



# M28 - ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

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# ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

## ARTICLE 1

### Vision and Mission Statement

**SECTION 1.1 Vision and Mission Statement.** The vision of M28 Alliance is to advance the work of Jesus' Church by calling courageously, equipping strategically and supporting lovingly. The mission of the Alliance is "Helping Churches Disciple the Nations" by assisting member churches, member Church Support Teams and other Member Ministry Organizations through: 1) providing various forums to encourage, train, envision and impassion their leaders for service to Jesus Christ and His work, 2) encouraging cooperation between them, and 3) providing accountability to them in areas such as maintaining mission fidelity, faithfulness to the Scriptures and to the core values of M28 Alliance (Ephesians 4:11-14).

## ARTICLE 2

### Statement of Faith

#### Preamble

The purpose of this Statement of Faith is to provide a succinct yet accurate summary of God's working in the world. Its intent is to present the essentials of what Christians should believe. It is to be used as a teaching and communication tool. While it is founded upon Scriptures, it should not supplant them. It is presented in story form to emphasize the historicity of God's revelation of Himself and of His work of salvation through His Son.

#### Creation

In the beginning, the eternally existent, all-sufficient, and triune God created all that exists, visible and invisible. On the sixth and final day of creation, God created Man in His own image, unique in value, identity and purpose within the creation. God made Man male and female, which are distinct and different expressions of God's image that only together fully make up the image of God. Man was also responsible to rule over the creation and bring good from it as an expression of God's image. The first man and woman walked with God in the garden in perfect relationship with Him and one another. All that God created was "very good," and the original world was devoid of sickness, suffering, conflict, and death. At the culmination of His creation, God instituted marriage, the lifetime covenant relationship between one man and one woman, through which Man is to express the love, unity, leadership and servanthood found within the character and Trinity of God. God decreed that a man should unite with a woman for life and so be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth, and develop it.

(Genesis 1-2)

#### The Fall

Man, as originally created, was a perfect expression of the character of God and lived in a perfectly united relationship with God. But the archangel Lucifer lifted himself up in pride, rebelled against God, and became the evil Satan. Many of God's angels followed him in rebellion, becoming demons. Satan tempted the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, who doubted God's goodness and love, disobeyed God, and so joined the rebellion. As a result, Man lost the perfect state that had given him relationship

with the Creator. This alienation was so severe that God described it as death, though the Man still had physical life. The creation was also radically alienated from its original state as God subjected it to decay and death in response to Man's sin.

Because Man was created in God's image as an eternal creature, the alienation from God had eternal consequences as well. This alienation changed the course of human history, as all human beings since Adam have been born alienated from God, without the spiritual life that comes through relationship with God. Both the inherited alienation from Adam and each individual's own sin leaves every person in a state of separation, without relationship, and deserving judgment from God for sin. Yet, at the time of this separation, God promised a future redemption for Man. He mercifully continued to bless His creation, reveal His goodness and pursue a restoration of relationship.

(Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 2:7, Genesis 3, Isaiah 53:6, Isaiah 64:6, Romans 1:18-32, Romans 3:10-23, Ephesians 2:1-3)

## The Flood

After Adam and Eve's fall, their offspring began to multiply on the earth. Because human life was now born without connection to God and His Spirit, it was bent toward selfishness, sin and evil. Although humans still bore the likeness of God, that likeness was significantly twisted and marred. Human culture rapidly became corrupt until the earth was filled with violence and evil. In deep sorrow, God judged such evil by destroying the earth and its inhabitants with a world-wide flood. He saved land animals and eight people in a ship constructed by Noah, a righteous man. This flood was a divine foreshadowing of the judgment God will bring upon the earth at the end of the age.

(Genesis 6-9)

## Promise & Covenant

From Noah's descendants, God chose Abraham and promised to bless him, to make his grandson Israel's descendants a great nation, to give them the land of Canaan and bless the entire world through them. Through the ministry of Moses, God redeemed the nation of Israel from slavery in Egypt, gave them the law and gave them the land as an inheritance. God promised blessings to the nation if they would believe and obey and threatened curses if they rebelled and served other gods. Many years later, God anointed David as Israel's king and promised to set one of his descendants, the Messiah, upon the throne of Israel forever.

