

RECOMMENDED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS FOR LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF

Adopted this _____ day of _____, state of _____

PREAMBLE

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of Almighty God, Our Heavenly Father to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Ghost may be honored according to our distinctive testimony to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands; we, whose names appear on the assembly roster under the above date, do hereby recognize ourselves as a local assembly in fellowship with and a part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

CONSTITUTION ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this Assembly shall be _____ of the city of _____ state of _____

ARTICLE II - PREROGATIVES

SECTION 1. TO GOVERN

This assembly shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace till we all come in the unity of faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ," Eph, 4:3,13.

SECTION 2. TO ACQUIRE AND DISPOSE

In connection therewith, or incidental thereto, it shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purpose; all in accordance with its Constitution and Bylaws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

SECTION 3. TO COOPERATE

This assembly shall cooperate with the District Council and the General Council to extend the work and kingdom of God throughout the world. It shall support the missionary program as agreed upon. It shall participate in District Council and General Council sessions through its chosen delegates and share in the support of the ministries of these bodies.

SECTION 4. TO RECOGNIZE

This assembly shall recognize that the District Council and the General Council have the authority and right to approve scriptural doctrine and conduct and to withdraw their certificates of membership if deemed necessary.

ARTICLE III - AFFILIATION

While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, this assembly shall voluntarily enter into full cooperative fellowship with assemblies of like precious faith associated in the Mississippi District Council, and the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri; and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoyed by that affiliation. By its affiliation, the assembly - pastors, officers, and members - agree to submit to the authority of and be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of both the Mississippi District Council of the Assemblies of God and the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE IV - TENETS OF FAITH

This assembly shall accept the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God, the all-sufficient rule for faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopts the Statement of Fundamental Truths approved by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

STATEMENTS OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same thing. I Cor. 1:10; Acts 2:42). The phraseology employed in this Statement is not inspired or contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full Gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all Biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines.

1. The Scriptures Inspired

The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct (2 Tim. 3:15-17; I Thess. 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21).

2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. (Deut. 6:4; Isaiah 43:10-11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

THE ADORABLE GODHEAD

A. Terms Defined

The terms 'Trinity' and 'Person', as related to the Godhead, while not found in the Scripture, are words in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from "gods many and lords many." We, therefore, may speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is One Lord, as a Trinity or as one Being of three persons, and still be absolutely Scriptural (examples, Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; John 14:16,17).

B. Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

Christ taught a distinction of Person in the Godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son and Holy Ghost, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained. (Luke 1:35; 1 Cor. 1:24; Matt. 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; I John 1:3,4).

C. Unity of the One Being of Father, Son and Holy Ghost

According, therefore, there is that in the Son which constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Ghost which constitutes Him the Holy Ghost and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore, the Father is the Begetter, the Son is the Begotten; and the Holy Ghost is the one proceeding from the Father and the Son. Therefore, because these three persons in the Godhead are in a state of unity, there is but one Lord God Almighty and His name one (John 1:18;15:26; 17:11,21; Zech. 14:9).

D. Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are never identical as to Person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the Godhead; nor opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father, and the Father is in the Son as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father, as to authority. The Holy Ghost is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation and authority. Hence, neither Person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17-30,32,37; John 8:17, 18).

E. The Title, Lord Jesus Christ

The appellation, "Lord Jesus Christ," is a proper name. It is never applied, in the New Testament, either to the Father or the Holy Ghost. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God (Rom. 1:1-3,7; 2 John 3).

F. The Lord Jesus Christ, God with us

The Lord Jesus Christ, as to His divine and eternal nature, is the proper and only Begotten of the Father, but as to His human nature, He is the proper Son of Man. He is, therefore acknowledged to be both God and man; who, because He is God and man, is "Immanuel," God with us (Matt. 1:23; I John 4:2, 10:14; Rev. 1:13,17).

G. The Title, Son of God

Since the name "Immanuel" embraces both God and man in the one Person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that the title, Son of God, describes His proper deity, and the title Son of Man, His proper humanity. Therefore, the title, Son of God, belongs to the order of eternity, and the title, Son of Man, to the order of time (Malt. 1:21-23; 2 John 3; I John 3:8; Heb. 1:1-13,7:3).

H. Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ

Wherefore, it is a transgression of the Doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title, Son of God, solely from the fact of the incarnation, or because of His relationship to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father and the Son and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (2 John 9; John 1:1,2, 14, 18,29,49; I John 2:22,23;4:1-5; Heb. 12:2).

I. Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him. And having been made both Lord and Christ. He sent the Holy Ghost that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God may be all in all. (Heb. 1:3; I Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Rom. 14:11; I Cor. 15:24-28).

J. Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son

Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only the express duty of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is an unspeakable joy in the Holy Ghost to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of Deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the Godhead (except those which express relationship. See paragraphs B,C, and D), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father. (John 5:22,23; I Peter 1:8; Rev. 5:6-14; Phil 2:8,9; Rev. 7:9,10; 4:8-11).

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare:

- A.** His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31,35).
- B.** His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; I Peter 2:22).
- C.** His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
- D.** His substitutionary work on the cross (I Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:21).
- E.** His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; I Cor. 15:4).
- F.** His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, 11; 2:33; Philipians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3).

4. The Fall of Man

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only

physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Genesis 1:26, 27; 2-17; 3-6; Romans 5:12-19). - 4

5. The Salvation of Man

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

A. Conditions to Salvation

Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life. (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

B. The Evidence of Salvation

The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Eph. 4:24; Titus 2:12).

6. The Ordinances of the Church

A. Baptism in Water

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Saviour and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they have also been raised with Him to walk in the newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47; Romans 6:4).

B. Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements -- bread and the fruit of the vine, is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4), a memorial of His suffering and death (I Cor. 11:26) and a prophecy of His second coming (I Cor. 11:26), and is enjoined on all believers "till He comes!"

7. The Baptism in the Holy Ghost

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; I Cor. 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Ghost come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Heb. 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His word and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

8. The evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost

The Baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (I Cor. 12:4-10, 28), but different in purpose and use.

9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Rom. 12:1,2; I Thess. 5:23; Heb. 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord." (Heb. 12:14). By the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy." (I Peter 1:15, 16).

Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Rom 6:1 - 11, 13; 8:1, 2, 13; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 2:12, 13; I Peter 1:5).

10. The Church and Its Mission

The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the First-born, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22, 23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

Since God's purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshipped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of His son, the priority reason-for-being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is:

- A.** To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15, 16).
- B.** To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (I Corinthians 12:13).
- C.** To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints, being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; I Corinthians 12:28; I Corinthians 14:12).

The Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to the reason-for-being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. This experience:

- A.** Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3,4)
- B.** Adds a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God (I Corinthians 2:10-16; I Corinthians 12:13, 14).
- C.** Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament time for the edifying of the body of Christ (Galatians 5:22-26; I Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11, 12; I Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

11. The Ministry

The divinely called and scripturally Ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the threefold purpose of leading the church in: (1) Evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20). (2) Worship of God (John 4:23, 24). (3) Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16).

12. Divine Healing

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4, 5; Matt. 8:16, 17; James 5:14-16).

13. The Blessed Hope

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church (I Thess. 4:16, 17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; I Corinthians 15:51,52).

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (Zech. 14:5; Matt. 24:27, 30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). The millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37:21, 22; Zephaniah 3:19, 20; Romans 11:26, 27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-8; Micah 4:3, 4).

15. The Final Judgment

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

"We, according to His Promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:22).

ARTICLE V - ORDINANCES

SECTION 1. The ordinance of baptism by immersion in water (Matt. 28:19) shall be administered to all those who have repented of their sins and who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls, and who give clear evidence of their salvation. (Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12).

SECTION 2. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly as enjoined in the Scriptures. (Luke 22:19, 20; I Cor. 11:23-26).

ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Membership Eligibility.

A. Membership in this assembly shall be open to all those who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who voluntarily subscribe to its tenets of faith and agree to be governed by its Constitution and Bylaws as herein set forth.

B. No applicant for membership shall be accepted as a member within 30 days before an annual business meeting or within 10 days before a special business meeting.

