsible to the Annual Meeting of the Conference.

B. The Conference Board shall consist of eighteen (18) elected members, of which no fewer than one-third shall be laypersons and no fewer than one-third clergy. The board shall be comprised of the Conference officers and twelve (12) additional members--one (1) elected from each of the nine (9) districts of the Conference and three (3) elected at-large.

The Conference Superintendent shall be an ex-officio member of the Conference Board. The Conference officers shall be a chairperson, three vice-chairpersons, a secretary, a vice-secretary and a treasurer. The treasurer shall be appointed by the Conference Board from among the elected members.

C. All of the elected members of the Conference Board described in paragraph "B" shall be Directors of the Corporation and Trustees of the Conference.

D. The chairpersons of the administrative boards, commissions and Conference organizations as established by the constitution and by-laws shall also be ex-officio members of the Conference Board. The chairpersons of these administrative boards, commissions and Conference organizations must therefore be members of affiliated churches of the Conference.

E. The Conference Board may provide for advisory membership from the Executive Board of the Evangelical Covenant Church, denominational agencies or organizations operating within conference boundaries, or other appropriate representation.

Section 2 Administrative Boards and Commissions

A. The departments and agencies of the Conference shall be administered by such administrative boards and commissions and by such administrators as are provided for in the by-laws of this Corporation.

B. Other specified areas of Conference work and ministry may be administered or accomplished by committees established in accordance with the provisions of the by-laws of this Corporation.

Section 3 Conference Districts, Agencies, and Organizations

A. The Conference shall be organized into nine (9) geographical districts as follows. The determination as to which district a church shall belong shall be made in accordance with the appropriate provision of the by-laws of this Corporation.

B. The following agencies are recognized as constituent parts of this Conference:
 The New England Seafarers Mission, Inc.
 Pilgrim Pines Conference Center, Inc.

These agencies shall be subject to the supervision and direction of the Annual Meeting and the Conference Board. These agencies shall have all the powers necessary or incidental to the administration of their respective businesses, affairs and ministries with the exception of the power of purchasing, mortgaging, selling or conveying any real properties; the approval of the Annual Meeting and/or the Conference Board must be secured prior to any such transaction.

C. Conference-wide organizations may be established as provided for by the by-laws of this Corporation.

D. Each agency and organization may adopt a constitution and/or by-laws not inconsistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Conference. Recommendations of these agencies and organizations shall be subject to the general supervision of and approval of the Conference Board.

ARTICLE VIII

Ministerium

Section 1

Ministers serving or retired within the boundaries of the Conference and ministers serving or retired in areas which are not included within the boundaries of another conference, who desire membership in this Conference Ministerium and are in good standing according to the Rules and Regulations of the Covenant Board of the Ordered Ministry shall constitute the Conference Ministerium.

Section 2

All members of the ministerium shall support the agencies and causes of the Conference and the Covenant.

Section 3

All members of the ministerium shall be subject to the general supervision and discipline of the Conference Ministerium as well as to the general supervision and discipline of the Covenant as provided for in the Rules of the Covenant Board of the Ordered Ministry.

Section 4

All pastors of member churches should be members in good standing in the Covenant Ministerium. In the event a church seeks to call a pastor without such standing, the Superintendent shall work with the church and the pastor in seeking such standing. Such pastors shall be subject to Sections 2 and 3 of this same article.

ARTICLE IX

Meetings

Section 1

The Annual Meeting shall be held at such time and place as authorized by its own action or by the Conference Board.

Section 2

The Annual Meeting shall elect the officers of the Conference and members of the administrative boards and the Conference Board, approve the budget, and conduct such other business as may properly come before it.

Section 3

Special meetings may be called when necessary by the chairperson or by petition of twenty percent (20%) of the members of the Conference Board, or by twenty percent (20%) of the membership of the Corporation. Notice of the special meeting, stating time, place and purpose of such meeting shall be mailed by the secretary of the Conference to the chairperson and pastor of member churches and to each delegate (member of the Corporation) at least thirty days prior to the date of such a meeting,

Section 4

Churches and administrative boards of the Conference and of such organizations as are recognized by the annual meeting may elect and send delegates to the Conference meetings as stipulated in the by-laws of this Corporation.