(Genesis 12:1-7, Genesis 15:1-20, Genesis 22:15-18, Exodus 3, 1 Samuel 15, 2 Samuel 7)

## Blessing & Curses

Throughout Israel's history (spanning from Abraham until Jesus came — a period of almost 2000 years), God interacted with His chosen people. He gave His Law, spoke through the prophets, dwelt within the temple, and blessed the nation according to their faith and obedience. But, Israel treacherously spurned the Lord, again and again turning to idolatry. In the end (and in accordance with His warnings) God nearly destroyed the nation, exiling the survivors to Assyria and Babylon. After seventy years, God brought a remnant back to the land. Yet, Israel never fully regained its sovereignty, remaining subject to foreign domination and devoid of a king sitting on David's throne.

(The Prophets, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah)

## Jesus & the Kingdom

In the climax of His plan to remove the alienation that had entered in Man's first sin, and to reconcile the world to Himself, God sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus, the second Person of the Trinity, came to inaugurate

the Kingdom of God and fulfill God's promises of redemption and reconciliation to Israel and to the world. Jesus was a descendant of David, conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. Eternally pre-existent, Jesus was fully God and also fully man. God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and through a season of ministry lasting approximately three years, He worked mighty miracles, casting out demons and healing all diseases and infirmities, thus authenticating His claims to be the Messiah—the King of Israel and Judge of the world.

As the exact representation of God and the perfect human, Jesus lived a life without sin, though He was tempted in every way. As fully Man, Jesus brought to God what Adam and all human life had failed to do. Jesus lived the perfect expression of what God has created human life to be through perfectly living a loving, honoring expression of the image of God before the Father. As part of this obedience to His Father, He allowed himself to be crucified, without sin of his own, in substitutionary payment of the sins of Israel and of the world. In this way, both Jesus' life and Jesus' death were an essential part of God providing what was necessary for our reconciliation with Him.

During His earthly life, Jesus promised that He would bring an eternal Kingdom that His followers would reside in forever. This Kingdom is in a new creation where the present alienation is completely gone. In this Kingdom there is no more mourning, crying, death or pain.

(Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-38, John 1:1, John 20:28, Romans 9:5, II Corinthians 5:21, I Peter 2:21-23, John 20:30-31, Matthew 20:28, Ephesians 1:4, Acts 1:11, Romans 5:6-8, Romans 6:9-10, Hebrews 7:25, Hebrews 9:28, I Timothy 3:16, Revelations 21:3-5)

### Resurrection, Commission, Ascension

Three days after His death, Jesus rose physically from the dead, forever substantiating His claims to be Israel's Messiah and Savior of the world. For forty days Jesus repeatedly appeared to His disciples, proving His resurrection to them. He announced to His followers that all authority in heaven and earth had now been given to Him, indicating that this present time was now a transition to the Kingdom He is bringing. In preparation for what is to come, He commissioned them to take to all nations the good news of the coming of the kingdom of God, the forgiveness of sins, and His resurrection from the dead. After this, He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God. He is awaiting the appointed time for His return to exercise judgment on every human life and to complete the establishment of His eternal Kingdom.

(Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20, Acts 1)

### The Holy Spirit

On the day of Pentecost, ten days after His ascension, Jesus poured out upon His followers the Holy Spirit, whom He had received from His Father. The Holy Spirit is fully God, the third Person of the Trinity. This is a personal being, not a force. Previous to Pentecost, the Holy Spirit had actively worked in the world, primarily through Israel's kings, prophets and priests. Since Pentecost, He has indwelt every true believer in Jesus, male and female, young and old. The Spirit convicts people of their sins, draws them to Christ, gives them new life, gifts them for service and empowers them to do God's will. The Spirit is sealed in every believer so that he or she will be protected and preserved by God and will persevere in faith until death or until Jesus returns. On the day of Pentecost, thousands believed, and, in obedience to Jesus' command, were baptized in the name of Jesus the Messiah. This is a practice that has continued throughout the age.

(John 14:16-17 & 26, John 15:26-27, John 16:9-14, Acts 1-2, Romans 8:5-17, I Corinthians 3:16, I Corinthians 6:19, Galatians 5:16-26, Ephesians 1:13-14)

## The Church

Since Jesus, in His life, death, and resurrection, fulfilled the Law of Moses and made it obsolete, the barrier between Jew and Gentile has been removed. After Jesus ascended, His apostles preached the good news that people are now justified before God through repentance and faith in Jesus and His work. Their message to all people everywhere was this: Reconciliation with God is offered by Him as a gift, through His own freely given grace. It comes to people through faith in Jesus Christ, apart from any actions that merit that grace. Faith consists of both believing that God, in His love for those He has created, has provided all that is necessary for reconciliation through Jesus. Choosing to receive that gracious gift from God allows entering an eternal relationship with Him.