SECTION 2. Voting Membership. All those who meet the Scriptural standards for membership, whose names appeared on the original membership roll of the assembly at the time the assembly was first organized, together with those names which shall be added from time to time, shall constitute the legal voting membership of the assembly, provided they are sixteen years of age or over, that they regularly attend the means of grace and take part in the services, that they are living consistent Christian lives and are in agreement with our distinctive testimony.

SECTION 3. Inactive Membership. Enrolled members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of the assembly for a period of three consecutive months or more, and who cease to contribute of their means to its support, who may be out of harmony with its teachings or its ministries, or who shall be under charges for misconduct, or who may have fallen under condemnation through sinful or worldly practices, shall be considered as inactive members and shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to the fellowship.

SECTION 4. Transfer Members. A member in good standing of another Assembly of God church, who satisfies the standards for membership eligibility specified in Section 1 of Article VI may apply for membership by submitting a letter of transfer from the pastor of the other assembly, upon the approval of a majority of the church board.

SECTION 5. Junior Members. Junior membership shall be available for young people under 16 years of age who give evidence of the new birth, meet the scriptural standards for membership as specified in these bylaws, and are approved by majority vote of the church board.

ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS

SECTION 1. Officers. There shall be a Pastor, a board of Deacons, Trustees, a Secretary and Treasurer. Other officers shall be added as may be needed.

SECTION 2. Deacons

A. The Board of Deacons consisting of not less than three members under the oversight and guidance of the Pastor. shall be responsible for the spiritual management of the assembly. Of this Board of Deacons, one may be the Secretary and one the Treasurer.

B. The Deacons shall be men of mature Christian experience and knowledge who shall as closely as possible meet the requirements as set forth in I Timothy 3 and Titus 1. No Assembly shall elect as one of its deacons any man who is not an active member thereof, in good standing, filled with the Spirit according to Acts 2:4 and neither he nor

his wife has a former spouse living, unless the divorce from that spouse occurred prior to his or her conversion.

- C. All matters of church government shall be carried on by the Official Board except in matters affecting, the entire body. In such cases they shall present their recommendations to the church for ratification. Members of the Official Board shall be at least 21 years old, and shall have been members of the assembly for at least six months.

SECTION 3. Trustees. Three trustees may be elected for the holding of all church property. Their terms of office shall be from one to three years.

ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS

SECTION 1. Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under the direction of the Pastor and the Board of Deacons.

SECTION 2. There shall be an annual business meeting of the assembly, at which time the election of officers shall take place and the report of all officers shall be read. This meeting to be held on the _____ of each year (Example: Third Monday in January). The time and place shall be announced by the Pastor. Due notice shall be given on the two Sundays immediately prior to the date of said meeting.

SECTION 3. Special business meetings of the assembly may be called when necessary, after proper notice has been given by the Pastor or by the Secretary of the assembly, provided the meeting has been agreed upon by a majority of the Board of Deacons.

SECTION 4.

A. A special meeting may also be called by petition having been signed by not less than one-third of the active membership of the assembly; the petition to be placed in the hands of the Pastor or the Secretary and announcement made on the two Sundays immediately prior to the date of meeting. (Only those members who have regularly attended services of, and supported, this assembly for a period of at least 3 consecutive months prior to signing the petition shall be counted.)

B. No more than one petition on a given subject shall be recognized in any 12-month period. No business other than that specified in the notice of meeting shall be transacted at any special meeting.

SECTION 5. Quorum. No record of any special or regular business meeting of the assembly; shall be made unless one-third or more active members shall be present to constitute a quorum.

SECTION 6. All business meetings of the church shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Revised, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

SECTION 7. The Board of Deacons, with the Pastor, shall meet monthly for the transaction of routine business for the assembly, time and place to be announced by the Pastor.

ARTICLE IX-- DEPARTMENTS

SECTION 1. In General. This assembly shall create and maintain such departments and such organizations as may be necessary and advisable for the extension of its work. All such departments and organizations shall be subordinate to the assembly and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the pastor and church board, and the pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees or departments.

