



**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE SOCIETY
OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN THE
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CONSTITUTION**

ARTICLE I-NAME

The name of this Society shall be the **“Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina.”**

ARTICLE II-OBJECT

The object of this Society shall be:

Sec. 1 To perpetuate to a remote posterity, the memory of our Pilgrim Fathers. To maintain and defend the principle of civil and religious liberty as set forth in the Mayflower Compact, “For the glorie of God and advancement of the Christian faith and honor of our countrie.”

Sec. 2 To cherish and maintain the ideals and institutions of American freedom, and to oppose any theories or actions that threaten their continuity. To transmit with an undiminished heritage of liberty and law, .the spirit, the purity of purpose and steadfastness of will of the Pilgrim Fathers to those who shall come after us.

Sec. 3 To promote by the organization of a state body, the interests that are common to all of the Colonies of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina.

Sec. 4 To promote the interests that are common to all of the Member Societies, and thus the General Society.

Sec. 5 Provided, however, in no event and under no circumstances, and notwithstanding merger, consolidation, reorganization, termination, dissolution or winding up of this Society voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, shall any part of the funds, property or assets owned or acquired by the Society, whether principal, income, or accumulations, or the net earnings thereof, be distributed to, or inure to the benefit of:

- (a) Any donor to the Society or his or her heirs or personal representatives;
- (b) Any Director or Officer of the Society;
- (c) Any corporation, organization, society, trust or agency, unless it be organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes, or for one or more of such purposes, no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual, and no substantial part of the activities of which is carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation.
- (d) The United States, any state, territory, or any political subdivision thereof, or the District of Columbia, unless for one or more exclusively public purpose.

Sec. 6 This Society shall not have or exercise any power or authority either expressly, by interpretation, or by operation of law, nor shall it directly or indirectly engage in any activity that would prevent this Corporation from qualifying (and continuing to qualify) as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

Sec. 7 This Society shall never be operated for the primary purpose of carrying on a trade or business for profit.

ARTICLE III — DISSOLUTION

Section 1. Upon the dissolution of the Society, the Board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Society, dispose of all of the assets of the Society exclusively for the purposes of the foundation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under §501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law), as the board shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the District Court of the county in which the principal office of the Society is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Section 2. No member of this Society shall benefit financially from the dissolution thereof. In the event of dissolution of this Society, the assets of this Society shall be distributed as set forth in Article III hereof.

ARTICLE IV-MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1 All persons, over eighteen years of age, who are descended from a passenger on the Mayflower on the voyage which terminated at Plymouth, New England, in December 1620, shall be eligible for membership, except:

(a) That no person shall be eligible for membership-regular, life member, junior life member or junior member who is pledged to, or advocates, the overthrow, by force or violence, of the government of the United States, or that of any State or Territory, or who has been guilty of other treasonable practices; or who is not of good moral character.

(b) That no one may become a member unless personally acceptable to this Society.

Sec. 2 This Society shall have the right to expel from its membership any person for any of the causes listed in (a) and (b) above after investigation and examination of the causes. The investigation and examination will be by the State Board of Assistants. The vote to expel will be based on the Board of Assistants' recommendation to the membership at the annual meeting.

Sec. 3 Members may be removed from membership for not paying annual dues or if life members for not responding to certified mail confirming continued interest in membership.

Sec. 4 Persons under eighteen years of age who are otherwise eligible, as defined above, may become junior life members without vote until they have attained the age of eighteen.

Sec. 5 Persons under eighteen years of age who are otherwise eligible, as defined above, may become junior members without vote.

ARTICLE V-OFFICERS

Sec. 1 The officers of this Society shall be a Governor, Deputy Governor, Counselor, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Elder, Captain, and Surgeon. Each office, with the exception of Governor and Deputy Governor, may have one or more assistants. An assistant officer, if nominated by the nominating committee and elected by the membership, shall be an officer of the Society.

Sec. 2 The officers listed in Section 1 above, with the Governor of each Colony, the past Governors of the North Carolina Society, and the Chairmen of the Standing Committees, shall constitute the Board of Assistants.

