SAMPLE BYLAWS FOR LOCAL MISSIONARY CHURCHES
(May be adapted)

ARTICLE I – NAME

Name

This church shall be known as the of (City, State)

ARTICLE II – AFFILIATION

Affiliation

This church is a member of the Missionary Church, Inc., a denomination with headquarters at 3811 Vanguard Drive, Fort Wayne, Indiana  46809, and as such shares the privileges, benefits and responsibilities of that affiliation.

ARTICLE III – STATEMENT OF FAITH

Statement of Faith

A complete statement of faith including other important matters related to the doctrine and practice may be found in the Constitution of the Missionary Church.

ARTICLE IV – OBJECTIVES

Objectives

The objectives of this church shall be to maintain the public worship of Almighty God; to edify and build up the church through Christian fellowship and Bible teaching; to carry on an aggressive program of local evangelization; to propagate the Gospel throughout the world in keeping with the Great Commission and the doctrines and practices of the Missionary Church.

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

Application

Applicants for membership shall make application through the pastor using such forms as may be prepared and are available for that purpose.

Qualifications

Qualifications for membership shall be in agreement with those set forth in Article XIII, C of the Constitution of the Missionary Church.

Discipline

The discipline of the church shall be carried out as in agreement with Article XIII, C, 3 of the Constitution of the Missionary Church.

Transfer of Membership

Members in good standing moving from one locality to another where there is a Missionary Church shall at their request be given letters of transfer. In case of a pastor moving from one Missionary Church to
another, the memberships of the pastor and such members of his family as accompany him and are members in good standing in the Missionary Church from which they move shall automatically transfer to the new church of which he becomes pastor.

**ARTICLE VI – LOCAL CONFERENCE**

**Membership**
The local conference shall be composed of voting members of the local church. Such members must be sixteen years of age or over.

**Fiscal Year**
The fiscal year shall be the calendar year unless the District Conference of which the church is a member establishes a specific regulation.

**Business Meeting**
Local conference meetings shall be held at least once a year. Special meetings may be called by the district superintendent or the church board. The local church may decide upon the number of business meetings to be held each year. Public announcement of these meetings should be made well in advance of the meeting date. It is recommended that at least two weeks or two Sundays be considered as an appropriate time for advance notice. Special meetings may be called by giving at least one week’s notice to all members.

**Quorum and Eligibility**
A quorum shall consist of all eligible voting members present at any business meeting properly announced. No provision shall be made for proxy voting.

**Chairman and Secretary**
The chairman and secretary of the church shall act in their respective capacities at all business meetings. If the pastor is the chairman, the vice-chairman shall preside at all times when the congregation is considering pastoral relationships or the calling of a pastor.

**ARTICLE VII – PASTOR**

**Pastor**
In all cases the bylaws of the local church governing the call of a pastor shall conform to the bylaws provided by the respective District Conference.

**ARTICLE VIII – OFFICERS**

**Officers**
The officers of each local church may be pastors, deacons, elders, Sunday school superintendent or Christian educator director, trustees, chairman if other than pastor, secretary and/or treasurer and other officers as may be needed. These officers shall be members of the local church. It is
recommended that a vice-chairman be elected and that the chairman and vice-chairman hold these respective positions on the church board. In all cases where matters involving the pastor are under consideration and where the pastor is chairman, the vice-chairman shall preside.

ARTICLE IX – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominating Committee
It is recommended that the services of a Nominating Committee shall be used in all elections with the understanding that opportunity is always given for nominations by the electing body and that nominations shall be formally closed in keeping with parliamentary procedure.

Eligibility
The officers named in Article VIII shall be members in good standing of the Missionary Church. Members of the church board shall also be members of the church.

Time of Election
As a general rule it is recommended that elections be held annually. The major officers of the church shall be elected during the annual local conference business meeting. Elections for such organizations as the Sunday school, Missionary Youth Fellowship, etc., shall be held at such time as the local church may decide or as is recommended by the respective departmental constitutions.

Vacancies
All vacancies in an elective office shall be filled by the appointment of the church board and such appointees shall hold office until the next regular election is held.

Limitation of Term of Office
It is recommended that wherever feasible a limitation be placed upon the number of years or terms that one individual may serve in any office consecutively. This is especially desirable in larger churches, thus providing more involvement and training opportunities for future service.

