



**RESEAU DES RADIOS METHODISTES UNIES
UNITED METHODIST RADIO NETWORK
REDE METODISTA UNIDADA RADIO**

**UNITED METHODIST RADIO NETWORK
BYLAWS
– DRAFT**

The coordinator
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Preamble

The United Methodist Radio Network is an organization that brings together all United Methodist existing or future Radios, partners or affiliated structures who share the vision of the Network.

The United Methodist Radio Network is therefore a platform for sharing experiences, exchanging radio programs, finding common funding sources for radios, training and mutual support and technical assistance.

The Network intends to work in the general interest of all member radios to enable them to reach a minimum standard in technicality and management, through the material and financial support of partners such as United Methodist Communications (UMCom).

The Network aims to contribute greatly to the professionalization of the United Methodist radios in order to achieve self-financing of the Radios with a management policy that will ensure the sustainability.

Article 1: Definition

The organization regrouping members who subscribe to the current bylaws is called “United Methodist Radio Network”

Article 2: Mission

The mission of the Network is to create a framework to share experiences, service, church information, radio programs, and training. The Network intends to find partners to support and finance radios, while maintaining a human dimension through the strengthening of the fraternity bonds.

Article 3: Who can be a member of the network?

There are three types of membership:

- **Executive Officers**

Any existing or yet to be radio, member of an Annual Conference is an executive officer member,

- **Affiliate Members**

An affiliated member is any radio that does not belong to the United Methodist Church but who shares the vision of the Network and have rendered services to the Network (gift in kind, expertise). The affiliated member does not take part in the decisions of the General Assembly.

- **Partners**

Any institution or individual that provides material or financial support to the Network is a partner. The partner is exempted from contributions.

Article 4: Conditions for membership

Any new adherent should motivate its request by a letter to the coordinator validated by its Annual Conference. The membership application is sent to all members to express their opinions. If a single member issues an objection, it shall justify it in writing.

Article 5: Lost of membership

A member loses its status after three warnings. The warning is sent to the recipient with a copy to all members of the network.

The member loses its status in the following cases:

- Non-compliance with network obligations
- Non-payment of contributions

Article 6: Sources of funding

The Network's funding is provided through:

- Members' contributions
- Donations
- Bequests
- Membership fees
- Subsidies
- Income-generating activities
- Financing from sponsors and partners

Article 7: Contributions

For executive officer members

- The membership fee is set at \$ 200
- The annual contribution is set at \$ 500

For Affiliate Members

- The membership fee is set at \$ 100
- The annual fee is set at \$ 250

For Partners

The contribution of the partners shall be assessed in terms of material and financial support in accordance with Article 3.

Article 8: The role of the Coordination

- Coordination is provided by the designated radio station with a Coordinator and an Assistant to the Coordinator
- The Coordination ensures the administrative management and coordinates the finances of the Network in collaboration with UCom.
- Coordination represents the whole network vis-à-vis the outside world
- The Coordination is responsible for organizing Annual Meetings.

Article 9: Designation of the Coordination

- Coordination is provided by a radio station for a non-renewable three-year period.
- Coordination is designated by a rotating mode.
- Only a member of the Network who has participated in at least two annual meetings of the Network may be designated as Coordinator.
- The Radio that will be in charge of coordination must be designated one year before the end of the current mandate to ensure a transitional collaboration between the incoming Coordination and the outgoing Coordination
- If the radio to ensure the next coordination is not in a position to do so, it must notify the members of the network at least one year before the end of the current mandate.

9.1: Automatic designation

- In accordance with the General Assembly of Monrovia, the Coordination is automatically assigned to the Founding Member of the Radio Network in the following order:
 - Radio La Voix de l'Espérance, Côte d'Ivoire
 - Radio Kaïros, Angola
 - Radio ELUM, Liberia
 - Radio Lokolé, DRC
 - If the radio for the next coordination is unable to do so, the following radio is automatically designated to coordinate.

9.2: The Executive Secretariat

The role of the Executive Secretariat, the method of appointment and the profile will be determined by the General Assembly.

Article 10: The Role of UMCOM

- UMCCom is the prime partner of the Network
- UMCCom shall act as the Network's Account Manager in accordance with the Coordination and the radio designated for financial supervision.
- GCFA can serve as the financial manager depending on the growth of the finances of the Network.
- UMCCom supports the Network through training and helps radios increase their standards.
- UMCCom helps, assists the Radios for the training and makes available the ICT tools of the TIC that it develops.
- UMCCom is responsible for promoting the Network to United Methodist agencies and any other institutions or organizations.