The people of God now include all who truly believe in Jesus the Messiah, whether Jew or Gentile, male or female, rich or poor—people of all ages and races—whom God is bringing together into His church. Those who come to Christ become part of His Church Universal and should devote themselves to God's family and its mission by becoming part of a local church. They join others in devoting themselves to the teaching of the Bible, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

(Matthew 28:19-20, Ephesians 1:22-23, Ephesians 2:19-22, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:37-47, Ephesians 5:19-21, Hebrews 10:23-25)

## The Bible

The Bible claims to be the supernatural communication God has given to Man, describing His actions in history and revealing His will. For thousands of years, certain writings have been given within the flow of that history that claim to be from God and have been acknowledged in the world as being so. In the centuries immediately after Jesus lived, died, and rose again, the church recognized the writings that had been passed down from the Apostles, men whom Jesus had appointed to proclaim the kingdom and lead the church. These New Testament writings and the Jewish scriptures of the Old Testament make up the 66 books of the Bible and are uniquely, verbally and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit. They reveal their supernatural nature through verifiable prophecies that span centuries of time. The Scripture also reveals its divine nature through the scope of its subjects, the accuracy of its history, the nature of its communication and the witness of the Spirit in human hearts. As a communication from an infinite, loving God, we can know it was written without error in the original manuscripts and passed down to us with great accuracy. God's authority over His church is mediated through the Bible, and in this way, it is the supreme and final authority for faith and life in this age, superseding all other sources of human knowledge.

(II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:20-21, Mark 13:31, John 8:31-32, John 20:31, Acts 20:32)

## Kingdom Consummation

In the future, Jesus, the same Man who died, rose, and ascended into Heaven, will physically return to earth. He will act as divine judge over the life of every human being, then consummate His kingdom in a new heaven and a new earth after this present creation has been destroyed by fire. Death will be abolished, pain will be no more and sadness and sorrow will flee away. Those who have been reconciled to God through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, will be physically resurrected to live as children of God, with Him forever. They will inherit an eternal Kingdom prepared for them and enter into the joy of God's family. All others (who have refused to believe and repent) will remain in alienation from God. They will be physically resurrected and banished forever from the presence of God into hell, a place of eternal suffering.

(Matthew 16:27, Mark 14:62, John 14:3, Acts 1:11, Philippians 3:20, I Thessalonians 4:15, II Timothy 4:1, Titus 2:13, I Corinthians 4:5, I Corinthians 15, II Thessalonians 1:7-10, Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15, Revelation 21-22)

## ARTICLE 3 Membership

SECTION 3.1 Church membership requirements. For the purposes of these articles, a church is defined as a group of true believers in Christ which has publicly recognized leaders and which practices the functions of a local church - worship, teaching, prayer, fellowship, the Lord's supper, baptism and evangelism. To become and remain a member of the Alliance, all of the ordained elders of that church must agree to:

3.1.1 Pursue the vision and mission of the Alliance as stated in the *Vision and Mission Statement* (Article 1), adopt, embrace and abide by the Alliance's *Statement of Faith*, the core values of the Alliance as stated in the *Core Values Paper* and *M28 Biblical Understandings* and affirm and sign the *M28 Covenant*.

### 3.1.1.1 Matters of Conscience & Clarity

3.1.1.1.1 We recognize that some Pastors may be in a varied state of conviction regarding issues covered within the *Statement of Faith*, *Core Values* and *Biblical Understandings*. Additionally, in regard to the old Mountains West Region (MWR) and the new M28 Alliance organizations, we recognize that some requirements to join M28 were not likewise required to be a part of MWR. It is our desire to allow some latitude for former MWR leaders to continue to wrestle with these issues that may not be fully settled in hearts and minds.

With this goal in mind, pastors who are still in process on these matters may communicate a desire to remain within M28 and, subject to ALC approval, join M28. In the event that a pastor would later become convinced of doctrines, values or understandings that are not in line with the positions of the M28 Alliance, we would request that the pastor withdraw from the M28 Alliance organization and join with a community of leaders that allows them to walk in those convictions without censure or violation of conscience.

