



The Greater Huntsville Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship (GHIMF), Inc.

Updated December 07, 2024

Officer Revision made December 2024

Officers of the Greater Huntsville Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship (GHIMF), Inc.

Officers

Reverend Dr. Mario D. Ford – President

Pastor, Douglas Tabernacle Primitive Baptist Church
Huntsville, Alabama

Reverend Dr. Earl C. Johnson – Vice President

Senior Pastor, Christ Community Church
Huntsville, Alabama

Reverend Janice Patton-Gaines – Secretary

First Missionary Baptist Church
Huntsville, Alabama

Reverend Theromiles Flowers - Assistant Secretary

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
Huntsville, Alabama

Minister Gresha P. Lewis – Corresponding Secretary

The Tower of Prayer Church
Leeds, Alabama

Reverend Dr. Larry L. Smith - Treasurer

Pastor, Beaver Dam Primitive Baptist Church
Huntsville, Alabama

Reverend Waymond K. Smith, Chaplain

Pastor, Lowe's United Methodist Church
Huntsville, Alabama

The following Committees are functioning under the direction of the Executive Board of this Fellowship:

- A. Awards - MLK Committee**
- B. Benevolence Committee**
- C. Membership Committee**
- D. Program Committee**
- E. Education Committee**
- F. Publicity Committee**
- G. Social Action Committee**
- H. Nominating Committee**
- I. Youth Outreach Committee**
- J. Evangelism Committee**
- K. Finance/Ways and Means Committee**
- L. Music and Arts Committee**
- M. Pastoral Wellness Committee**

PAST PRESIDENTS:

- Reverend Dr. Oscar L. Montgomery, Sr., 1980-1988/2004-2008**
- *Reverend Dr. Julius R. Scruggs, 1988-1992**
- Reverend Dr. Jerry L. Crutcher, 1992-1996**
- *Reverend Dr. Homer L. McCall, 1996-2000**
- Reverend Dr. John L. Clay, 2000-2004**
- *Reverend Dr. Wayne P. Snodgrass, 2008-2012**
- Reverend Dr. Michael L. Jones, 2012-2016**
- Reverend Dr. Mitchell M. Walker, Sr., 2016-2020**
- Reverend Dr. Larry Davidson, Jr., 2020-2024**

***Deceased**

Statement of Philosophy

Having been led by the Spirit of God to unite together as ministers of God for the purpose of advancing His Kingdom, we feel inspired to set forth our aims and goals for the Spiritual improvement of the greater Huntsville community through the establishment of the following philosophy.

1. We believe that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation and that the Gospel must be proclaimed through a united effort by all Christians in the community.
2. We believe that the local churches can be strengthened through their active participation in a united effort to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. We believe that each pastor in the community has a responsibility for carrying the Gospel beyond his/her own church.
4. We believe that it is profitable for all ministers to come together, uniting their resources in an all-out effort to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

To foster this philosophy, we believe that the following goals should be established:

1. To identify and address areas in our community that are spiritually, morally and socially deficient
2. To formulate programs that will foster cooperative worship experiences among congregations.
3. To establish a permanent forum for ministerial interaction.

Constitution and By-Laws of the Greater Huntsville Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship, Inc.

Preamble

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be The Greater Huntsville Inter-Denominational Ministerial Fellowship, Inc.”

Article II - The Statement of Philosophy, Purpose and Goals

Section 1 – Philosophy and Purpose

Having been led by the Spirit of God to unite together as ministers of God for the purpose of advancing His Kingdom, we feel inspired to set forth our aims and goals for the spiritual improvement of the Huntsville Community through the establishment of the following philosophy.

- A. We believe that each pastor in the community has a responsibility for carrying the Gospel beyond his/her own congregation.
- B. We believe that our Christian witness should focus upon the spiritual, moral and social ills of the community.

Section 2 – Goals

To foster this philosophy, we believe that the following goals should be established:

- A. To identify and address areas in the community that are spiritually, morally and socially deficient.
- B. To formulate programs that will foster cooperative worship experiences among congregations.
- C. To establish a permanent forum for ministerial interaction.