SECTION 2. Sunday School. The Sunday School shall be considered as that department of the church which particularly provides for the teaching ministry of the church and the spiritual care of the young of the flock. The pastor and the superintendent of the Sunday School shall have the right to appoint all officers, teachers, and other workers of the

Sunday School and, in consultation with the workers of the school, determine all policies and programs of the school.

SECTION 3. Youth Ministries. The young people of the assembly shall be organized into a Youth Department as soon as their number is sufficient. This organization shall elect its own officers, conduct its own services, and plan its own activities, subject to the authority of the church through the pastor and the church board.

SECTION 4. Men's and Women's Ministries. There shall be a Men's Ministries Department and Women's Ministries Department which shall be formed and made operable under the supervision of the pastor and church board.

ARTICLE X -- FINANCES

SECTION 1. General. All funds for the maintenance of the assembly shall be provided by the voluntary contributions or the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the organization. Offerings shall be accepted by the assembly at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the pastor and Board of deacons and shall be administered by the Treasurer under their direction. (Matt. 3:10, Luke 6:38, I Cor. 16:1-2, 2 Cor. 9:6-8.) A record shall be kept of all receipts and disbursements of the local assembly and of all individual giving.

SECTION 2. Pastoral Remuneration.

A. Regular Remuneration. The pastor shall be remunerated for his service by a salary or by other means agreed upon by the church board and himself. The church board shall review the pastor's remuneration at least annually.

B. Reimbursement for Expenses. The pastor shall be given consideration by the church board for expenses incurred by his attendance at District Council, General Councils, and other District functions by reimbursement of such expenses, or by an offering to help defray such expenses, according to the ability of the church as determined by the church board.

ARTICLE XI - PROPERTY

All property of the assembly shall be deeded to the assembly and held in its name. No property of the assembly shall be sold, leased, or mortgaged or otherwise disposed of without the same shall have first been recommended by a vote of at least two-thirds of the voting membership who are in attendance at a regular meeting or a special meeting of the assembly which has been called for the consideration of the proposal. The pastor and the secretary of the assembly shall certify in such conveyance, lease or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized and recommended by a vote of at least two-thirds of the voting membership of the assembly who were in attendance at a regular meeting or a special meeting of the assembly which was called for the consideration of the proposal.

ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the assembly in attendance at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made at all the services on at least two consecutive Sundays immediately prior to the time of such meeting. It shall be understood that this does not apply to the article of Faith, which stands regardless of majority.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The Pastor shall be considered as the spiritual overseer of the assembly and shall direct all of its activities. He shall be the president of the corporation and shall act as chairman of all the business meeting of the assembly and of the Board of Deacons. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees or departments. He shall provide for all the services of the assembly and shall arrange for all special meetings, conventions, or revival

campaigns. No persons shall be invited to speak or preach in the assembly without his approval.

SECTION 2. The Board of Deacons is chosen to serve the church and therefore shall act in an advisory capacity with the Pastor in all matters pertaining to the assembly in its spiritual life and in the ministry of its ordinances. They shall act in the examination of applicants for membership, and also in the administration of the discipline.

A majority present at any meeting of the Board of Deacons shall constitute a quorum, provided all the members have been notified to be present. In the event the assembly is temporarily without a Pastor, or the Pastor is unable to be present, the Board of Deacons shall be empowered to provide for its own chairman from its membership in order to transact business for the assembly.

SECTION 3. The trustees shall be custodians of all the real property of the assembly. They shall meet for the discharge of their duties as necessity may demand, subject to the call of the pastor who shall serve as chairman. Trustees must be members of the local Assembly, in good standing and 21 years of age or older.

SECTION 4. The Recording Secretary shall keep the minutes of the official meetings of the Board of Deacons and of the annual and special business meetings of the assembly. He shall keep a record of the membership of the assembly and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of his duties. He shall be the custodian of all legal documents, and be in possession of the corporate seal (Where the assembly is incorporated).