This M28 "grandfather policy" would only be available to an "inaugural group" of pastors who have been pastors in good standing with MWR and now wish to be a part of M28 Alliance. All future membership requests will be required to adopt and affirm the M28 documents in their totality.

Until such time as a conviction is fully formed, pastors would be expected to:

1. Communicate in writing your specific reason(s) for not being able to sign the M28 membership commitment.
2. Be in open dialogue with other M28 pastors, ALC and the board.
3. Participate in the exploration of the theology and reasoning of the M28 positions & conclusions.
4. Personally attend and bring the local church and leadership to M28 events, where these positions will be proclaimed and asserted.
5. Agree to publicly honor the teachings, beliefs and values as communicated in the M28 official documents.

If they cannot agree with or abide by the previous requirements, they will not be allowed to join the M28 Alliance.

3.1.1.1.2 We further recognize that some men have differing convictions on physically signing documents of allegiance, or expressing covenants of any kind beyond "yes or no", etc. In some cases, a verbal statement of convictions and intentions to the ALC may be an acceptable form of commitment.

3.1.2 Agree to team up with a Church Support Team (CST) that is a member of the Alliance, be accountable to that ministry as to the Alliance's membership requirements and financially support that ministry.

3.1.3 Maintain a system of governmental, financial, and scriptural accountability that is acceptable to the M28 Alliance Leadership Council (ALC), such as a plurality of ruling elder/pastors, a relationship of accountability with a CST, or other means of accountability acceptable to the M28 ALC.

3.1.4 Adopt and agree to abide by the Alliance's procedures for withdrawal from the Alliance (see section 3.5).

3.1.5 Send its pastor(s) to the Alliance's national pastors events, and participate wholeheartedly in regional meetings/events/conferences sponsored by the church's CST.

3.1.6 Seek counsel from an authorized representative of M28 Alliance before proceeding with a church judgment against a church member.

3.1.7 A member church has a responsibility to contribute 10% of its regular tithes and offerings to M28 Alliance.

**SECTION 3.2 Church Support Team (CST) definition.** It is defined as a ministry organization with a primary ministry of providing ongoing support and development of existing churches, assisting churches in church planting and providing accountability to churches as to the membership requirements of the Alliance. For reference, CST's would be similar to a "region" of churches that many are familiar with. The M28 Alliance will begin as one (1) CST comprising all churches and ministries within the original charter. In order for a Church Support Team to be approved by the Alliance, it must:

3.2.1 Pursue the vision and mission of the Alliance as stated in the *Vision and Mission Statement* (Article 1), adopt, embrace and abide by the Alliance's *Statement of Faith*, the core values of the Alliance as stated in the *Core Values Paper* and *M28 Biblical Understandings* and subscribe to the *M28 Covenant*.

3.2.2 Adopt the Alliance's *Statement of Faith* or a similar statement acceptable to the Alliance as determined by the M28 Board.

3.2.3 Have a board of directors or trustees consisting of men who are or have been elders from M28 churches.

3.2.4 To the satisfaction of the M28 ALC, be able to demonstrate that the Church Support Team leaders have a clear call from God to the ministry of church planting and church development and that they are willing and able to effectively support the churches that will be teamed with them. Part of their responsibility will include CST cooperation with other Church Support Teams in the Alliance, cooperation with M28 national and international ministry as well as leadership involvement in the ALC.

3.2.5 Be led by men who faithfully attend the national pastors events and other M28 leadership events designated for CST leaders. A Church Support Team must be led by men who are examples of humility, walking in submissive plurality toward other leaders in the Alliance. In addition, these leaders must be examples of promoting the Alliance's beliefs, core values, biblical understandings and ministry programs.

### SECTION 3.3 Acceptance of members. Members shall be accepted as follows:

3.3.1 Church membership. A church that desires to become a member of the Alliance shall inform the Church Support Team it intends to associate through. This Church Support Team has the responsibility of communicating M28 Alliance membership requirements to the leadership of the applying church. After this has been done, the CST shall then inform the M28 Board. The M28 Board shall review the applicant's qualifications for membership and inform the ALC. When membership qualifications have been met to the satisfaction of the M28 Board and the overseeing CST, completed application documents shall be sent by the applying church to the M28 Board. A church shall be accepted for membership in M28 Alliance upon input from the ALC and a unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees.