Section 5

One-third of the accredited delegates, who shall also serve as members of the corporation, shall constitute a quorum for all Conference meetings.

ARTICLE X

Fiscal Responsibility

In case of schism within the Conference, from which we earnestly pray God to deliver us, all property and other assets belonging to the Conference or its constituted parts as defined herein shall belong to the group which upholds and adheres to this Constitution as determined by the Executive Board of the Covenant. Should the Conference be dissolved, or diminish to less than three member churches, title to the property and other assets shall in such case pass to The Evangelical Covenant Church.

ARTICLE XI

Amendments

Section 1

Articles I and X may not be amended except for minor changes which do not alter the basic provisions and intent of these articles.

Section 2

Amendments require concurrence of the Covenant Executive Board to ensure general agreement with the Constitution and by-laws of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Section 3

Amendments to this constitution shall be introduced in writing at an annual meeting, but may not be acted on until the next annual meeting, and for adoption must receive the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the delegates present and voting in the annual meeting.

Section 4

The secretary of the Conference shall notify member churches in writing of proposed amendments at least thirty days prior to the annual meeting when final action is to be taken.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

Section 1

Meetings of the general assembly of the Conference shall be composed of duly accredited delegates, who shall act as members of the corporation, whose credentials have been certified by the secretary of the Conference or by a committee on credentials.

Section 2 Representation

A. Affiliated churches of the Conference shall be entitled to representation as follows:

Churches with 99 members or less, two delegates;
Churches with 100 through 199 members, three delegates;
Churches with 200 through 299 members, four delegates;
Churches over 300 members, five delegates.

B. The elected members of the Conference Board and the Conference Superintendent shall be members of the corporation and delegates to the Annual Meeting.

C. Each Conference administrative board, commission, and each recognized Conference-wide organization shall be represented in Conference meetings by the chairperson and one additional member.

D. All delegates to Conference meetings must be members in good standing of an affiliated church. No delegate may represent more than one organization.

E. All delegates and alternates to Conference meetings must be registered prior to the meeting according to the arrangements made by the Conference.

F. Each aided church is expected to have a lay delegate in addition to its pastor at any business meeting of the Conference.

G. All delegates to the annual meeting shall serve until the next annual meeting as delegates and as members of the Corporation.

H. In case an official representative of the Covenant is present in any official meeting of the Conference he shall be recognized as an advisory member.

Section 3 Board of Human Resources

A. There shall be a Board of Human Resources.

B. The Board of Human Resources shall select candidate(s) for each office to be filled and shall prepare a ballot and present it to the annual meeting.

C. The Board of Human Resources shall consist of three laypersons and three pastors. They shall serve for a term of three years and be elected in such manner that the terms of two of their number expire each year. They shall not serve more than two terms exclusive of a previous unexpired term. The Superintendent shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Human Resources. In addition, the East Coast Conference member of the Board of Human Resources of the Denomination shall be an advisory member. No paid employee of the Conference or its agencies shall be an elected member of this Board. No affiliated church shall have more than one elected member on this Board.

- D. Only members in good standing of an affiliated church are eligible for election to an office or to membership on an administrative board, except as approved by the Conference Board.
- E. The Board of Human Resources shall select candidates so as to encourage full Conference representation.
- F. Nominations may be made from the floor for any elective office. If there is more than one nomination from the floor for a position, the vote is to be by ballot, and the nominee receiving the majority of the votes of those present and voting shall stand as the additional candidate.
- G. A majority vote, by ballot, of the delegates present and voting shall be necessary for election to any office.

Section 4 Agenda

The agenda for all meetings shall be prepared by the Conference board and presented to the assembly for adoption.