Article III – Membership

The membership of this organization shall consist of ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ who meet the qualifying criteria for membership as developed by the Membership Committee and approved by this organization. They must also comply with the requirements for membership as set forth in the by-laws.

Article IV – The Officers

The Officers of the Fellowship shall be (a) President; (b) Vice-President; (c) Secretary; (d) Assistant Secretary; (e) Corresponding Secretary; (f) Treasurer; (g) Chaplain.

Article V - Election of Officers

- A. The officers are to be elected for one full term (two years) by a majority vote of the body with the announcement of said election being made in a regularly scheduled meeting two months prior to the election. Persons elected to office shall be financially current and active participants. Officers may be elected to a second term by a majority vote of the body, but no one, the Treasurer possibly excepted, shall serve more than two consecutive terms.
- B. Special elections to fill vacancies may be held whenever this body deems it necessary, but not without at least a one-month prior notice given of said election.

Article VI – The Power and Duties of Officers

Section 1 – President and Vice President

- A. The President shall preside at all meetings.
- B. The Vice President is to assist the President and preside in the absence of the President. Further, he/she shall serve as Chairperson of the Program Committee.

Section 2 – Secretary and Assistant Secretary

- A. The Secretary shall be custodian of all records, including financial records.
- B. The Secretary shall keep records of the proceedings of the Fellowship meetings and all Executive Board Meetings.
- C. The Secretary shall distribute all minutes of this body's regular meeting proceedings to the Fellowship at its regular meetings.
- D. The Secretary shall receive and record membership monies and transfer said monies to the Treasurer.
- E. The Assistant Secretary shall serve in the absence of the Secretary, fulfilling the duties as described above.

Section 3 – Corresponding Secretary

- A. He/She shall handle external and internal communications as directed by the President.
- B. He/She shall work with the Membership Committee.

Section 4 – The Treasurer

- A. The Treasurer shall be custodian of all monies received. He/she shall be responsible for receiving, depositing and accounting for funds in accordance with the directions of the Fellowship.
- B. He/She shall present regular written reports to the Executive Board and membership.

Section 5 - The Chaplain

The Chaplain shall be responsible for conducting or appointing persons to conduct the devotional services for each meeting of the Fellowship.

Article VII - Board Duties

Executive Board

- A. The Executive Board shall consist of the Elected Officers and the Chairpersons of each standing committee. All past presidents will be considered ex-officio members of this Board. Their presence at board meetings is welcomed, though not required.
- B. It shall plan and give direction to the Fellowship.
- C. It shall meet each month prior to the meeting scheduled for the General Body.
- D. The Executive Board shall be empowered to act on behalf of the Fellowship in time of crisis or emergency.
- E. The Executive Board shall preview and approve all persons and/or special presentations to be made to the general body.

Article VIII – Committees

The following committees shall function under the direction of the Fellowship.

- A. Awards - MLK Committee
- B. Benevolence Committee
- C. Membership Committee
- D. Program Committee
- E. Education Committee
- F. Publicity Committee
- G. Social Action Committee
- H. Nominating Committee
- I. Youth Outreach Committee
- J. Evangelism Committee
- K. Finance/Ways and Means
- L. Music and Arts Committee
- M. Pastoral Wellness Committee

Article IX - Committee's Duties

Section 1 – Membership Committee

The Membership Committee shall:

- A. Work throughout the year to maintain and/or increase the membership of the Fellowship.
- B. Process all membership applications, recommending each person seeking entrance into the Fellowship, according to the By-laws.
- C. Develop application and membership cards; issue annually renewable membership cards.

Section 2 – Program Committee

Purpose: The Program Committee shall plan and present to the Fellowship activities they are recommending to the body.