3.3.2 Church Support Team membership. A Church Support Team that wishes to become a member of the Alliance shall inform the M28 Board. The M28 Board shall review the applicants qualifications for membership and inform the NLC. A CST will be recognized as a new ministry organization in M28 upon receiving input from the NLC and a unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees. Each church within a joining CST must have met the requirements stated in section 3.3.1



SECTION 3.4 *Withdrawal of Members.* Because of our commitment to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ, the goal is that member churches and ministries be growing in their unity and teaming with each other and with the Alliance. Therefore, member churches and Church Support Teams agree to make a good faith effort to cultivate unity within the Alliance and to promote the Alliance, member churches, CST's and pastors publicly in church meetings, publications and on church websites.

Nonetheless, any member church or CST may withdraw from the Alliance should the Lord clearly lead it to do so. However, each member of the Alliance should be diligent to pursue unity with the Alliance and its members and should make earnest attempts to resolve any problems that may arise between itself and the Alliance. A member church or ministry that is considering leaving the Alliance shall, at a minimum, comply with the following procedure:

3.4.1 At least three months prior to any decision to leave, the member shall give written notice to the M28 Board that it is considering leaving the Alliance, together with a list of reasons why it is considering leaving.

3.4.2 Subsequent to such notice, and prior to any decision to leave, the member shall provide a forum for representatives of the Alliance to interact with its board of pastors or board of directors to consider the issues at hand.

3.4.3 The departing member shall participate in the formation of a written agreement between itself and the Alliance and shall make this statement available to its members. The purpose of the agreement would be to settle in writing, any commitments, financial or otherwise, that the Alliance would have toward the departing member or that the departing member would have toward the Alliance and to prepare a joint statement giving the reasons for the member's leaving.

3.4.4 If no such agreement can be made, the departing member and the Alliance shall submit the issues at hand to binding arbitration before mutually agreed upon arbiters. If no arbiter can be agreed upon, the arbiter shall be Crossroads Resolution Group, LLC., Portland, Oregon.

SECTION 3.5 *Removal of members.* If a pastor of a member church or organization believes that reason exists to remove a member church or organization for reasons stated in 3.5.3 and appropriate steps have been taken to resolve the problem, but have failed, the pastor shall take the steps described in 3.5.1 for a member church and 3.5.2 for a Church Support Team.

3.5.1 *A Member Church.* The pastor shall contact the leadership team (or person designated by the leadership team to handle such matters) of the Church Support Team that is teamed with the church in question. The pastor shall then follow that ministry's procedures for dealing with the concerns. If a Church Support Team removes a church from being a team member, that church shall automatically be removed from membership in the Alliance until such time as it is reaccepted as a team member of an M28 CST. If the pastor does not believe that the problem has been adequately resolved by the Church Support Team, he should contact the M28

Board, which should follow the procedures in section 3.5.2, dealing with that church as if it were a Church Support Team.

3.5.2 *A Church Support Team.* The pastor shall inform the Board of M28 Alliance as to the specific issue that he believes warrants removal of the member. Upon receiving such notice, the M28 Board shall investigate the issue by talking to the leaders of that ministry and with any others having information relevant to the issue. If requested, the M28 Board shall grant an appropriate hearing with Member Ministry leader(s) present. The investigation is complete when 2/3rds of Board members vote it to be so, and the Board then rules regarding the results of the investigation. No member shall be removed from the Alliance except by the affirmative vote of at least two thirds of the full Board of M28 Trustees.

3.5.3 Churches and organizations may be removed for any of the following reasons:

3.5.3.1 A departure from the membership requirements;

3.5.3.2 Gross financial impropriety and/or lack of financial integrity;

3.5.3.3 Practicing, tolerating, or promoting a violation to a moral and ethical Biblical standard such as abortion, sexual immorality (fornication, adultery, homosexuality) and any other violation to a moral or ethical standard deemed by the M28 board to be a violation of the Scriptures. (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:9,10; Galatians 5:19-21; 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 1:9,10).

3.5.3.4 Actions which are deemed by the M28 Board to negatively impact the mission or ministry of M28.

SECTION 3.6 Membership list. The M28 Board shall maintain or cause to be maintained a list of all the Alliance's current members and shall annually distribute this list to all members of the Alliance.

## ARTICLE 4 Board of Trustees

SECTION 4.1 Board of Trustees. The Alliance shall have a Board of Trustees consisting of a minimum of three men. Each board member must be serving or have served in the past as a pastor in an M28 church. No member Church will have a majority of board members serving concurrently.