Article 11: Resource management

- The finances of the Network are located in the books of UMCCom in a dedicated account. UMCCom manages it under the order of the Coordinator.
- The Coordinator presents a financial report to each General Assembly,
- A Radio is designated by the General Assembly to certify the financial accounts during the term of a Coordination.

Article 12: General Assembly

12.1: Common provisions

- The General Assembly is open to all Radios members
- The General Assembly is held every year in April
- The General Assembly may be postponed for in the case of force majeure

- A communication campaign must be launched on all Radios members to promote the General Assembly.

12.2: The role of the General Assembly

The general Assembly :

- Hears the reports submitted by the Coordination on the management, activities and moral situation of the Network
- Heard the report of the financial auditor
- Approves the annual report and votes the budget of the Network proposed by the Coordination
- The ordinary session of the General Assembly deliberates on all the items on the agenda
- The ordinary session of the General Assembly may validly deliberate, regardless of the number of members present. Decisions shall be taken by a simple majority (50% plus 1 vote) of the members present or represented with a casting vote allocated to the Coordinator in the event of a tie.
- Any Member unable to attend may be represented by another member.

Article 13: Designation of the host Conference of the General Assembly

13.1: The method of designation of the host radio

- The désignation of the radio to host the Network is made by candidature analyzed by the General Assembly.
- The désignation of host countries will be made over two years.
- If several applications are submitted, it will be put to the vote

13.2: Designation criteria

- The application must be sent to the Coordination six months before the session of the General Assembly.
- The application must be validated by the requesting Radio Conference.

Article 14: The amendment of the texts

The bylaws may be amended only on the proposal of the Coordination or at the request of two thirds of the members of the General Assembly.

Article 15: Dissolution

- Dissolution may be pronounced only by the General Assembly convened specifically for this purpose.
- Voting shall take place unanimously by the members of the Network.
- The General Assembly deciding to dissolve should appoint one or more commissioners responsible for the liquidation of the assets of the Network. Assets may only be allocated to one or more organizations pursuing the same objectives.

Done at Abidjan on 27 April 2017
The Coordinator

APPENDICES

Background

During the Communication workshop of the United Methodist Church held in Abidjan at the House of Hope, United Methodist Radio Directors of Africa participated in a day visit to "La Voix de l'Espérance."

At the end of the visit, and on the initiative of Rev. Neeley HICKS, UCom Director for ICT4D and Mrs. Lydie, Director of Radio "La Voix de l'Espérance" the United Methodist Radio Directors met on Thursday, June 18, 2015.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the challenges faced by different radios, opportunities, individual and collective solutions and perspectives of radios.

At the end of this meeting "The United Methodist Radios Network of Africa" was born.

The following are, therefore, considered as founding members:

- Angola
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Liberia
- Democratic Republic of Congo

In order to make the Network operational, a Coordinator position was created.

Given its leadership and expertise, "La Voix de l'Espérance" has been designated to act as the Coordinator for the first term to enable the Network to have technical and administrative bases for its operations in collaboration with UCom.

The following people were present:

- - Rev. Neelley HICKS, UCom ICT4D Director
- - Mrs Lydie ACQUAH, Director of Radio "La Voix de l'Espérance"
- - Rev. Christ TSHITENGA, Director of Radio LOKOLE in the DRC
- - Augusto BENTO, Communication Director of the Western Conference of Angola
- - Carlos GOVEA, Program Director of Radio KAIROS of Angola
- - Serge Pacôme N'GUESSAN, Chief Operating Officer of "La Voix de l'Espérance"
- - Joe NDZULO, Assistant to the Reverend Neelley HICKS
- - Edwar Giraldet, Consultant

The General Assembly of Monrovia in February 2016, endorsed the decisions of Abidjan by confirming the Coordination entrusted to "La Voix de l'Espérance."

The General Assembly also drafted the first bylaws to govern the organization and adopted the name of "United Methodist Radio Network" in a spirit of openness instead of "The United Methodist Radios Network of Africa."

On this occasion, it was decided by the General Assembly that the Coordination be revolving, with priority to the founding members in the following order:

- 1) Radio "La Voix de l'Espérance", Côte d'Ivoire until 2019
- 2) Radio Kairos, Angola
- 3) Radio ELUM, Liberia
- 4) Radio Lokolé, DRC

The third General Assembly of April 2017 in Abidjan confirmed the foundations of Monrovia, while re-reading the bylaws, improving them and finalizing them, leaving it open to amendments. The General Assembly renewed the Coordination entrusted to La Voix de l'Espérance until 2019.