ARTICLE II

The Conference Board

Section 1

- A. Each elected member of the Conference Board shall serve for a term of three years and be elected in such manner that the terms of one-third of their number expire each year. They shall not serve more than two terms exclusive of a previous unexpired term, with the exception of the chairperson, the three vice-chairpersons, the secretary and the vice-secretary, who shall not succeed themselves in their particular office. No affiliated church shall have more than two elected members on this board.
- B. The Conference board shall have the power to establish and change its own standing rules, including the fixing of time and place of its meetings.
- C. A quorum shall consist of fifty percent of the members of the Board.

Section 2 The Conference board shall:

- A. Exercise general supervision of the entire work of the Conference, act on behalf of the Conference between meetings, and promote coordination between administrative boards and commissions.
- B. Establish and supervise the fiscal policy of the Conference and its administrative boards and commissions.
- C. Maintain liaison with administrative boards and commissions through the Superintendent of the Conference and an appointed representative from the Conference board to the administrative boards and commissions. Such representative shall be an ex-officio member of the administrative board or commission to which he/she is appointed.
- D. Prepare and present to the annual meeting the coordinated budget of the Conference and its administrative boards and commissions.
- E. Determine, and annually review, compensation for employees of the Conference.
- F. Prepare and recommend the agenda for all meetings of the Conference.

- G. Delegate such responsibility for the administration of the Conference as may be required by the absence or incapacity of an employee of the Conference, unless otherwise specified in these by-laws.
- H. In the event a vacancy occurs on the Conference board or on an administrative board or commission, it shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy until the annual meeting.
- I. Administer the property and the treasury of the Conference.
- J. Supervise the implementation of all decisions of the Conference meetings.
- K. Sell and convey, with full power and authority, any and all real estate or personal property belonging to this Corporation which is not used for corporate purposes for such price and at such terms as the Conference board shall deem proper and for the best interest of the Conference, and shall execute and deliver with full power and authority deeds of conveyance and all other instruments and documents as may be necessary or required to convey good title to any real estate or personal property sold by said Conference board, provided that such real estate or personal property has first been designated as no longer required for corporate purposes by decision of either a Conference meeting or by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the Conference board.

ARTICLE III

Officers

Section 1 Conference Superintendent

- A. The Conference Superintendent shall be the chief executive officer of the Conference. He/she shall administer and promote its work in accordance with the decisions of the Conference meetings under the direction of the Conference Board. In his/her capacity as the chief executive officer of the regional Conference, which is an administrative division of the Covenant, he/she shall work in close cooperation with the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism.
- B. The Conference Superintendent shall be an ex-officio member of the Conference board except when the Conference board is acting as a nominating committee for naming candidates for the office of Conference Superintendent, in which case he/she shall not participate. He/she shall sign and imprint the corporate seal on all official and legal documents that require his/her signature, and shall give a written report of the work of the Conference to the annual meeting. He/she shall be an ex-officio member of all administrative boards and commissions and committees of the Conference.
- C. The Superintendent, who shall be an ordained minister of the Covenant, shall be nominated by the Conference board with the concurrence of the Executive Board of the Covenant and elected at an annual or special meeting of the East Coast Conference for a term of four years. After appropriate performance review, careful discernment process, and re-nomination by the Conference Board, he/she may be re-elected. He/she shall assume his/her office following his/her election and shall devote all of his/her services to the Conference.

Section 2 Chairperson

The chairperson shall preside over all meetings of the Conference and the meetings of the Conference board. He/she shall oversee all matters pertaining to the business of the Conference, and shall appoint committees as instructed by the annual meeting or the Conference Board. He/she shall sign and imprint the corporate seal on all official and legal documents that require his/her signature. In the event of the resignation, extended absence, incapacity as determined by the Conference Board, or death of the Superintendent, the chairperson shall assume the administrative duties of this office. He/she shall have ex-officio privileges in all boards, organizations and committees of the Conference.

Section 3 Vice-Chairpersons

The vice-chairpersons shall each chair one of the three Commissions and shall assist the chairperson, with the senior vice-chairperson, by seniority of office, assuming all the duties and responsibilities of the chairperson whenever that officer for any reason may be unable to perform the same. The vice-chairpersons shall be elected in such manner that the term of one of their number expires each year.