SECTION 4.2 Responsibilities. All powers and authority of the Alliance, except as otherwise provided by these articles shall be exercised by the Board of Trustees. However, M28 Alliance or the Board of Trustees shall have no authority over member churches or Church Support Teams other than those specifically granted to it in these articles. Any decision or action of the Board of Trustees may be overturned or modified

by a two-thirds vote of the M28 pastors. The responsibilities of the Board of Trustees shall include the following:

4.2.1 To act as trustees for the Alliance's nonprofit corporation and direct the disbursement of the Corporation's financial resources, including the disbursement of the 10% contributions received from the ministry organizations referred to in Section 3.1.7.

4.2.2 To annually distribute to all member ministries and churches a report of how the 10% contributions from churches and ministries were used.

4.2.3 To rule concerning the acceptance of new members and the removal of Alliance members according to sections 3.3 and 3.4.

4.2.4 Determine if a Church Support Team is authorized to receive the 10% contribution from member churches referred to in Section 3.1.

4.2.5 Coordinate, plan and administer the annual pastor's conference or any similar events sponsored by the Alliance and any other ministry programs that advance the purposes of the Alliance.

4.2.6 Periodically review the Alliance's official documents and propose any changes that seem appropriate as a result of that review.

4.2.7 Hear and grant or deny any requests by churches or ministry organizations for exceptions to the Alliance's official documents and procedures, such as the *Statement of Faith*, *Core Values Paper*, *Biblical Understandings Paper*, and *M28 Covenant*.

4.2.8 Process the application of new member churches or ministries.

4.2.9 Investigate any irregularities in teaching or practice that might require the expulsion of a church or organization from the Alliance.

4.2.10 License ministers to fulfill pastoral or shepherding responsibilities within the M28 Alliance, including missionaries, evangelists and other spiritual leaders.

**SECTION 4.3 Minimum qualifications.** No one may serve as a member of the Board of Trustees unless he has been a qualified M28 pastor for a minimum of two years and regularly attends M28 leadership events as well as meetings and events sponsored by his church's Church Support Team (CST). In addition, these leaders must be examples of involvement in, and promotion of, the Alliance beliefs, core values, and ministry programs.

#### **SECTION 4.4 Board Membership.**

4.4.1 If M28 Alliance is comprised two or less CST's, then:

4.4.1.1 The current M28 Board will nominate qualifying leaders (Section 4.3) to fill open board positions.

4.4.1.2 These nominees will be ratified by an affirmative  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote by the NLC and a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority of the pastors from M28 churches, with this vote taken annually at a national Pastors event and/or by mail or electronic ballot.

4.4.1.3 The Board may also vote to change the number of Board members through a unanimous vote, but Board membership must always be three or more.

4.4.2 If M28 Alliance grows to three or more CST's, then M28 Board will create additional Articles to address this situation.

SECTION 4.5 Term. Board members shall serve for a term of three years. Board members may serve any number of terms, but only two, full terms consecutively. Membership of the board of trustees shall be staggered with a goal to have  $\frac{1}{3}$  of Trustee terms expire each year.

Section 4.6 Incomplete Terms. If a Board member is removed or resigns from Board membership before the end of an expected three-year term, the Board seat will be filled by the process described in Section 4.4 at the next annual election period. The term length for the newly elected Board member will be for the period remaining from the unfulfilled term.

SECTION 4.7 Initial Board members. The initial M28 Board members shall consist of:

1. John Meyer
2. Bill Young
3. Greg Christman
4. Josh Whitney

SECTION 4.8 Removal. A Board Member may be removed from the board by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of the full ALC.

SECTION 4.9 Quorum. A minimum of at least  $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of the entire membership of the *Board of Trustees* must be present in any meeting to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SECTION 4.10 Meetings. The *Board of Trustees* shall meet at least twice annually, either in person or by electronic means, and at any additional times that it deems necessary to fulfill its responsibilities.

SECTION 4.11 Minutes. The *Board of Trustees* shall designate from among its members, a secretary who shall take minutes of each meeting and distribute a copy of such to all members of the Board. These minutes shall be made available to any pastor within the Alliance who requests them.

