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**An Introduction and Overview of**

**The Foundation of the Great Lakes Conference,**

**Churches of God, General Conference**

**Overview**

* The Foundation is established exclusively for charitable purposes as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization by the Great Lakes Conference (GLC) and is incorporated by the State of Ohio.
* The Foundation was created June 13, 1997, by action of the Ohio Conference in response to the sale of Winebrenner Village to Blanchard Valley Health Association for $6,553,099.07. The first nine grants were awarded in September 1999, totaling $380,900.
* The Foundation exists to manage its assets for the benefit of the Great Lakes Conference and its commissions, congregations, agencies, and affiliates in ministries, programs, and endeavors endorsed and/or supported by the Great Lakes Conference.

**Structure**

* The Foundation is accountable to the Great Lakes Conference as Sole Voting Member and is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors elected for a three-year term. Directors are limited to serving three full terms in succession after which they must vacate the Board for at least one full year before being eligible for re-election.
* The Executive Director of the Great Lakes Conference serves as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors.
* Operations of The Foundation are managed by part time staff presently consisting of a president and financial controller.

**Mission, Vision, Values**

**Mission** (Why do we exist?)

* To stimulate life-changing ministry.

**Values** (What principles guide our work?)

* Discipleship Transform lives through Jesus.
* Generosity Nurture stewardship and sacrifice.
* Creativity Turn new and imaginative dreams into reality.

**Vision** (Provide a clear aspiration of what we would like to do over the next five years.)

* Increase ministry resources.
  + Have more people in heaven as a result of Foundation work.
  + Have assets of $9M by 2024 and $10M by 2029.
  + Maintain a pool of potential directors and succession plan for officers.
* Inspire and equip forward and/or outward thinking.
  + Encourage pastors/congregations to see opportunities for transformative ministry.
  + Articulate those dreams and ways The Foundation can help achieve them.
* Teach generosity.
  + Understand and help the church participate in the massive generational wealth transfer.
  + Encourage individuals / congregations to explore and practice biblical models of generous giving.
* Cultivate a new generation of leadership.
  + Encourage the church to identify, equip and deploy the next generation of leaders.
  + Leaders will come from traditional younger generation as well as retirees.
  + Leadership styles will be different; emerging leaders deserve supportive mentors.
* Award transformative grants.
  + Encourage grants that transform both secular and faith communities (*out* and *in*).
  + Give preference toward grants that develop people.
* Multiplication in service to the Kingdom.
  + The Foundation seeks Kingdom growth inside its charter by, for, and through the GLC.

**Strategic Themes** (Desired outcomes of our work)

* Increase ministry resources.
* Stimulate ministry through an increase in the number of transformative programming grants.
* Cultivate next generation leadership.

**Members of the Board**

**Class I (2023) Class III (2022)**

Bob Fall Dan Kennard (Treasurer)

Pastor, Seville Community Church Retired CEO, Hancock Federal Credit Union

Mark Walls Lance Finley (Vice-Chairperson)

Pastor, Ottawa River Church of God Executive Director, CGGC

Julie Hall Sean Martin (Secretary)

Finc’l Cntr Mgr, Old Fort Bank, Tiffin Partner, Beck & Martin, LLC, Carey

**Class II (2024) Ex Officio Member:**

Pam Jenkins Earl Mills, Executive Director, GLC

Office Mgr, Mitchell/Phillips Dental **Staff:**

Craig Flack (Chairperson) Bob Stephenson, Financial Controller

Pastor, Celina First Church of God Treasurer, Churches of God, General Conf.

Roger Rehm William Reist, President

Retired, Self-employed Landlord Retired Pastor, College First Church of God

**Responsibilities of the Board of Directors**

* Maintain and oversee all policies including Investment, Spending, Operational, Conflict of Interest, and Whistleblower Policies.
* Employ the President and approve employment of the Financial Controller.
* Approve an annual budget.
* Retain an Investment Manager(s) to manage all or part of The Foundation’s assets.
* Evaluate grant requests and award grants.
* Provide education and information to assist Grant Seekers.
* Maintain and oversee the Investment Facilitator Program.

