

Appendix

Proposed Amendments and Related Materials

Brainerd Meta Churches, Inc - Written Ballot: **Final Proposed Additions to Original Constitution & By-Laws**
Annual Review

1. Whereas a Senior Pastor primarily follows the leading of God (Father, Son & Holy Spirit) according to God's Word, The Bible,
2. Whereas a Senior Pastor is called by God, and therefore, his man, and since regularly scheduled review or reviews held too often could prove destabilizing to any organization, so this is encouraged but not strictly defined,
3. Whereas a Senior Pastor seeks the direction of The Lord in prayer and Bible study and other godly ways,
4. Whereas one of these other ways is his sense of how well he can cast vision, influence and lead the group of voluntary leaders on his team and the government of the church
5. the Senior Pastor has numerous checks and balances; but, so that there can be a structural one in place, we motion and vote for Proposed Addition entitled, "Voluntary Annual Review"

Yes: Nay: Abstain:

Organization Forming as Independent Corporation / Association

1. Whereas 'Brainerd Meta Churches, INC.' was deliberately set up as an umbrella corporation / church, to assist in the planting of independent churches that would Constitutionally continue with the same vision
2. Whereas some may choose to affiliate afterwards and some may not
3. Whereas the motivation of the founders as they felt led by the direction of The Lord Jesus Christ, was so that churches obedient to His Great Commission and set up structurally to assure that was always a provision, a given and the goal
4. We motion and vote for the Proposed Addition entitled, "Organization Forming and Independent Corporation / Association"

Yes: Nay: Abstain:

Form of Government for Extension (Preliminary By-Laws & Procedures)

1. Whereas new groups forming need to be more organic and lack the people and resources to structure in the same way an established group would operate
2. Whereas the Bible presents a hybrid approach to different forms of Church Government (namely combinations of the Congregational, Elder Rule / Presbytery, Apostolic / Episcopal)
3. Whereas our group has operated under this same Preliminary By-Laws
4. Whereas the check and balance is in how well the Senior Pastor or pioneering minister can cast vision and influence for people to work alongside of him in what they feel called of God to do
5. we motion and vote for the Proposed Addition entitled, "Form of Government for Extension (Preliminary By-Laws & Procedure)"

Yes: Nay: Abstain:

Motioned by _____ Seconded by _____

Objections? _____ Signature: _____

(March 9, 2018)

Friday, March 9, 2018

BRAINERD META CHURCHES, INC BYLAWS

(February 18, 2015 through March 9, 2018)

PROPOSED ADDITIONS⁶:

XXII – VOLUNTARY ANNUAL REVIEW

- I. **Reporting** – Common sense dictates that corporate officers and subordinate officers report to the presiding, executive officer (the president who is the Senior Pastor when that position is filled, the Ruling Elder / Vice President when there is no Senior Pastor); otherwise, there would be no order and The Holy Spirit leads through order. So, the Senior Pastor / President answers to God (The Father, The Son & The Holy Spirit), The Lord Jesus Christ as Head of The Church, The Bible (as God’s written Word) and *humanly speaking* he must, as he leads through influence in a voluntary organization, answer to the Elders and The Governing Board; but, the Elders and The Governing Board are organizationally subordinate to the leadership of The Senior Pastor / President.
- II. **Review** – The aforementioned reporting and mutual influence is a great check and balance; but, so that organizationally there is more, humanly speaking, it is encouraged that the Senior Pastor / President, step aside every so many years (not more than once a year) for a performance review on the part of the Elders & Governing Board and chaired by the Vice President or some other Elder as elected and consented to by the Senior Pastor / President. The purpose of this review is not fault finding, censure or potential dismissal, it is for the purpose advancing the cause of The Lord Jesus Christ as outlined in this Constitution & By-Laws. If there is great dissatisfaction, the Senior Pastor may be advised to negotiate a probationary period or step aside. Each member of the Elders and the Governing Board are subject to this kind of a review by the Senior Pastor / President on an ongoing basis; and so, this is a check and balance.