ARTICLE VI-MEETINGS

Sec. 1 Annual Meetings of this Society shall be held in November at a place to be determined by the Colony coordinating the meeting or by electronic means.

Sec. 2 Special meetings of the Society may be held at any specified time or place including electronic means at the call of the governor or upon request of ten members. The object of such meeting shall be stated in the notice, and no other business shall be transacted except by unanimous consent of all members present and voting.

Sec. 3 Thirty days notice shall be given of all annual and special meetings of the Society. Such notices will be sent to addresses of members as they appear on the books of the Society. Notices of meetings of the Board of Assistants shall be given by letter or telephone or email or as specified by the Board of Assistants.

Sec. 4 Twenty members of the Society shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting except the Board of Assistants meetings.

Sec. 5 The order of business at all stated meetings of the Society or Board of Assistants shall be as follows:

1. Approval of minutes of previous stated and intervening special meetings.
2. Communications
3. Reports of officers
4. Reports of committees
5. Unfinished business
6. New business
7. Nominations and elections of officers in the applicable years
8. Adjournment

ARTICLE VII-AMENDMENTS

Sec. 1 Any proposed amendment of the Constitution and By-Laws shall be submitted in writing to the Chairmen of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee for review and recommendation, two months prior to any regular meeting of the Board of Assistants. After review and rewording, if necessary, copies of the proposed amendments shall be sent to the members of the Board of Assistants at least one month before the next regular meeting of that board.

Sec. 2 Any proposed amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws will be reviewed and forwarded by the Board of Assistants to the general membership of the State Society with a recommendation of approval or disapproval.

Sec. 3 A copy of the proposed amendment shall be in the Tar Heel Pilgrim Newsletter or sent to members by postal mail or email prior to the next regular meeting of the State Society for review and approval by the general membership.

Sec. 4 Such amendments shall become effective upon approval of the membership at the annual meeting. Approval shall be by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting. The vote on amendments may be by open ballot.

Stephen Pike, Governor SMDNC

November 2020, Date

Meg Averett, Corresponding Secretary, SMDNC

November 2020, Date



**BY-LAWS
NORTH CAROLINA SOCIETY
OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS**

ARTICLE-1

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF ASSISTANTS

Sec. 1 The Governor shall appoint the Chairman of the Nominating Committee from the Society at large and shall request the Governor of each Colony to appoint one member to the Committee from their respective Colony. The Committee shall meet together in a body or carry out a conference by written correspondence, telephonic or other electronic means. The deliberations of said Committee shall be concluded by such time that the report can be published in that issue of the Tar Heel Pilgrim Newsletter, prior to the annual State Meeting, wherein an election is to be held. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented at the Annual Meeting, to be followed by a proper call by the presiding officer for nominations from the floor.

Sec. 2 The officers of this Society shall be elected at the Annual Meeting following the Triennial September Congress of the General Society except for the Deputy Governor General and Assistant General, who shall be nominated by the Board of Assistants prior to said Congress for election by the General Society. The Deputy Governor General and Assistant General may be re-nominated. One of these officers may be the Governor of the State Society. Election is by the General Congress. In the event that the Deputy Governor General and/or the Assistant General cannot attend the meeting of the General Board of Assistants, the Governor may appoint a representative(s) for that meeting or appoint an acting Deputy Governor General or Assistant General.

Sec. 3 The Society officers shall assume office immediately following the Annual Meeting at which they are elected and shall continue to serve until their successors are elected. All officers of the Society are elected for three years and may be re-elected as often as the Society sees fit, with the exception of the Governor who shall not serve more than two consecutive terms without a vote of two-thirds of the members present at the Annual Meeting of the State Society.

ARTICLE II-DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Sec. 1 The Governor shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Board of Assistants, appoint all standing and special committees and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nomination Committee. The Governor shall have an inventory of the Society's properties. The Governor shall represent the Society whenever necessary or appoint a representative. The Governor shall give a written report at the annual meeting.

