

# Evangelical Formosan Church Ministerial Association Regulations

D0000

Last Amended by 6<sup>th</sup> Executive Board Meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> on 2009

Notification Letter : 09GA50

The English translation for the following bylaws is tentative and has not been proof read or certified. Therefore, the original meaning of the bylaws should be interpreted from the Chinese version.

## D1000 Chapter I Employment of Ministers

D1100 1. Employment

D1110 A. Ministers for dependent churches are to be appointed by the Personnel Committee of General Assembly with a coordination of the local churches. The terms of ministers are specified in the "EFC REGULATIONS ON APPOINTMENT OF REPLACEMENT IN THE ABSENCE OF SENIOR PASTOR" Terms can be renewed if needed. GA Pastor-in-Charge shall coordinate with local church to assign a Supervising Pastor to assist with ministries of a dependant church. The term shall be one year which can be renewed if needed. (Ref. "EFC REGULATIONS ON APPOINTMENT OF REPLACEMENT IN THE ABSENCE OF SENIOR PASTOR")

D1120 B. The search and employment of a Senior Pastor or other full-time minister of an independent church shall conform to procedures stated in Chapter Six of EFC Local Church Bylaws. (Ref. B6300 – B6454)

D1130 C. An independent church without a pastor may apply to the Personnel Committee of General Assembly for a temporary substitute minister and a Supervising Pastor. The Personnel Committee of General Assembly may assign ministers according to "EFC REGULATIONS ON APPOINTMENT OF REPLACEMENT IN THE ABSENCE OF SENIOR PASTOR". The church may re-apply when the term ends if necessary. If the church decides to fill the position, the procedure shall conform to D1120.

D1200 2. Referring to EFC By-law B6320 for issues concerning pastor search.

D1300 3. The GA delegate monitored the voting shall report the result to the General Assembly.

D1400 4. After having affirmative votes, the Board of Elders shall submit a request of employment to the General Assembly for issuing a formal appointment letter. The chairperson of the Board of Elders shall present the signed GA appointment letter to the pastor as an official employment.

D1500 5. Referring to D1121 for renewal of employment

## D2000 Chapter II Qualification for EFC Ministers

D2100 1. Education:

D2110 A. Those with a degree of Master of Divinity (M. Div.) obtained at seminaries recognized by the General Assembly.

D2120 B. Those with a degree of Master of Christian Studies (M.C.S.) or equivalent obtained at schools recognized by the General Assembly.

D2130 C. Those without the above mentioned degrees, but with at least five years of pastoral experience as an ordained pastor and two years of EFC experience as a delegated minister/pastor or full-time pastor.

D2140 D. Those EFC ministers who are not graduates of Logos Evangelical Seminary must complete the required "Understanding EFC" (regarding EFC system, Bylaws, philosophy of pastoral ministry, statement of faith, and church planting, etc.) course given by EFC General Assembly before submitting the application for EFC Minister. Correspondence course is also accepted when available.

D2200 2. Faith: Must be willing to accept the EFC Statement of Faith, General Assembly Constitution, and Local Church By-laws.

D2300 3. Calling: Must be sure of being born again in Christ and of the calling from God; has pure and correct perception of faith; has determination to serve God.

## D3000 Chapter III EFC Ordination Rules

D3100 1. Qualification: Applicants must fulfill one of the following requirements :

D3110 A. Those who have at least two years full-time pastoral related experience after acquiring a M. Div. Degree, one year of which must be with EFC; who have also completed the required "About EFC" ( EFC system, Bylaws, philosophy of pastoring, statement of faith, and church planting, etc.) courses.

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- D3120 B. Those who have at least one year full-time pastoral related experience after acquiring a M.C.S. or equivalent degree, who have also served at EFC for over a year acquiring a M. Div. Degree.
- D3130 C. Those who have at least five years full-time pastoral related experience after acquiring a M.C.S. or equivalent degree and , one of which must be with EFC. (This revision takes effect on Jan. 1, 2009. Those who have been serving in EFC churches on or before Dec. 31, 2008 may apply the “three years pastoral related experience” regulation before this revision.) **【25-5】**
- D3140 D. For those whom the above regulations D3110A, D3120B, and D3130C may not apply, their application may be submitted to a Special Review Committee after an initial screening by EFCGA, which then shall be presented to the Personnel Committee for further review. The Special Review Committee shall comprise the current Pastor-in-Charge, Moderator, Secretary General, President of Logos Evangelical Seminary, President of Global Enrichment Theological Seminary, and two other Senior Pastors, total of seven pastors and elders. **【25-5】**
- D3200 2. Application procedure: **【25-5】**
- D3210 A. The Church Council of the local church may submit their application to EFCGA in conformity with the procedures stated in the EFC Procedure for Pastoral Ordination Application. The application can be submitted no earlier than three months before the completion of the required pastoring time period. EFC will post four periods in a year for accepting applications. All applicants must submit all required materials before deadline. **【25-5】**
- D3220 B. The EFCGA shall conduct its initial screening of the qualification and materials of the applicant, and submit the applications within two weeks to the Region where the applicants belong. The Pastor-in-Charge of the region shall invite three senior pastors within the region to form a Review Committee, and complete the review within two months. **【25-5】**
- D3230 C. If the number of senior pastors in a region is inadequate to form a Review Committee, the Secretary General of EFCGA shall invite three senior pastors to form the Review Committee and complete the review within two months. **【25-5】**
- D3300 3. Review procedure:
- D3310 A. When the review is completed, the Review Committee shall fill in the Review Committee Report Form and mail the result back to EFCGA. The EFCGA shall forward all pertinent material to the Personnel Committee of EFCGA for a final review. **【25-5】**
- D3320 B. The Moderator shall call together the Personnel Committee of EFCGA for a meeting to verify the review. The result shall be reported to the Executive Board within a month. **【25-5】**
- D3330 C. The EFCGA shall reply to the applicants and their Region the result of the review within three months of the date the application was received. **【25-5】**
- E3340 D. The EFCGA (Secretary General) shall coordinate a date for the ordination service with the applicant’s church and Region; and convene an Ordination Council to administer the ordination. **【25-5】**
- E3400 4. The date of ordination service shall be scheduled beyond the completion of the years of pastoral service required. **【25-5】**
- D3500 5. The candidate may submit his/her application for ordination only when the church he/she serves becomes independent. **【25-6】**