The Program Committee shall:

- A. Present outlines for Annual Observances.
- B. Recommend to the body a selection of the names of speakers for annual programs.
- C. Plan events which do not come under the responsibility of any other committee.
- D. All members of the Fellowship programmed for participation in events must be financially current and active participants.
- E. Ensure that printed programs are available at each GHIMF sponsored activity.
- F. Present to the body a recommended yearly calendar of events, including the names of speakers for the monthly Spiritual Feasts.
- G. Provide hospitality for visiting speakers.

Section 3 – Education Committee

Purpose: The Education Committee shall guide the Fellowship in educational programs of a religious nature. It shall recommend to the General Body the type and form of education programs to be sponsored by the Fellowship.

- A. It shall coordinate the awarding of scholarships to qualified members who are pursuing degrees with certified institutions. This included recommending qualified applicants for such scholarship assistance.
- B. Provide educational materials for spiritual information and enrichment

Section 4 – Evangelism Committee

Purpose: This committee shall provide the Fellowship with the mechanism for proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the community. It shall unite the combined religious community resources in an all-out-effort to spread the Good News.

The Evangelism Committee Shall:

- A. Develop and recommend outreach programs which shall meet the spiritual needs of each particular area.
- B. It shall implement training which will support the outreach program such as area wide revivals that bring the entire community together.

Section 5 – Finance/Ways and Means Committee

The Finance/Ways and Means Committee Shall:

- A. Work to provide adequate finances to support the budget and activities of the Fellowship
- B. It shall work closely with all standing committees in carrying out their program.

C. All monetary deposits shall be done by the chairperson or designated member of the Ways and Means Committee.

D. Two signers are needed to issue all checks. Official signatories shall be the Treasurer, President, and/or Chairperson of the Finance/Ways and Means Committee.

Section 6 – Benevolence Committee

Purpose: The Benevolence Committee shall receive, review and make recommendations concerning all requests for benevolent assistance.

The Committee shall:

a. Arrange assistance to needy individuals when a request is submitted by contacting any and all organizations, religious and/or social, which provide the needed assistance.

b. Present to the Fellowship the names of ministers who are in need of assistance.

c. The following policy shall govern benevolent expressions:

1. \$50.00 along with a “get well” card will be sent to members who are ill.

2. \$50.00 or an equivalent floral arrangement and benevolent card will be sent to members whose immediate family relatives are ill or deceased.

3. A “get well” or sympathy card will be sent to members when other family members may be ill or deceased.

Section 7 – Publicity Committee

The Publicity Committee shall:

a. Secure publicity for the work of the Fellowship in the local press and on radio, television, via the internet (GHIMF website), and other media.

b. Keep local news media informed about the spiritual, moral and social ills of our community.

c. Serve as an agency for the promotion of the activities of the other committees of this body.

Section 8 – Social Action Committee

Purpose: The purpose of the Social Action Committee is to identify the social, political, and economic issues impacting our nation in general, the local community in specific, and direct the general body toward plausible solutions for said issues. The Committee is a recommending body only, and shall take no action without the approval of the Fellowship.

The Social Action Committee shall:

a. Monitor the social environment of the community in an effort to identify those issues which need to be addressed by the GHIMF.

b. Make recommendations to the general body of the GHIMF as to what actions should be taken in specific cases.

- c. Maintain visibility and contact with the decision makers and power brokers of our community to help assure a healthy environment for all our citizens.
- d. Take referrals and assignments from the general body as needed.

Section 9 – Awards Committee

Purpose: The Awards Committee is to recommend to the general body the names of all candidates the committee believes have demonstrated those qualities that would make them an appropriate recipient of any award given by the GHIMF.

The Awards Committee shall solicit from the Fellowship the names and related information to be considered in recommending recipients for the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award.

Section 10 – Youth Outreach Committee

Purpose: The Youth Outreach Committee shall serve as GHIMF advocate for the youth of Huntsville, Madison County and the surrounding area. It shall recommend to the body outreach programs, activities and events which will assist local churches in encouraging youth to walk with the Lord and grow spiritually to Christian maturity. This is a recommending body, and shall take no action without the approval of the general body.