Sec. 2 The Deputy Governor shall perform all the duties of the office of the Governor during the absence or disability of the Governor. During the absence or disability of the Deputy Governor, the duties of the Governor shall be performed by the following officers in the following succession: Counselor, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Elder, Captain, and Surgeon.

Sec. 3 The Counselor shall be an attorney-at-law and shall render legal aid and opinions on matters pertaining to the Society when requested to do so by the Governor or by the Board of Assistants.

Sec. 4 The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings and proceedings of the Society and of the Board and send minutes of each meeting within 30 days to the officers of the Society to be corrected and returned within 30 days after which a corrected copy shall be mailed to all members of the Board of Assistants within the next 30 days. The Recording Secretary shall make such notices and communications as may be ordered by the Society or by the Governor and perform all duties usually appertaining to such office.

Sec. 5 The Corresponding Secretary, in conjunction with the Historian shall keep records of all deaths, transfers in and out of the Society, resignations, and reinstatements, sending the information to the Treasurer, the Newsletter Editor and to the General Society Historian General. The report to the Historian General may be by electronic means or use of the approved General Society forms. The Corresponding Secretary shall make annual and triennial reports to the Secretary General; send to the Secretary General accurate alphabetical list of delegates to the General Congress; order Past Governor's medal every three years or when a Governor leaves office. The Corresponding Secretary is the roll keeper of the State Society and will notify each non-dues paying member his status prior to being dropped from the State Society by the 31st of December each calendar year.

Sec. 6 The Treasurer shall take charge of all funds belonging to the Society; keep suitable books or account; charge, collect and receive all fees, dues and all other money payable to the Society; make all necessary disbursements; invest, with the approval of the Finance Committee, all special funds of the Society; report on the condition of the treasury at all stated meeting of the Society and to the Governor or Board of Assistants at any time they may ask for a report. The treasurer shall, if the board of Assistants requires it, furnish bond in excess of the estimated funds in his possession at any time for the handling of the funds, the premium of such bond to be paid from the funds of the Society; notify the Corresponding Secretary of changes in the membership so that the membership list may be maintained accurately.

Sec. 7 The Historian shall examine and report on all worksheet papers of applicants and shall be the custodian of all blank applications and worksheet papers. The Historian shall keep a detailed record of all signed certificates and shall perform any other duties assigned by the Board of Assistants. The Historian shall, when practicable, assist applicants in filling out their worksheet papers and shall approve the new members, assigning them a state number. The Historian will prepare the appropriate membership certificate as required. Membership certificates will be presented at the annual state meeting or dispatched as necessary to the newly approved member.

Sec. 8 the Elder shall officiate when called upon, at regular meetings of the Society, and shall open the meeting with prayer or devotional service and shall give the benedictions. The Elder shall have been ordained as an Elder, Bishop, Minister, or Deacon of a Christian Church.

Sec. 9 The Captain shall carry out all orders of the Governor and shall act as marshal at parades and on occasions of ceremony. The Captain shall have custody of the flags and shall carry out such other duties pertaining to the position of Captain as the Governor may direct.

Sec 10 The Surgeon shall have been duly admitted to the practice of medicine and shall be under the orders of the Governor and the Board of Assistants.

ARTICLE III-BOARD OF ASSISTANTS

The Board of Assistants shall have general charge of the affairs of the Society. The Board shall meet during the annual meeting of the Society and at such times as it shall be called together by the Governor, including electronic meetings. One-third of the members shall constitute a quorum unless changed in accordance with established parliamentary rules of order. The Board can adjust fees paid for applications, reinstatements, supplemental applications, and application copying. The board shall fill all vacancies that may occur in the Board or offices of the Society for the remainder of the term. The Board of Assistants may drop from the rolls, by a two-thirds vote, any member who is shown to be prejudicial to the Society provided said member is given ample opportunity to appear before the Board in his own defense.

ARTICLE IV-MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1 Every application for membership in this Society shall be made on a preliminary application blank provided by the Society. Such application shall bear the autograph signature of the candidate or an electronic signature.

