

**SOUTHERN MISSOURI DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

**CONSTITUTION
AND
BYLAWS**

528 West Battlefield Road
Springfield, MO 65807

Revised and adopted by
District Council in session
April 2009

*The 2009 Constitution & Bylaws
has been reprinted in it's entirety.*

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**CONSTITUTION
OF THE
SOUTHERN MISSOURI DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

**Constitution of the
Southern Missouri District Council
of the Assemblies of God**

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Constitution of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God

CONSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION

WE BELIEVE:

That God's purpose concerning man is (1) to seek and to save that which is lost, (2) to be worshiped by man, and (3) to build a body of believers in the image of His Son.

That these believers, saved and called out of the world, constitute the body or church of Jesus Christ built and established upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself, being the chief cornerstone.

That the members of the body, the church (ecclesia) of Jesus Christ, are enjoined to assemble themselves for worship, fellowship, counsel and instruction in the Word of God, the work of the ministry and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for New Testament church order.

That it is evident the early apostolic churches came together in fellowship as a representative body of saved, Spirit-filled believers who ordained and sent out evangelists and missionaries, and under the supervision of the Holy Spirit set over the church pastors and teachers.

That the priority reason-for-being of the Assemblies of God is to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world, to be a corporate body in which man may worship God, and to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.

That the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason-for-being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit, which enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs, adding a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God, and enabling them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ.

That we are a cooperative fellowship of Pentecostal, Spirit-baptized saints from local Pentecostal assemblies of like precious faith throughout the Southern Missouri District of The General Council of The Assemblies of God, hereinafter called the "District Council," whose purpose is neither to usurp authority over the various local assemblies, nor to deprive them of their scriptural and local rights and privileges; but to recognize and promote scriptural methods and order for worship, unity, fellowship, work and business for God; and to disapprove unscriptural methods, doctrines, and conduct, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, "till we all come in the unity of the 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" (Ephesians 4:13).

ARTICLE I. NAME

Section 1. Name

The corporate name shall be “The Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God”, which term is reserved for legal use when referring to the legal entity. It shall be incorporated as a non-profit religious organization under the laws of the State of Missouri. The term “District Council” shall be used both as an abbreviated form of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, or to refer to sessions of the corporation. In this Constitution and Bylaws, the term “District Council” shall refer to the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, unless otherwise noted. The term “Assemblies of God” shall be used to refer to the entire constituency.

Section 2. Headquarters

The headquarters of the District Council shall be at Springfield, Missouri.

ARTICLE II. NATURE

Section 1. In General

The Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God shall be an integral part of, and in full cooperative fellowship with, The General Council of the Assemblies of God. The principles and purposes of the District Council shall be in keeping with the broad principles of Christian fellowship and cooperation as set forth in the Constitution of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, which Constitution shall hereby become a part of the Constitution of the District.

Section 2. Territory

The territory in which the District Council shall operate shall be that part of the State of Missouri which lies south of the Missouri River.

ARTICLE III. PREROGATIVES

The prerogatives of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God shall be:

- A.** To encourage and promote the evangelization of the world.
- B.** To encourage and promote the worship of God.
- C.** To encourage and promote the edification of believers.

D. To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like precious faith.

E. To establish and maintain such departments and institutions as may be necessary for the propagation of the Gospel and the work of this Pentecostal fellowship.

F. To approve all scriptural teachings, methods, and conduct; and to disapprove unscriptural teachings, methods, and conduct.

G. To have the right to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of such property, real or chattel, as may be needed for the prosecution of its work.

ARTICLE IV. PRINCIPLES FOR FELLOWSHIP

The Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God shall represent, as nearly as possible in detail, the body of Christ as described in the New Testament Scriptures. It shall recognize the principles inherent in the body as also inherent in this Fellowship, particularly the principles of unity, cooperation, and equality. It recognizes that these principles will enable it to achieve its priority reason-for-being as an agency of God for evangelizing the world, as a corporate body in which man may worship God, and as a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.

ARTICLE V. STATEMENT 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, 1 Corinthians 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 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 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 (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

THE ADORABLE GODHEAD

a. Terms Defined. The terms *trinity* and *persons*, as related to the Godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, 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, Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16,17).

b. Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead. Christ taught a distinction of persons 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 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).

c. Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Accordingly, 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; Zechariah 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 no person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17-30,32,37; 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 to the Holy Ghost. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God (Romans 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. Matthew 1:23; 1 John 4:2,10,14; Revelation 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** (Matthew 1:21-23; 2 John 3; 1 John 3:8; Hebrews 7:3; 1:1-13).