Section 4 Secretary

The secretary shall keep a true record of all the business meetings of the Conference and the Conference board. He/she shall attend to all the official correspondence of the Conference and shall perform all the duties of a corporate secretary. He/she shall sign and imprint the corporate seal on such official and legal documents as require his/her signature.

Section 5 Vice-Secretary

The vice-secretary shall assist the secretary and shall assume all the duties and responsibilities of the secretary whenever that officer for any reason may be unable to perform the same.

Section 6 Treasurer

The treasurer shall perform the general duties of a corporate treasurer as the responsible financial officer of the Conference. He/she shall receive and have custody of all funds and securities of this Conference, and make disbursements as authorized. He/she shall keep full and accurate accounts and shall deposit all funds in the name of this Conference in such banks and/or investments as are protected by Federal Deposit Insurance Corporations or as designated by the Conference Board.

ARTICLE IV

Administrative Boards

Section 1 General Provisions

- A. Administrative boards shall consist of members and ex-officio members as are herein specified.
- B. Members shall be elected for terms of three years in such manner that the terms of approximately one-third of the members expire annually. An elected member of an administrative board shall not serve on more than one administrative board nor be elected to serve more than two consecutive terms on any one board exclusive of a previous unexpired term.
- C. Each administrative board shall elect its own officers and recommend standing rules for the conduct of its affairs to be presented to the executive board for approval. A copy of the minutes of all meetings of administrative boards shall be filed with the Conference superintendent. The administrative boards shall be subject to such restrictions or controls as may be placed upon it by the general assembly of the Conference. Plans for major policy changes, major capital improvements, or constitutional changes must be presented to the executive board for review and ratification before action is initiated.
- D. Each administrative board shall render a written report to the annual meeting and such other reports to the executive board as may be required.

Section 2 Pilgrim Pines Conference Center Board

- A. The Pilgrim Pines board shall consist of not less than twelve (12) or more than eighteen (18) members and shall administer Pilgrim Pines Conference Center, Swanzey Lake, West Swanzey, New Hampshire.
- B. Pilgrim Pines Conference Grounds shall be managed by an administrator who shall work under the direct supervision of the Pilgrim Pines board.
- C. The administrator of Pilgrim Pines shall be called, his/her salary and terms of employment, determined by the Pilgrim Pines board with the approval of the Conference board.
- D. The administrator of Pilgrim Pines shall be an advisory member of the Conference board.

Section 3 The New England Seafarers Mission Board

- A. The New England Seafarers Mission board shall consist of eighteen trustees.
- B. The New England Seafarers Mission board shall administer and manage all the business and affairs of the mission, under the direct supervision of the board.
- C. Harbor Chaplains shall be called, his/her salary and terms of employment determined by the New England Seafarers Mission Board with the approval of the Conference Board.
- D. The administrator of the New England Seafarers Mission shall be an advisory member of the Conference board.

ARTICLE V

Administrative Commissions

Section 1 General Provisions

- A. Administrative commissions shall consist of such appointed members and such ex-officio members as are herein specified. Other persons may be invited as advisors.
- B. Members shall be appointed by the Conference board for three-year terms, but shall serve at the pleasure of the Conference board which shall cause an annual review of commission membership rosters to be made. The Conference board shall normally make appointments in such a way to insure a reasonable continuity of administrative commission membership. An appointed member of an administrative commission shall not serve on more than one administrative board or commission nor be appointed to serve more than two consecutive terms on any one commission exclusive of a previous unexpired term.
- C. Each administrative commission shall elect its own officers and recommend standing rules for the conduct of its affairs to be presented to the Conference board for approval. A copy of the minutes of all meetings of the administrative commissions shall be filed with the office of the superintendent. The administrative commissions shall submit all matters involving major changes in policy or major capital improvements to the Conference board for approval, according to guidelines established by the Conference board.