XXIII –

Organization Forming as an Independent Corporation / Association

Maturation: From time to time a Brainerd Meta site may elect to incorporate under its own name; it must do so as prescribed under this Constitution & By-Laws; the following particularly applies:

- I. **If an association is non-affiliating**, asset distribution to occur as outlined in Article XI and Article XIV.
- II. **If the association is remaining affiliated**, asset distribution will occur per negotiation. Negotiation will consist of the Board of the Extension Affiliation if one exists or the original Constitution Committee or representatives from the signers of the Constitution and By-Laws, under the chairmanship of the Senior Pastor and as a minimum requirement included in that negotiation is the adoption of these Constitutional and By-Laws (as outlined Charter Mandate and Trust page 2 and Article IXX – Constitutional Amendments) shall occur with the following phrase, giving the name of the new location/corporation/association, shall be included in the Name Clause at the beginning of the Constitution: “The Name of this organization is _____ and it is an affiliate of “Brainerd Meta Churches, Inc.” and as such adopts the same Constitution and By-Laws as “Brained Meta Churches, Inc.’ has in force as of March, 2018; with modifications only by additions to By-Laws and not deletions or amendments, as outlined in as outlined in the ‘Charter Mandate and Trust’ page 2 and Article IXX – Constitutional Amendments.”

⁶ Everything prior has already been voted on, line-by-line and word-by-word and approved, after a lot of effort and hours meeting.

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XXIV - FORM OF GOVERNMENT FOR EXTENSION (PRELIMINARY BY-LAWS & PROCEDURE)

- I. **The Name of the organization** is Brainerd Meta Churches, Inc and its extension sites may variously do ministry and operate in other sites under other fictitious names such as: West Brownsville Church, My College Church, Second Chance Community Church and as time reveals, by other fictitious names.
- II. **The purpose of the organization** is to worship The Lord Jesus Christ through service, ministry of praise, prayer, music and The Word, the giving of offerings and serving together in a loving and nurturing fellowship in such a way that our resources and time are available for evangelistic outreach and missionary endeavor.
- III. **The purpose of this document** is give a basic method for operatin.
 - a. The form of government for an extension or a Church Plant is episcopal⁷. Once a church is established it is a hybrid of presbyterian⁸ and congregational⁹ models.
 - b. We have been operating in an episcopal style except when the pastor has delegated a matter to group discussion and vote. People, the pastor deem to be rational and responsible for the said vote, are included.
- IV. **Various Rationale** includes the following ecclesiology/philosophy:
 - a. **For the Presbytery / Episcopal and District System:**
 - i. God calls a person to a task; HE calls men to be ruling pastors and elders. He gives vision and guidance for those who are saved, obedient and seeking it.
 - ii. God gave great authority to the apostles who were, besides being those who saw the risen Lord, were also in a more general sense, 'sent' and commissioned to start churches and ministries. The more generic sense continues today and finds a link between the Apostles of Jesus Christ and those sent by The Church/or churches (and the Holy Spirit) in Acts 13.
 - iii. regardless of the structure a person can only really lead through influence and
 - iv. 'the government of God is not just a system or an organization, it is an anointing'¹⁰

⁷ *Episcopal* is 'bishop' or 'apostolic rule' such as seen in The Bible by the authority Apostle Paul exercised over the Gentile churches. This included him appointing elders. The authority in the case of a denomination may for example, come down through the Council and District Superintendent through the Church Planting Director and is invested in the Church Planting Pastor. In our case it would come down through whatever existing body is in operation and initiating the work.

⁸ *Presbyterian* is 'elder rule' and is often seen by the Elder Board (local) and delegate system to a District Conference (regional) and to a National Council (National). This is seen in Scripture in the case of the Jerusalem Council, the elders Moses appointed from the tribes (though this was probably tribal and immediately led to God's judgment / correction).

