

**BY-LAWS OF
BEGINNING EXPERIENCE INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY, INC.**

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this corporation shall be **Beginning Experience International Ministry, Inc.**

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES AND POLICIES

Section 1. Purposes. The purposes of the Corporation are to provide facilities and programs designed to help separated, divorced, and widowed persons and their children; to provide moral guidance and financial assistance to such persons; for charitable, religious, educational, scientific, or literary purposes; and to solicit, receive, and maintain real property and personal property and to use and apply such property and the income therefrom for all such purposes, either directly or for the benefit such persons and which qualify as exempt organizations as defined by the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 2. Policies. The policies of the Corporation shall be in harmony with other organizations and associations with similar purposes and shall be adopted by the corporation's International Board of Directors.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

The Corporation shall have no members.

ARTICLE IV: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. General Powers. The business and affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by its International Board of Directors.

Section 2. (a) Number. The number of Directors of the Corporation shall be not less than seven (7) nor more than nine (9). There shall be additional non-voting members of the International Board of Directors, one of whom shall be the Executive Director of the Corporation. Others shall include Sister Josephine Stewart, the immediate past Executive Director and the Regional Board Presidents.

Terms of office shall be staggered so that two or three new voting members are elected each year to replace members whose term of office has expired. Elections are to be held at the last Board meeting in the month of November or December each year. Each of the voting Board members present shall cast one vote for each vacancy. Retiring Board members shall complete their terms at the close of calendar year and the new members shall take office January 1 of the following year.

(b) Qualifications. Candidates for the International Board of Directors are solicited from the active Beginning Experience Teams in the United States of America and Canada. They are representatives of the following states in life from the Beginning Experience membership: separated, divorced, widowed, remarried, clergy and religious, with a two-thirds majority of the voting members of the Board consisting of divorced, separated or widowed persons. Each candidate shall have qualifications from among the following:

1. Commitment to the psychology and theology of the Beginning Experience program.
2. Commitment to the vision and mission of Beginning Experience.
3. Shall be a Christian.
4. Currently active in the Beginning Experience program, or have the capacity to connect to where the ministry has progressed.
5. Experience as a Board member of his/her local board and a recommendation from that Board.
6. Service as a trained presenting team member for a minimum of two (2) years.
7. Willingness to phase out of local team involvement and into International Board responsibilities.
8. Professional work and volunteer experience that will enhance his or her contribution as a director of the Beginning Experience ministry.
9. Participation in a Regional or International Convention and/or recognition of the value and purpose of such gatherings.
10. It is the objective of the ministry that the International Board of Directors be composed of a majority of practicing Catholics, and that other Christian denominations(s) be represented as well. The effectiveness of the Board is best served when the Board consists of persons with diverse backgrounds and skills.

(c) Election and Term of Office. In order to insure a balanced rotation, the terms of office of the International Board of Directors shall be three (3) years. The overall period of service of a director shall not exceed nine (9) years.

(d) Removal. Any director elected or appointed by the International Board of Directors may be removed by the action of the Board whenever, in the judgment of a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors, the best interests of the Corporation will be served thereby.

Section 3. Regular Board Meetings. The full voting membership of the International Board of Directors and the Executive Director shall meet in person at least once each calendar year.

Additional regular meetings may be held as needed, as determined by the members. Telephone meetings of the board shall be valid.

Non-voting Board members, other than the Executive Director, are invited to participate in International Board meetings. Guests and International Ministry Center staff may be invited to any regular Board meeting at the discretion of the full voting membership of the Board.

Section 4. Special Board Meetings. A special meeting of the International Board of Directors may be called by the Executive Director, the President of the International Board of Directors, or

any three (3) of the Directors. The person or persons authorized to call a special meeting of the International Board of Directors shall arrange for the time and the place for holding such special meetings.

Section 5. Notice. Notice of the regular meeting of the Board shall be given at least one (1) month prior to the date of said meeting. Notice of any special meetings shall be given at least two weeks prior to said meeting. Notice of any regular or special meeting shall be given in writing, delivered personally or by mail, fax or e-mail to each Director. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail so addressed, with postage thereon prepaid. If notice shall be give by fax or e-mail, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when delivery confirmation of the fax or e-mail is received.

Section 6. Quorum. A majority of the voting members of the International Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting.

Section 7. Manner of Acting. Each Director, other than the nonvoting members of the International Board of Directors, shall have one (1) vote. The action of the majority of the Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present, shall be the action of the entire International Board of Directors. Any action required or permitted to be taken by the International Board of Directors shall be valid if a majority of the Directors shall consent to such action in writing. However, two thirds of the voting members of the board must consent to the removal of a board director, hiring or removal of the executive director, or amending the bylaws.

Section 8. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring on the International Board of Directors may be filled by the affirmative of a majority of the remaining Directors. A Director elected to fill a vacancy on the Board shall be elected for the unexpired term on the vacant seat on the Board. A director filling such a term or terms may serve for one or more additional terms, subject to the overall period of service limitation of Article IV, Section(2), subsection (c). The Board of Directors may by express resolution, and in lieu of appointment for the unexpired term, appoint a member to a vacancy for a full three year term, provided the balanced staggering of board member terms referenced in Paragraph 4, Section 2, subsections (a) and (d) is retained.