SECTION 5. The Treasurer shall be entrusted with all the finances of the assembly which may be committed to him. He shall deposit all funds in a responsible bank in the name of the assembly, and shall disburse the same by check, as authorized by the pastor and Board of Deacons. All checks shall be countersigned by the secretary. The treasurer shall keep an itemized account of the receipts and disbursements. He shall make an itemized report at the regular meetings of the Board of Deacons and a summarized report to the assembly quarterly and at its regular business meetings. His accounts shall be audited under the direction of the Pastor and Board of Deacons.

ARTICLE II - ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES

SECTION 1. The Pastor may be elected to serve for one or more years or for an indefinite period of time as may be determined at time of election. He shall be nominated by the Board of Deacons, or by secret ballot. Election shall be by secret ballot at the annual business meeting of the assembly or at a special meeting called for the purpose. A two-thirds majority vote of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election. Only one candidate may be considered at a time.

SECTION 2. The Secretary and the Treasurer shall be elected annually. They shall be chosen from the membership of the assembly and may be nominated by a nominating committee or from the floor and shall be elected by a majority vote at the annual business meeting. Their terms of office shall be for one year from the time of election.

SECTION 3. The Board of Deacons shall be chosen from the membership of the assembly. They may be nominated by a nominating committee, or from the floor and shall be elected by a majority vote at the annual business meeting. Their terms of office shall be from one to three years from the time of election.

No assembly shall elect as one of its Deacons any man who is not an active member thereof, in good standing, be filled with the Spirit according to Acts 2:4 and neither he nor his wife has a former spouse living, unless the divorce from that spouse occurred prior to his or her conversion. The Deacons shall be men of mature Christian experience and knowledge, who shall as closely as possible meet the requirements as set forth in 1 Tim. 3, and Titus 1. They shall not hold ministerial credentials.

SECTION 4. The Trustees shall be nominated by a nominating committee or from the floor, and shall be elected by a majority vote at the annual business meeting of the assembly. Their term of office shall be from one to three years. Trustees must be members of the local assembly, in good standing and 21 years of age or older.

SECTION 5. Vacancies

A. The Pastor. If the pastor has been called for a definite period of time, such as one or two years, the tenure of office shall terminate at the end of his term of service. It would then be necessary to vote for his re-election by a two-thirds majority vote, just as though his name came before the assembly for the first time.

In the event a Pastor has serious charges preferred against him or his ministry has ceased to be effective, or no provision has been made for the termination of his ministry, power is vested in the Board of Deacons to ask for the resignation of the Pastor at any of its regular business meetings. If such resignation is refused, the pastorate shall not be considered vacant until the action of the Board of Deacons has been confirmed by a majority vote of the congregation at a meeting called for the purpose, such meeting to be presided over by the District Officiary.

When a vacancy in the pastorate shall occur, a supply shall be arranged for by the Board of Deacons until a Pastor shall be chosen as prescribed in Section 1. In the case of a Pastor's removal from office a report of such action shall be made to the District Officiary.

B. Other Officers

1. Any office may be declared vacant by an act of a majority of the membership of the Board of Deacons at any regular or special business meeting.
2. Ground for such action shall be: (a) Unscriptural conduct. (b) Doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith. (c) Incompetency in office. (d) For any good and sufficient cause.
3. Any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing of his case before the assembly if he so desires.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. The Standard of Membership.

The standard of membership of this assembly shall be:

- A.** Evidence of a genuine experience in regeneration (the new birth). (John 1:12, 13; 3:3-8; I Peter 1:18-25);
- B.** Evidence of a consistent Christian life. (Rom. 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13, 14; Eph. 4:17-32; 5:2-15; I John 1:6,7);
- C.** To fully subscribe to the tenets of faith as set forth in the Constitutional rules of order adopted by the Assembly.
- D.** Willingness to contribute regularly to the support of the assembly according to his or her ability.

SECTION 2. Reception of Members

- A.** Persons desiring to become active members of the assembly shall make the fact known to the pastor, who shall examine the applicant according to the standard of membership.
- B.** The pastor shall present the names of those who apply for membership with his recommendation to the Board of Deacons, who shall act upon said recommendation and render a final decision. All persons who shall have met the membership requirements and have been passed on favorably shall be received into the assembly publicly at any of the regular services and their names inscribed on the roster.