⁹ *Congregational* is a highly democratic system where the congregation votes on nearly every matter but in some cases elects people to act as a managing committee. This form is not seen in the Bible but is common with Baptist Churches and was an attempt to correct the corruption and abuse within the medieval, feudal Roman Catholic and Orthodox systems. This is probably the method most favored by people in Appalachia and the Mon Valley.

¹⁰ '...We only have true spiritual authority to the degree that the King lives within us. When men derive their authority from a position in a system, they can maintain influence long after the anointing has departed from them. This alone has caused repeated tragedies in church (sic) history.' p. 77, Joyner.

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- v. people either go along with a Church leader or stymie them. If dissatisfied and their membership is less established than the pastor they will ('vote with their feet') leave the church. If dissatisfied and their membership is more established than the pastors they will often get rid of the pastor ('vote to make him use his feet').
- vi. eldership calls for maturity and godliness, these are rare and appointing people to such positions is promoting a person above their capability and doing it to fill slots will lead to destruction 1st Timothy 3:6
- vii. a Church should be led by an ordained or at least in process of being ordained person¹¹.
- viii. a person who has authority is under authority¹²
- ix. submission and servant heartedness is necessary for Christian leadership¹³
- x. we are bound to follow the law of the land¹⁴

b. Rationale for Organic Approach leading to Corporate

- i. no structure solves the problem of human sinfulness¹⁵ per Romans 3:23.
- ii. 'devotion to patterns and formulas is a basic symptom of witchcraft'¹⁶
- iii. submission to the laws of the land¹⁷
- iv. in the beginning there is much to be done and action is necessary for the organization to get started.
- v. in time institutions become bureaucratic and bogged down by politics, tradition and the like.

c. Rationale for eventual Congregational - Presbytery Approach

- i. good missiology¹⁸,

V. System of Government During Organic Stage

- a.** The Pastor will seek The Lord's direction and accordingly cast the vision for the church and attempt to build consensus.
- b.** The Pastor will call for votes from time to time as he deems it necessary to build this consensus.
- c.** Members may ask for votes on matters.
- d. Membership:** Members will be defined by those attending at least six times, approved by pastor, willing to work, testimony of salvation according to Scripture and who are willing to sign a Covenant in time to faithfully attend and support a Brainerd site.
- e. A majority vote carries.**

¹¹ Acts 9:17; 1st Timothy 4:14; 2nd Timothy 1:6

¹² Matthew 8:9; Romans 13:4

¹³ John 5:19 et al

¹⁴ Mark 12:17

¹⁵ "Caesar sought to change men by changing institutions. Jesus changed institutions by changing men." ~ William Durant per p. 67 of Rick Joyner's The Apostolic Ministry

¹⁶ p 78 of Joyner for the full quotation.

¹⁷ Mark 12:17

¹⁸ It endows ownership for greater participation of local leadership. The Presbytery system naturally follows when there is more than one site and delegates meet to conduct the business of the extended body.

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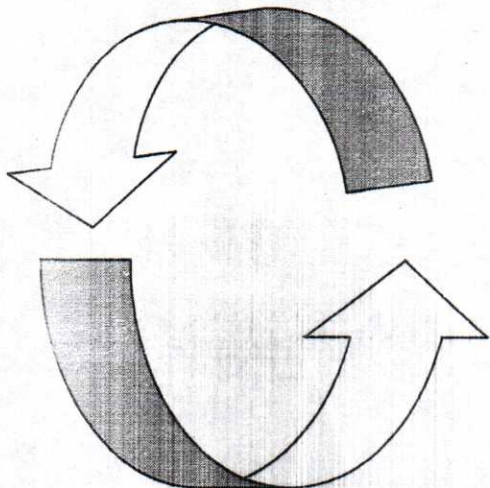
- i. For Proper Order the following procedure will be used:
 1. **If Quorum is Present** at a regularly called Vision Meeting for the extension site, and the Senior Pastor for that site does not veto, or the Oversight Pastor does not veto *and* it does not violate any of the rest of the Constitution and By-Laws, a simple majority vote passes and the secretary is directed to type this into the minutes and confirm it upon acceptance of the minutes by signing and dating them. Not signing and dating the minutes does not constitute a revocation of a vote as that would give a veto power to the secretary that they do not have.
 2. **Ballot and Email:** Votes can be made by paper ballot or by email, at the discretion of the Senior Pastor or the Oversight Pastor and so that everyone will get a chance to vote.
- ii. **Recording:** The recording secretary will be responsible to record the results of votes and meetings in the Church Minutes Book.

