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in Music
& Worship Arts

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Dear Fellowship Members,

Your National Council spent five creative and decisive days in October concentrating on the important task of self-evaluation. In the process, the Council analyzed our current events structure and our Constitution and Standing Rules. In the next paragraphs I will share with you a broad outline of our work.

The Constitution and Standing Rules have served us without major revision for 12 years. The Council considered the technological changes in these years that have given us new ways and channels of communication. These changes make a revision both possible and necessary.

We acknowledged that events are tremendously important to our organization and feed the creative and spiritual needs of members. At our meeting the National Council voted to establish a new national Committee on Events, headed by a national Events Chairperson. This chairperson will be a member of the National Council and will have the responsibility of coordinating the other design team chairs that are planning the National Convocation and regional events. We strongly believe this organizational change will give us improved administration at all our events and also help create new types of events for our membership. Local Chapter events will not be administered by the national Events Committee.

Our revision includes the replacing of Jurisdictional Representatives with Music and Worship Arts Interest Area Coordinators. Please see the enclosed chart that details these areas. The National Council is confident that dedicated support from passionate leaders in these interest areas will provide excellent professional and spiritual nurture for our membership.

A very important aspect of the role of the Jurisdictional Representative, the relationship to chapters, is crucial to our organization. Therefore, the revision provides for the establishment of a new office, Chapter Coordinator. This officer will work with a team of at least three others to deal with issues relating to chapter programming, organization and development.

You will be asked to vote on the proposed Constitution and Standing Rules in March 2007. **Please review the proposed Constitution and Standing Rules at our web site, www.FUMMWA.org.** Here you will find the proposed documents as well as a side-by-side comparison of the current and proposed documents. To help us conserve costs and the environment, please use the web page to study the proposed changes. You can receive a printed copy of the document by calling the National Office (800-952-8977).

The document you are asked to review is large; its extent implies the importance it has for the future of The Fellowship. Please do not be intimidated by its size and take the time to examine its changes. The revised Constitution and Standing Rules are a reflection of the care and concern this National Council has for The Fellowship's continuing ability to nurture its members for the next 50 years. I pray that you will agree with us that this document will move us toward the achievement of our core values: To foster the values of music and worship arts that lead to spirituality and faith formation, and to create relationships that lead to hospitality, fellowship and nurture.

Soli Deo Gloria.

William A. Shortal
President