SECTION 4.12 Incorporation. The *Board of Trustees* shall cause a corporation to be maintained entitled *M28 Alliance*. This corporation shall have the power to direct any ongoing ministry efforts of the Alliance and to manage any special funds for the furtherance of the purposes of the Alliance. All current *Board of Trustee* members shall comprise the full board membership of the corporation.

SECTION 4.13 By-laws. These articles serve as the bylaws of the Alliance. The *Board of Trustees* shall have authority to draft and amend, when needed, policies for the governance and functioning of the corporation, including frequency of board meetings, maintenance of minutes, or other matters, provided that these by-laws do not in any way circumvent or supersede anything written in these articles.

## ARTICLE 5 Officers

SECTION 5.1 Officers. The Board of Trustees shall have a Director and Secretary, and at the discretion of the Board of Trustees, any additional officers necessary. The following officers shall have the following duties:

5.1.1 Director. The director's responsibilities shall include:

5.1.1.1 Chair and set the agenda for Board of Trustees meetings.

5.1.1.2 Chair and set the agenda for ALC meetings.

5.1.1.3 Manage and oversee the execution of M28 Alliance projects and events.

5.1.2 Secretary. The Secretary shall attend all sessions of the Board of Trustees, record all votes and minutes of all proceedings and shall perform like duties for any standing committees when required. The Secretary shall make the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Trustees available to any member of the Alliance that requests them. The Secretary shall give, or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the Board of Trustees and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the M28 Board or Director.

SECTION 5.2 Qualifications, election and term. Officers shall be elected to serve in that office for the duration of their term as a Board Member. Any officer may serve any number of consecutive terms, in either the same or different offices, within the term limit bounds outlined in Section 4.5. No two of the offices referred to in Section 5.1 shall be held by the same person.

5.2.1 Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of *the Board of Trustees*.

## ARTICLE 6 Alliance Leadership Council (ALC)

SECTION 6.1 Objective. M28 Alliance shall have a Alliance Leadership Council (ALC) to shape, advise and inform leadership direction and action for the Alliance.

SECTION 6.2 Membership. The ALC shall consist of all current M28 Board members in addition to at least an equal number of non-Board M28 pastors who have represented a heart and concern for the member churches and the mission of the Alliance.

6.2.1 As long as M28 consists of fewer than 3 CST's, the ALC will be chosen by the current board. Council members are appointed for two year terms by the Board, and can serve an unlimited number of terms. They may also be removed by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of all board members at any time. If, in the future, M28 Alliance recognizes 3 or more CST's, these Articles may be amended regarding ALC membership.

SECTION 6.3 Purpose. The purpose of the ALC is to:

6.3.1 Collectively bring a comprehensive picture of the state of the Alliance, especially regarding church health, current mission challenges and opportunities.

6.3.2 Counsel together regarding the best way to use the Alliance and its relational and material resources to address those challenges and opportunities.

6.3.3 Review and give input on key organizational decisions and documents including the annual budget, founding documents and future position papers compiled by the Board of Trustees.

6.6.4 Plan together strategically for future action and direction for the Alliance.

6.6.5 Work together to communicate and implement Council concerns and actions within the Alliance.

## ARTICLE 7 Amendment of Documents

ARTICLE 7.1 *Articles of M28 Alliance and Statement of Faith.* These *Articles of Association*, including Article 2, the *Statement of Faith*, may not be amended or changed except by the affirmative vote of three fourths of the current members of the *Board of Trustees* when a quorum is present followed by a three-fourths majority vote of the pastors from M28 churches, with this vote taken at a national Pastors event and/or by mail or electronic ballot.

7.1.1 Any proposed changes will be submitted to Member churches and feedback and input will be solicited from ALC.

7.1.2 Any Member church may suggest edits or additions and those proposals will be published among member churches and advisory team.

Section 7.2 Other documents. The Alliance's *Core Values, Biblical Understandings, M28 Covenant* and any official positions papers, may not be amended or changed except by the affirmative vote of three fourths of the current members of the *Board of Trustees* when a quorum is present followed by a two-thirds majority vote of the pastors from M28 churches, with this vote taken at a national Pastors event and/or by mail or electronic ballot.

#### CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

The undersigned Secretary of the Alliance hereby certifies that the above and foregoing is a complete and accurate copy of the *Articles of Association* of M28 Alliance as amended by the Board of Trustees in its meeting on May 28, 2020 and affirmed by the pastors of the member churches and ministries in a meeting on July 15, 2020.

Greg Christman  
*M28 Alliance Secretary*