The Youth Outreach Committee shall:

- a. Plan and recommend programs/events which will be beneficial to all youth of the area.
- b. Develop and recommend to the body a list of events, programs, etc. for the youth put on by GHIMF member churches.
- c. Assist any member churches in the implementation of youth programs, as requested and approved by the GHIMF.
- d. Work closely with all standing committees to ensure that the youth of our community are included in their plans and efforts.

Section 11 – Nominating Committee:

- a. The Nominating Committee is responsible for recruiting the best-qualified candidates to serve as officers of this fellowship.
- b. Nominating committee members must hold confidentiality on a high level as they pursue their duties and responsibilities.
- c. This committee requires strong collaboration skills. Members should be willing to contribute to group discussions openly and honestly while demonstrating diplomacy and respect for other committee members. Members of the group must have a commitment to basing their decisions on what is best for the Fellowship.

- d. The duties of the Nominating Committee require committee members to carve out adequate time in their schedules to prepare for meetings in advance and to schedule conference calls as needed.
- e. The Nominating Committee members will work together to form the best process for recruiting, nominating, and presenting said candidates first to the Executive Board and then to the fellowship members as official nominees of designated positions.

Section 12 - Music and Arts

The Music and Arts Team shall assist the Program Committee in planning and coordinating music and dance ministries for scheduled Fellowship services.

Section 13 – Pastoral Wellness

The Pastoral Wellness Committee shall

ARTICLE X – Time and Place

The fellowship shall hold monthly meetings on the Saturday before the 2nd Sunday of each month. The exception being that no monthly meeting of the general body will be held during the months of July and August.

The Executive Board shall meet monthly on the Tuesday before the 2nd Sunday of each month. This committee will meet each of the 12 months of the calendar year, with no break for July or August.

ARTICLE XI – The Official Seal and Emblem

The official seal and emblem of the GHIMF shall be the emblem presented on the cover of this document.

ARTICLE XII – Decorum

Changes to the Constitution: This Constitution may be amended by a three-fourths vote of those present, provided the purpose for such amending, and the content of the proposed changes have been announced at least 30 days prior to that vote being taken. Robert’s Rules of Order will be followed in all instances not addressed in this Constitution and By Laws.

By Laws

1. The membership fee to join shall be \$50.00 per year, unless waived by the Fellowship. Renewed memberships are payable and due in full in January of each year, and will not be prorated if paid later in the year. Only new memberships may be prorated at the discretion of the membership committee.
2. The requirements for seeking and retaining membership are:
 - a. The applicant must be a minister (preacher) of the Gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord, and acknowledge the freedom of the Grace of God.
 - b. The applicant must agree with the purposes, goals and the spirit of this organization, and comply with its Constitution and By Laws.
 - c. The moral character of the applicant should be one in keeping with the principles of Jesus Christ as well as those of this organization.
 - d. The applicant should show support for the programs of this organization.
3. Failure to comply with any of the above can be grounds for rejection of one's application and/or dismissal from membership.
4. The body reserves the right to reject any applicant or dismiss any member who is disruptive, or whose presence would have an adverse effect on the body.
5. Guidelines for organizational support:

GHIMF will accept financial contributions from any organization whose policies and practices are not in opposition to the policies, principles and practices of this organization. Any such contributions, however, do not give the contributor any voice in the operation of the GHIMF.
6. GHIMF Community Involvement Guidelines
 - a. Any GHIMF involvement in community activities/events/organizations, ongoing or new, must first be processed through the appropriate committee, which will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee, which in turn will recommend to the entire GHIMF body for final approval.
 - b. No group or member of the Fellowship shall use the fellowship's name as supporting it/him/her without prior approval of the body.

Revised September, 2016 /Updated September 2024
Constitution Revision Committee/Update Committee
Reverend Dr. Mario D. Ford
Reverend Earla S. Lockhart
Reverend Dr. W. Temple Richie, Jr.

Updated New Officers December 2024