Section 9. Compensation. The International Board of Directors shall serve without compensation beyond reimbursement of approved expenses incurred by them.

Section 10. Responsibilities. The areas of responsibility of the International Board of Directors shall include but not be limited to the following.

1. Attend all Board of Directors and committee meetings. Board members absent only under exceptional circumstances.
2. Develop long-range goals for three to five years into the future.
3. Develop, implement and evaluate plans to insure the financial stability of the Beginning Experience ministry.
4. Approve and review the Beginning Experience International Ministry budget.
5. Hire and evaluate the Executive Director.
6. Approve any use of the copyrighted Beginning Experience programs.
7. Develop and implement effective team and board training programs.

8. Assure effective recertification processes to protect program and ministry health and integrity.
9. Maintain efficient Beginning Experience International Ministry and Team support and communication in North America.
10. Strengthen and support the worldwide ministry through effective working relationships with overseas and regional boards.
11. Respect the ministry's Roman Catholic origin and foundation as well as its ecumenical outreach both to those who serve and those who are served.
12. Maintain an affiliation and collaboration with the Catholic Church.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 1. Titles. The officers of the International Board of Directors shall consist of a President, a Vice president, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

Section 2. Election and Term of Office. The term of office of the officers of the International Board of Directors shall be one (1) year. The term shall end as of the end of the calendar year, except that if a replacement has not been selected as of the end of the calendar year, the term shall expire upon the election of the incoming officer. No individual shall hold office for more than three (3) full terms. The election for these positions shall be held as the last order of business at the Board Meeting held November or December each year. If the election of officers shall not be held at such meeting, such election shall be held as soon thereafter as possible. Each officer shall hold office until his/her successor have been duly elected and qualified, until his/her death, or until he/she shall resign or shall have been removed in the same manner as hereinafter provided.

Section 3. Vacancies. A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification or other reason, may be filled by the International Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term. When an officer is elected to a partial year term to complete an existing full term, he /she may be elected to an additional full-year term or terms not to exceed three full terms.

Section 4. President. The President shall be the Executive Officer of the Corporation and be subject to the control of the International Board of Directors. The duties of the President shall be to supervise and control all of the business affairs of the corporation; shall, when present, preside at all meetings of the International Board of Directors; shall sign, with the Secretary or any other proper officer authorized by the International Board of Directors, any certificates representing association with the Corporation, any deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts, or other instruments which the International Board of Directors shall have authorization to be executed, except in cases where the signing and expression and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the International Board of Directors by these Bylaws to some other officer or agent of the corporation, or shall be required by law to be otherwise signed or executed; and in general, shall perform all duties incidental to the office of President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the International Board of Directors from time to time.

The President shall be the chairman of the Executive Committee and the Treasurer shall be the chairman of the Finance Committee. The President shall appoint other committee chairpersons from the remaining members of the Board and committee members from the members of the Board. The President shall also work with the Executive Director of Beginning Experience to implement the aims and goals of Beginning Experience programs.

Section 5. Vice President. The Vice President shall, in the absence of the President or in the event of his/her death, inability or refusal to act, perform the duties of the President, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of , and be subject to, all the restrictions of the President. The Vice President shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President of the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Secretary. The Secretary shall act as the secretary in legal communications related to corporate business. The Secretary shall prepare and maintain minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors, and shall present minutes for approval at the following meeting. He/she shall act as the secretary when the Executive Board Committee of the Board of Directors is in session. The Secretary shall also prepare other records of meeting of the Board of Directors and committees of the Board as requested by the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall witness the Annual Financial Report submitted by the Auditing Firm. The Treasurer shall also assure that the Beginning Experience International, Inc. budget approval process is followed. The Treasurer shall be the chairman of the Finance Committee.

Ordinarily, proposals for consideration by the Board of Directors should be referred to a committee of the Board for evaluation. The President shall refer items to the appropriate committee.

ARTICLE VI: FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be July 1 to June 30 of the following year.

ARTICLE VII: PROHIBITED ACTIONS

Section 1. Distribution of Earnings. No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, its officers, directors, trustees, or other private persons except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services actually rendered to the corporation in furtherance of its purposes set forth therein.

Section 2. Activities. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carry on of propaganda, otherwise attempting to influence legislation and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene directly or indirectly in any manner in any political campaign or on behalf of any candidate for public office.


The corporation shall not carry on any activities not permitted by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Code.)


ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

These By-laws may be altered, amended or appealed and new by-laws adopted by the International Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting with an affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the voting members of the International Board of Directors.

Adopted this 10th day of March, 2012

ATTESTED TO:

By 
Steven Oldham, President


Carolyn Rohde, Vice President and
Acting Secretary

7/2012

Resolved: that the number of voting members of the Board of Directors shall be set at seven (7) until further action of the Board of Directors.