D. Each administrative commission shall render a written annual report to the Conference board and through the Conference board to the annual meeting of the Conference, as well as such other reports to the Conference board as may be required. The administrative commissions shall be responsible to and operate as agencies of the Conference board.

E. The number of members on each administrative commission shall be determined by the Conference board.

Section 2 Church Life/Formation

The Church Life/Education Commission shall be responsible for assisting Conference churches with those programs focused on the spiritual growth of church members--Christian Education, Children's Ministries, Youth Ministries, Adult Ministries and Leadership Development. This Commission shall work closely with Pilgrim Pines in coordinating Conference programming.

Section 3 Church Life/Mission

The Church Life/Mission Commission shall be responsible for the action and outreach ministries of the Conference and its churches. These would include evangelism, social action and stewardship. The consultation ministry of the Conference shall be coordinated by this commission.

Section 4 Church Growth and Development

The Church Growth and Development Commission shall be responsible for the Growth and Development Fund and those policy decisions which will determine new church planting and renewal of existing churches. They shall administer the Growth and Development Fund in accordance with guidelines determined by the Commission and approved by the Conference board.

ARTICLE VI

Committees

Section 1 Standing Committees

A. Staff Relations Committee. There shall be a staff relations committee consisting of the chairperson of the Conference, one trustee and the chairperson of one administrative board appointed by the Conference board. The duties of the committee shall be to meet at least once annually with the superintendent and other staff persons to review and assess relations.

B. An executive committee consisting of the chairperson, vice-chairpersons, secretary, treasurer and superintendent of the Conference shall meet in an advisory capacity to handle routine matters between meetings of the Conference board.

Section 2 Special Committees

A. Special committees and task forces may be authorized by a Conference meeting or by the Conference board. Members of these committees shall be appointed by the Conference board unless otherwise provided by a Conference meeting.

B. Special committees and task forces may be established by administrative boards and commissions as necessary to carry out their work.

Section 3 Organizations

Conference-wide organizations may be established in keeping with the following provisions:

- A. Proposals for new organizations within the Conference shall be submitted to the Conference board.
- B. Each proposal shall include such information as objectives, program, organization, and financial structure.
- C. The Conference board shall review the proposal and submit a recommendation at a duly called meeting of the Conference.
- D. A majority vote of the annual meeting shall be required to approve the establishing of a new organization.

ARTICLE VII

District Affiliation

Section 1

The Conference shall be divided into districts, the number to be determined and the boundaries of each district to be defined by the annual meeting of the Conference, upon recommendation by the Conference board. As far as practical, all Conference organizations shall adhere to the approved districting plan.

Section 2

Each district shall cooperate in accomplishing the work and objectives of the Conference, through its organizations and member churches.

ARTICLE VIII

Discipline

Charges that a church is out of harmony with the Conference shall be presented to the Conference board. If charges are found to be in accordance with the facts, the Conference board shall counsel with the church. If the church refuses to accept the counsel of the Conference board, the matter shall be referred to the Executive Board of the Covenant, which shall give careful study to the charges and, if necessary, make appropriate recommendations to the Covenant annual meeting.

ARTICLE IX

Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Conference shall be determined by the annual meeting on recommendation by the Conference board.

ARTICLE X

Financial Review

The accounts of the Conference and its administrative boards shall be reviewed annually by an independent auditing firm recommended by the Conference board. The reports will be submitted for approval by the Conference annual meeting.

ARTICLE XI

Rules of Order

The proceedings of the Conference meetings, the Conference board, and of the administrative boards and commissions shall be governed by and conducted in accordance with the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, except as other-wise provided within.

ARTICLE XII

Amendments

After concurrence by the Covenant Executive Board, amendments to these By-Laws shall be introduced in writing at an annual meeting, but may not be acted on until the next annual meeting, and for adoption must receive the affirmative vote of the majority of delegates present and voting in the annual meeting.

Revised 5/3/2008/

Includes amendments passed at the East Coast Conference Annual Meeting held at The Children's Home of Cromwell, Cromwell, Connecticut, on Saturday, May 3, 2008...