SECTION 3. Discipline

- A.** Any member of the assembly who shall willfully absent himself from the regular services for a period of three consecutive months, or who shall be under charges, shall

be temporarily suspended from active voting membership pending investigation and final decision in his case.

- B.** Unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith held by this assembly shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member. (Matt. 18:15-18; Rom. 16:17, 18; I Cor. 5:11; Gal. 1:8,9; Titus 3:1-15)

SECTION 4. Members in good standing, who may wish to sever their relationship with the assembly, or who may desire to be transferred to some other congregation, may apply to the secretary for a letter, which shall be granted on the approval of the pastor and Board of Deacons, said letter to be signed by the pastor and secretary of the assembly.

SECTION 5. The pastor and Board of Deacons shall be authorized to revise the membership roll of the assembly annually, and to remove from the list of active members all names of those who may have become deceased during the year, together with the names of those who may have withdrawn from the fellowship, or who have fallen into sin and whose lives may have become inconsistent with the standards and teaching of the assembly. The following rules and instructions shall be observed as occasion may require. (Matt. 18:15-17; Rom. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; II Thess. 3:6-15)

If a name is removed for cause, the one whose name is removed shall be notified of the action of the pastor and Board of Deacons through the secretary. If appeal is made to the Board for reconsideration of their action and reinstatement is not granted, the dismissed member may appeal to the congregation. The action of the assembly, by a majority vote, shall be considered final.

ARTICLE IV- DEPARTMENTS

SECTION 1. In General. This assembly shall create and maintain such departments and suborganizations as may be necessary and advisable for the extension of its work. All such departments and organizations shall be subordinate to the assembly and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the pastor and church board, and the pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees or departments.

SECTION 2. Sunday School. The Sunday School shall be considered as that department of the church which particularly provides for the teaching ministry of the church and the spiritual care of the young of the flock. The pastor and the superintendent of the Sunday School shall have the right to appoint all officers, teachers, and other workers of the Sunday School and, in consultation with the workers of the school, determine all policies and programs of the school.

SECTION 3. Youth Ministries. The young people of the assembly shall be organized into a Youth department as soon as their number is sufficient. This organization shall elect its own officers, conduct its own service, and plan its own activities, subject to the authority of the church through the pastor and the church board.

SECTION 4. Men's and Women's Ministries. There shall be a Men's Ministries Department and Women's Ministries Department which shall be formed and made operable under the supervision of the pastor and church board.

ARTICLE V - PROPERTY RIGHTS

SECTION 1. All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the corporate name of the assembly, or if the assembly is not incorporated, by trustees and their successors in office.

SECTION 2. No real or chattel property of the assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged or otherwise alienated without the same shall have been authorized by at least two-thirds majority vote of the membership.

SECTION 3. The pastor and the secretary of the assembly shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized by the vote of at

least two-thirds majority of the votes cast by the membership of the assembly who were in attendance at a regular meeting or special meeting of the assembly which was called for the consideration of the proposal.

SECTION 4. In the event that this assembly ceases to function as a church body, then the said property, real or chattel, shall revert to the Mississippi District Council, Jackson, Mississippi. The Mississippi District Council Assemblies of God shall forthwith have full authority to use or dispose of the property at their discretion. In the event of the sale of the property by the Mississippi District Council Assemblies of God, the proceeds derived thereof shall be used by the said Mississippi District Council in furtherance of the gospel of Christ.

ARTICLE VI - ORDER OF BUSINESS

The regular order of business for the annual meeting of the assembly shall be as follows:

- A.** Devotional.
- B.** Reading of previous minutes by Secretary.
- C.** Report of Treasurer.
- D.** Report of Committees.
- E.** Unfinished business.
- F.** Election of officers.
- G.** New business.
- H.** Adjournment.

ARTICLE VII- AMENDMENTS

The Bylaws may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the assembly by a majority vote of the membership present, provided the proposed amendment has been announced publicly on the two Sundays prior to the date of meeting, announcement to be made by the pastor or the recording secretary.