

# BYLAWS OF THE MARION CHURCH OF GOD (SEVENTH DAY)

MARION, OREGON 97359

## Paragraph 1. **GENERAL CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION**

The Marion Church of God (Seventh Day) is an assembly of members and friends of the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day), Denver, Colorado 80233 as incorporated in the State of Missouri, November 6, 1881. So long as ten or more persons hold membership in this local body, and so long as sufficient qualified persons are available for the offices of elder and deacon to compose a local church board of at least three members, this church shall qualify for membership and recognition as a local body in the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day), with all members as recognized by the local church entitled to hold all rights and privileges as provided through the local church and General Conference.

## Paragraph 2. **PURPOSE**

As to purpose, it shall be the purpose to organize this local body for the promotion and promulgation, that is, to make widespread, the message of the gospel, for the promoting of fellowship among the local congregation, and for the edifying of the saints.

## Paragraph 3. **MEMBERSHIP**

As to qualification, all persons baptized by immersion into discipleship with Jesus Christ, holding to the faith of Jesus, and believing in the validity and practice of His commandments, said practice to include the Ten Commandments, may become members of this local body by receiving the right hand of fellowship.

## Paragraph 4. **VOTING QUALIFICATIONS**

All members in good standing in this congregation who are at least eighteen (18) years of age qualify to vote in all matters pertaining to the election of officers and other general business of the local church and of the General Conference.

Paragraph 5. **CHURCH BOARD QUALIFICATIONS**

As to holding office, any male member of the local congregation who is at least twenty (20) years of age, who has been a member of the local church for at least twelve (12) consecutive months immediately prior to election, and who is in good standing in the congregation, may qualify for election to the office of elder or deacon.

Paragraph 6. . **CHURCH PLANTING**

This congregation, under the leadership of a documented minister in the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day), is empowered to plant new congregations or shepherding groups as it deems appropriate to its benefit and to the benefit of the gospel. A minister of the general Conference, in concert with the sponsorship of this local church, shall be empowered to appoint the necessary, appropriate officers to such new ministry.

Paragraph 7. **RECORDS**

Updated records shall be maintained by the church clerk or secretary of all members, their addresses, their ages, and their initial date of membership in the Church of God (Seventh Day).

Paragraph 8. **MEMBERSHIP TRANSFER**

When a member desires to change his/her membership to another local congregation, at his/her request, a letter of transfer shall be given by the pastor or an elder, addressed to the pastor or elder to which the member is transferring. The letter of transfer may be read before the congregation.

Paragraph 9. **CHURCH BOARD FUNCTION**

This congregation shall be administered by its Board of Directors, hereby identified as the Marion Church of God Combined Board, and composed of pastors, elders, deacons and/or any other qualified personnel such as this local church designates. The Combined Board may select its officers from within the local church membership. Except for executive session, this church's board meeting shall be open to attendance by the general membership.

Paragraph 10. . **CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETINGS**

Regular annual business meetings shall be set at a time other than the Sabbath, for the purposes of receiving committee reports, of electing members to the church boards, including, when necessary, member of the Trustee Board, and to conduct any other business which may come before the church. This congregation shall hold the right to call special church business meetings, so long as the congregation has been adequately notified of the time and purpose of the meeting. All minimum requirements as established by Oregon State law concerning called meetings shall be met. An officer of this church may call such a meeting upon the consensus of a church board.

Paragraph 11. **COMBINED BOARD MEETINGS (JOINT BOARD)**

The Combined Board, Elder Board, and Deacon Board shall have regularly scheduled meetings, normally once each month. Special meeting may be held at the call of the chair and shall be announced at least one Sabbath prior to the meeting. Emergency meetings may be held at the call of the chair when the appropriate board or boards can be notified in adequate time.

Paragraph 12. **CHURCH BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF OFFICE**

Members on this church board shall be for a term of two or three years, with staggered terms. An unexpired term may be temporarily filled by the consensus of the Combined Board until the next annual business meeting. All appointments/elections to fulfill unexpired terms shall be subject to all other requirements for office.

Paragraph 13. **BOARD MEMBERSHIP ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS**

Election to board membership shall be so conducted: Not less than two weeks prior to the election, a nominating committee appointed by or composed of the local board shall meet to select from among this congregation's membership those who are qualified and shall nominate at least two names for each office to be filled. Election shall be by majority ballot.

Paragraph 14. **BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTIONS**

Election to the Board of Trustees shall occur when a board member is deceased, has resigned, has ceased to be active with the church or is no longer a member in good standing. The Board of Trustees shall act as a nominating committee when vacancies occur on the Board. The list of nominees shall be submitted to the Board of Elders for approval and then presented to the congregation at the annual business meeting for the elective process with vacancies being filled by a majority vote of the congregation.

Paragraph 15. **BYLAW AMENDMENT AND REVISION**

These bylaws are subject to adoption and revision by this congregation when in regular annual session, shall require adoption or change by a two-thirds vote of the congregation in regular session, and shall require publication at least thirty (30) days prior to said adoption or revision. The Combined Board shall approve any and all proposed revisions to these Bylaws prior to any publication of these Bylaws to the congregation.

Paragraph 16. **GENERAL CONFERENCE CHURCH MANUAL ENDORSMENT**

As to Qualifications and duties of Officers, Local Church Property, and Operation of Sabbath Schools, this congregation shall endorse said designations as are proscribed in the General Conference Church Manual, parts II through V, as valid and standing and subject to the protocol of this church's current Articles of Incorporation.

Paragraph 17. **COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEES**

All committees of this church shall be considered subcommittees to the church board(s) and shall be subject to appointment and regulation of the church board(s).