**Purpose and Philosophy of The Foundation**

As articulated by the Articles of Incorporation, the purpose of The Foundation is to:

1. Conduct fund raising activities to be operated for the benefit and support of the Great Lakes Conference, Churches of God, General Conference and Ohio nonprofit corporation, and any affiliated or controlled corporations and entities related to the Great Lakes Conference, Churches of God, General Conference.
2. Be organized exclusively for charitable purposes as set forth in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.
3. Engage in any lawful act, activity, or business not contrary to and for which a nonprofit corporation may be formed under the laws of the State of Ohio, and to have an exercise all powers conferred by the laws of the State of Ohio on nonprofit corporations.

The Foundation is guided by the following principles:

* To enhance Christian ministry now and for generations to come.
* To encourage the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the making of Christian disciples as expressed and envisioned by the Great Lakes Conference, Churches of God.
* To bring churches closer together in a united effort to obey the Great Commission and enlarge and strengthen the body of Christ.
* To fund programs, projects, endeavors, or ministries when supplemental assistance is warranted and when other adequate resources are not available.
* To encourage faithful stewardship, tithing and generous giving, personal commitment and involvement, and assumption of benevolent responsibilities as taught in Holy Scripture.
* To avoid any pattern or practice that would contribute to a “welfare” dependency on the part of the Christian community.
* To promote the recipient’s own growth by enlarging vision and encouraging increased local support and participation.

**Investment and Spending Policies**

The investment portfolio is managed at the Findlay office of Merrill according to an Investment Policy designed to grow the aggregate value of the portfolio at not less than the rate of inflation. Ideally, the average minimum total return is at least five percent (5%) above the government accepted inflation rate annualized over an investment cycle. The policy is designed to preserve capital and assume a moderate level of risk in equities ranging from 30% - 70% of the total portfolio, and fixed income and cash representing the remainder of the portfolio.

Grants are awarded according to the following spending policy: *Four (4) percent of the Net Assets without Donor Restrictions calculated on the previous three-year rolling average as of December 31 will be the maximum made available for distribution annually*.

**Granting Process**

The grant cycle consists of six stages as follows:

1. The Grant Seeker files a Preliminary Grant Request, generally not later than the last Monday of January in the calendar year, according to the *Guidelines for Grant Seekers*. Foundation Directors evaluate the merits of the Grant Request based on the following evaluative questions:
   1. Are the objectives of this proposal consistent with the mission of the GLC and CGGC?
   2. Will this proposal extend the congregation's reach?
   3. Are the immediate and long-range plans for the project well developed and are they part of a strategic plan for ministry?
   4. Will awarding this grant diminish stewardship development or create an attitude of dependency on the part of the Grant Seeker?
   5. Has the Grant Seeker received previous grants? With what success or results? Have required reports and evaluations been received?
   6. Does the Grant Seeker support and participate in the ministry of the Conference?
   7. What suggestions should be offered to the Grant Seeker regarding the proposal?
   8. How does this proposal compare with others in light of timeliness, promise, and Kingdom values?

The following process items are considered by the Directors:

* 1. Has the Grant Seeker followed the Preliminary Grant Request form?
  2. Has the Grant Seeker answered the questions adequately for you to know what they are seeking?
  3. Does the proposal meet the qualifications above?
  4. Should the Grant Seeker be allowed to proceed with the entire request or only a part of the proposal?
  5. Directors indicate whether they believe the proposal merits the next stage of formal application and may request further information, clarification, or focus.

1. If approved by the Directors, the Grant Seeker submits a Formal Application not later than the date indicated on the annual timeline approved by The Foundation Board.
2. Provision is made in the timeline for Directors to seek additional information.
3. Formal action is taken by the Board and Grant Seekers are notified of the action.
4. A Grant Agreement is drafted according to the terms of the Board’s approval and signed by representatives of The Foundation and the Grant Recipient.
5. As the project is executed the Grant Recipient requests reimbursement with appropriate documentation and files semi-annual and/or final progress reports throughout the life of the grant. Grants not completed within the stipulated time may, upon request, be approved for an extension. Following completion of the project and submission of a final report or expiration of the grant, the grant is considered closed, and no further action is expected.

**Investment Facilitator Program**

The *Investment Facilitator Program* invests long-term financial resources for the Great Lakes Conference and its congregations and affiliated organizations governed by a signed agreement. Assets are deposited with The Foundation and commingled and invested with other Foundation assets. The Foundation serves as custodian of the assets while the affiliate retains sole ownership.

December 2021