ARTICLE X – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Duties of the Chairman
The chairman shall preside at all meetings of the local conference. The vice-chairman shall act in his absence.

Duties of the Secretary
It shall be the duty of the secretary to keep a faithful record of all business proceedings of the church and the church board; to maintain a register of the membership; to issue by authorization of the church board transfers of membership; to take care of correspondence as authorized by the local conference or church board; to record the minutes of all business meetings; and to serve in any other secretarial capacity when authorized by the
church board.

**Duties of the Treasurer**

It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive and hold all monies of the church except that from organizations in the church which have their own treasurers; to issue receipts when necessary; to pay all obligations regularly as directed by the church board; and to give a report to each local conference meeting or the church board as required.

**Duties of the Elders**

The elders shall assist the pastor in the spiritual duties of the church, primarily in matters such as spiritual advice, leadership accountability, church discipline and making disciples.

**Duties of the Deacons**

The deacons shall assist the pastor in the spiritual duties of the church, provide the emblems for the Lord’s Supper and administer the relief program of the church.

**Duties of the Trustees**

A chairman shall be elected in such manner as the local conference shall determine, and a secretary who shall keep an accurate record of all meetings. The trustees shall hold in trust the property and shall be responsible for its care and maintenance, unless other provisions are made for holding the property. They shall act for the church in connection with all legal matters. Where title to property is held by the local trustees they shall have the power to mortgage, encumber, sell and convey any real or personal property of the church and enter into all lawful contracts, in the name of and in behalf of the church when so directed and authorized by the local conference. It shall be their duty to see that all properties are kept in good repair. They shall make an annual report to the local conference.

**ARTICLE XI – CHURCH BOARD**

**Membership**

The church board shall include the pastor and any of the following: chairman of the local conference, deacons or chairman of the board of deacons, elders or chairman of the board of elders, director of Christian education or the general Sunday school superintendent, chairman of the trustee board, church secretary, church treasurer and as many others as the local conference may decide. Members of the church board shall be members of the local church.

**Officers of the Board**

It is recommended that the chairman and secretary of the local conference shall fill the same offices respectively on the church board.

**Meetings**

The church board shall meet at least once each quarter. The pastor or the pastor and chairman (if the chairman is other than the pastor) shall in each
case carefully prepare an agenda. The church board shall concern itself with the total ministry of the church and should share with the pastor the burden of evangelism and outreach. Special meetings may be called by the chairman or at the request of three members of the board.

**Duties of the Church Board**

In addition to those duties outlined in the Constitution of the Missionary Church it shall be the duty of the church board to arrange for all regular and special meetings of the church; to engage necessary workers for the same; to arrange for the examination of candidates for baptism and church membership; to have supervision of the discipline in the church, it being understood that in cases of dissatisfaction such matters may be referred to the church; to revise the church membership roll periodically; to approve the church budget and arrange for the support of the pastor and such other workers as may be engaged by the board; to approve budgets of auxiliary organizations which would be of a continuing nature; to have prayerful and diligent oversight of the church and its various ministries; to make such recommendations to the church as may affect its general welfare; and to delegate as it may deem wise and necessary its authority to carry out any of the above outlined duties.

It shall be the future duty of the church board to appoint the Nominating Committee as may be provided for by the local conference. It shall appoint such sub-committees as may be needed to facilitate its functions such as Auditing Committee, Budget Committee, etc.

The church board, exclusive of the pastor, shall represent the church in negotiating for a pastor in keeping with the Constitution of the Missionary Church and the district bylaws dealing with pastoral relations.

**ARTICLE XII – AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS**

Auxiliary Organizations

Inasmuch as the Missionary Church through its departments and auxiliary organizations on the denominational level provides guidance to districts and local churches for the organization of their counterparts on district and local church levels, it is recommended that in all cases these Constitutions be used as a guide in formulating bylaws for local church units.

**ARTICLE XIII – AMENDMENTS**

Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote at any regular or special meeting of the local conference, providing announcement has been made in advance of the proposed revision.
ARTICLE XIV – DISSOLUTION

Dissolution  In the event of dissolution, the assets of _____ shall be distributed to the ________ District of the Missionary Church.