### D4000 Chapter IV EFC Ministerial Association Organizational Rules

- D4100 1. All full-time ministers currently serving at EFC churches or institutes may apply to the EFC-MA to become a member. Refer to EFC Procedure for Ministerial Association Membership Application for application procedure. **【25-5】**
- D4110 A. There are two categories of membership for the Ministerial Association: Standard and Associate. Those described in the following qualify as Standard Members, others Associate. **【25-5】**
- D4111a. Those who serves full-time as minister/pastor at EFC churches. **【25-5】**
- D4112b. Those who serves as a chief of EFC institutes. **【25-5】**
- D4120 B. The application for either category (standard membership/associate membership) requires the official recommendation of the church or institute.

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- D4130 C. The associate members are excluded from the right to vote and/or to be voted for.
- D4140 D. Other members such as ~~ministers of a gospel station~~, delegated pastor/minister, or missionary designated by the GA, etc., their application shall be handled case by case as needed. **【25-6】** Note: Clause regarding ministers of a gospel station please refer to 1.22 EFC Administrative Memorandum – Ministerial Association Membership Applications.
- D4150 E. Benefits of ministers shall be processed in accordance with the regulation. **【25-5】**
- D4160 F. If a minister resigned from EFC churches or institutes for over 6 months and re-joins EFC, he or she will have to re-apply for the MA membership.
- D4170 G. Ministers retired from EFC churches automatically become Associate Members of the Ministerial Association.
- D4180 H. Those who have already been serving as a minister in a EFC church but yet to fulfill the EFC ministerial education requirements may be accepted as an Associate Member to take part in activities of the Association, until he/she completes the requirement and his/her application for a Standard Membership maybe reviewed and approved. **【25-4】**
- D4200 2. Duties
- D4210 A. To perform the projects assigned by the Executive Board.
- D4220 B. To coordinate the various ministries of EFC.
- D4230 C. To organize a committee, per request of the Personnel Committee, to review and recommend new full-time pastors; to review applications for EFCMA membership.
- D4240 D. To organize a committee to review the qualifications of ministers who are applying for ordination.
- D4250 E. To assist ministers on their pastoral studies, devotion and fellowship.
- D4260 F. To coordinate with the GA and Pastor-in-Charge in implementing the annual mission goal.
- D4300 3. EFCGA MA institutes Regional MA's to facilitate its ministry.
- D4310 A. Regional MA shall be composed of incumbent full-time ministers in the Region.
- D4320 B. Regional MA officers shall include a Chairperson, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The term for each position is one-year, and may be renewed if re-elected. The Regional Pastor-in-Charge shall be the Chairperson, while the Secretary and the Treasurer shall be elected by and among members of the Regional MA.
- D4330 C. The Regional MA shall budget their annual ministry expenses and present it to the Chairperson of EFCGA-MA (Pastor-in-Charge).
- D4340 D. The Regional MA Pastor-in-Charge shall keep a close business contact with the EFCGA-MA Pastor-in-Charge in order to coordinate and implement the ministries commissioned by the Regional MA; to report regularly of the Regional ministerial plans to the Chairperson of the EFCGA-MA (Pastor-in-Charge).
- D4400 4. The EFCGA-MA officers shall include a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson. The position of the Chairperson shall be assumed by the EFCGA Pastor-in-Charge, and the Vice Chairperson the Vice Pastor-in-Charge. Their terms shall coincide with those of the Pastor-in-Charge and Vice Pastor-in-Charge.
- D4500 5. Duties of EFCGA-MA Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
- D4510 A. To call a joint EFC-MA meeting to take place after each Bi-Annual General Assembly Meeting; to take charge of the coordination and implementation of various duties of the MA.
- D4520 B. To serve as a representative of MA (or appointing a delegate) to attend the EFCGA meetings.
- D4530 C. The Vice Chairperson shall assist the Chairperson with the implementation of the MA business, and to assume the Chairperson's duty in his/her absence.
- D4600 6. The Chairperson of the EFCGA-MA shall collect all annual budgets from the Regional MA's and prepare a combined total MA budget. The total MA budget shall be submitted to GA to be accepted into the GA annual budget
- D4700 7. Amendments may be made at the Bi-Annual Joint MA meeting. After being reviewed by the By-law Department, the amendments may be submitted to the Executive Board for approval. The amendments shall take effect immediately thereafter.

**Note:1. The numbers in the mark “【】” means that the rules in this file has been updated on 【x<sup>th</sup> Executive Board Meeting -of the x<sup>th</sup> General Assembly】**