VI. Officers

- a. Elders will be prayerfully appointed from time to time by the pastor with the approval of the congregation.
- b. Other officers will be appointed or elected as the situation demands.

VII. Segway to Formal By-Laws

- a. This Constitution and By-Laws will be the Constitution of new bodies upon their maturation though they may add non-contradicting By-Laws of their own. This system will be used to discuss, amend and ratify the Constitution and By-Laws and any By-Law additions that a body may deem. Final approval of Constitution and By-Laws may be required under the extension or chartering guidelines set out for such a new work.



The Local Church	AKA: the neighborhood church, the church nurture, 2 nd Chance Community Church, etc. Bible: Jerusalem Church, Church at Antioch, etc
The Parachurch	In our culture we often call this 'the parachurch' for 'alongside the church. But this is misleading. AKA: the church militant, mission agencies, seminaries, church associations, Brainerd School Bible: the disciples, Paul's missionary teams, the disciples they trained in new places, the students in the lecture Hall of Tyrannus, etc.

Usually in this country, parachurches fear crossing the local churches and denominations where their funds come from and churches and denominations fear potential competition from the fellowships that naturally spring up when the Life of The Gospel appears. We should not be afraid but rather embrace God's process.

Points from Sermon:

1. CHURCH AND MISSIONS GROWTH AROUND THE WORLD AND DOWN THROUGH CHURCH HISTORY HAS NEVER HAPPENED EXCEPT WHEN THIS PARTNERSHIP WAS WORKING IN A HEALTHY WAY.
2. SOMETIMES THE ILLUSION OF GROWTH OCCURS WHEN CHRISTIANS TRANSFER FROM ANOTHER LOCATION. THIS OFTEN HAPPENS WHEN BIG ATTRACTIVE CHURCHES ARE BUILT ON HIGHWAYS.
3. OUR PARTICULAR PARTNERSHIP IS BETWEEN BRAINERD SCHOOL AND BRAINERD META CHURCHES, INC (THIS IS OUR CORPORATE NAME).
4. WE WENT WITH A CORPORATE NAME LIKE, 'BRAINERD META CHURCHES' TO REMIND US OF THE VISION WE HAD COMMITTED TO AND KNOWING THAT IN TIME LOCAL CHURCHES THAT WE MIGHT START WOULD INCORPORATE AND HAVE THEIR OWN NAMES.
5. RIGHT NOW, '2ND CHANCE COMMUNITY CHURCH' AND 'BRAINERD META CHURCHES' IS VIRTUALLY THE EXACT SAME THING. THERE IS NO ONE EXERCISING AUTHORITY OVER US OTHER THAN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.
6. WE PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE AND WROTE INTO OUR MATERIALS, DOCUMENTS AND MINUTES.
7. THIS WAS ALL DONE PRAYERFULLY AND SACRIFICIALLY. IN FACT, THE ENTIRETY OF THE FUNDS THAT CAME IN TO PURCHASE THIS BUILDING FROM 'THE CHURCH OF THE OPEN WORD' AND TO LAUNCH THIS SITE WAS DONE UNDER THIS UNDERSTANDING.

PLEASE PRAY FOR ME DURING MY TIME OF PAID S _____ FOR THE NEXT 3 OR MORE _____
PLEASE C _____ WITH JD AS HE F _____ IN. GOD IS GOOD; PTL!