Sec. 2 After the preliminary application has been approved by the Membership Chairman, or by two members of the Membership Committee, the worksheet papers shall be issued, but only after the payment of the application fee. If the worksheet papers are not filled out in duplicate and filed with the Historian within three years after the approval of the preliminary application, such approval shall become void, and the application process must start over by the applicant with the payment of additional fees established at that time.

Sec. 3 A member of this Society, in good standing, may make application for Junior membership on behalf of any person under eighteen years of age and the application may be granted by the Board of Assistants after the required worksheet papers have been duly executed properly approved, and upon the payment to the State Society the amount set by the Board of Assistants. The member sponsoring said Junior Member may sign for the minor if the minor is of such an age as to not be able to write in cursive his signature. Said minor person shall thereafter be exempt from paying annual State and General Society dues. The Junior Member shall not be permitted to vote until he or she has reached the age of eighteen years.

Sec. 4 Members of this Society may hold membership in other state societies.

Sec. 5 Members and Life Members in good standing of other state societies, who reside in this state, may become active members of this Society by paying an annual fee of the amount set under provision made for regular members.

ARTICLE V-FEES AND DUES

Sec. 1 A non-refundable fee, to be set by the Board of Assistants, must accompany each application.

Sec. 2 Annual dues for each regular member shall be set by the Board of Assistants. Life Members and Junior Life Members are not subject to annual dues. The time of payment and the amount of all dues and fees shall be determined by the Board of Assistants.

Sec. 3 Life membership fees and gifts, bequests, or legacies which are designated to be added to capital funds shall be held in trust and invested by the Treasurer, with the approval of the Committee on finance of the Society. Unrestricted gifts, bequests, or legacies may be used for operating expenses of the Society. Special gifts, bequests or legacies which designate or require special handling of both principal and income shall be handled accordingly if accepted by the Board of Assistants.

Sec. 4 Members in good standing, who may desire to present supplemental lines for approval, may obtain from the Membership Chair blanks for the preparation of said lines upon the payment of the non-refundable fee to be set by the Board of Assistants.

ARTICLE VI-COLONIES

Sec.1 The Board of Assistants may, at any time, authorize the formation of a Colony whenever ten or more members of this Society in good standing shall sign a request for a charter for such colony and file it with the Recording Secretary. The name of such new Colony shall be the form: “The _____ Colony of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina.”

Sec. 2 Such Colony, after its formation, has been authorized by the Board of Assistants, shall elect the following officers: (Colony) Governor, Vice (Colony) Governor, Secretary, and Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer.) All Colony officers shall have their primary residence in their designated colony. Such officers shall compose the board of Directors of the Colony, which shall consist of not more than five members, the fourth and fifth members selected by the Colony at its discretion. If any office in a colony becomes vacant, the Colony shall fill the vacancy within one month of the occurrence thereof. Should the vacancy not be filled within the said length of time, the Colony Governor shall appoint someone to fill the vacancy who shall serve until the next election of officers. In the event of a newly formed Colony or an inactive Colony, the State Governor may appoint an Acting Colony Governor until the Colony members elect a Colony Governor. The (Colony) Governor shall present a written report of the activities of the Colony at the annual meeting of the Society, and shall upon request, furnish the Board of Assistants with information concerning the Colony.

Sec. 3 Colonies may adopt such regulations and by-laws as they may deem proper, provided that such regulations and by-laws do not conflict with either the Constitution of the General Society or the State Society.

Sec. 4 If the applicants to whom a charter is granted, do not meet and organize a colony within six months after the granting of the charter, such action shall become void.

ARTICLE VII-PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The Society will use Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised as its Parliamentary Authority. A Parliamentarian will be appointed by the Governor permanently or as the situation requires.

ARTICLE VIII-AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the by-laws may be made in the same manner as amendments to the Constitution. See Article VI of the North Carolina Society of Mayflower Descendants State Constitution.

Stephen Pike, Governor, SMDNC

November 2020, Date

Meg Averett, Corresponding Secretary, SMDNC

November, 2020, Date