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 relation 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; 1 John 2: 22,23; 4:1-5; Hebrews 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 (Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Romans 14:11; 1 Corinthians 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,

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and d), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22,23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2: 8,9; Revelation 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; 1 Peter 2:22).
- c. His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
- d. His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- e. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4).
- f. His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, 11; 2:33; Philippians 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).

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 Evidences 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 (Ephesians 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 also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47,48; 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 (1 Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers “till He come!”

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 enduement 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; 1 Corinthians 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; Hebrews 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 Initial Physical 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 (1 Corinthians 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 (Romans 12:1,2; Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). Scriptures teach a life of “holiness without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). By the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to obey the command: “Be ye holy, for I am holy” (1 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 (Romans 6:1-11,13; 8:1,2,13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12,13; 1 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 firstborn, 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 worshiped 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 (1 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; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).

The Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this 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 a worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12-14).
- 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 times for the edifying of the body of Christ (Galatians 5:22-26; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

11. The Ministry

A 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), and (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; Matthew 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 (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 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 (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27,30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This 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 (Matthew 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 VI. RELATIONSHIPS

The District Council shall prosecute its activities through its general offices.

ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Southern Missouri District

The membership of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God shall consist of (1) all ordained and licensed ministers holding a current fellowship certificate with the General Council and approved by the District Credentials Committee, (2) all Certified Ministers approved by the District Credentials Committee, and (3) all General Council and District Council affiliated assemblies located in the District.

Section 2. Inactive Membership

The inactive membership of the District Council shall consist of those ministers of the District who are inactive in the manner set forth in the Bylaws.

Section 3. Voting Constituency

The voting constituency at a District Council shall be composed of (1) all ordained, licensed, certified and specialized ministers holding a current fellowship certificate with the General Council and approved by the District Credentials Committee who are present and registered, and (2) such lay delegates present and registered as may be chosen by General Council and District Council affiliated assemblies located within the District, each Assembly being entitled to one such lay delegate.

Section 4. Jurisdiction

The District Council shall have jurisdiction over those ministers and assemblies that are members of the District.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Sessions

The District Council shall meet annually. The time and place of such meetings shall be determined by the District Presbytery, and announcement of the same shall be published in the Assembly Messenger not later than one month prior to the time of meeting.

Section 2. Special Sessions

Special sessions of the District Council may be called by the District Presbytery when, in their opinion, there is due occasion. The time, place, and purpose of all special meetings shall be published not later than one month prior thereto either in the Assembly Messenger or by letter from the District Superintendent to all ordained and licensed ministers and certified ministers.

Section 3. Right of Initiative

Special sessions shall be called by the District Presbytery upon receipt of a petition setting forth the special reasons for requesting same and signed by not less than 10% of all ordained and licensed ministers who are members of the District. The notice requirements specified in the preceding section shall apply.

Section 4. Absentee Voting

Absentee or proxy voting shall not be allowed.

ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS

Section 1. Executive Officers

The executive officers of the District Council shall consist of the District Superintendent, the Assistant District Superintendent, and the Secretary, the Treasurer (or the Secretary-Treasurer). The terms of District Superintendent, Secretary, Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer) shall be for four years, or until their successors are elected, and shall begin the first day of the second month following their election. The terms of the Assistant District Superintendent shall be for two years, or until a successor is elected, and shall begin the first day of the second month following the election.

Section 2. Executive Presbyters

Four Executive Presbyters shall be elected in the manner as set forth in the District Bylaws. Their terms of office shall be for two years, or until their successors are elected, and shall begin the first day of the second month following their election.

Section 3. Executive Presbytery

The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the executive officers and four Executive Presbyters as described in Sections 1 & 2 of this Article, together with such other officers as may be authorized in the future.

Section 4. District Presbytery

The District Presbytery shall consist of the executive officers of the District Council as stated in Section 3 of this Article and Presbyters chosen from the sections of the District Council in accordance with the provisions of Constitution Article X, Section 6. The District Presbytery shall constitute the Board of Directors of this corporation. The Board of Directors is hereby authorized to act for the District Council between sessions thereof in accordance with and subject to the provisions and limitations stated in the Constitution and Bylaws.

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Section 5. General Presbyters

The Southern Missouri District Council shall be represented on the General Council General Presbytery by three members, the District Superintendent together with two others. The Assistant District Superintendent and the Secretary-Treasurer of the District shall serve by virtue of office, providing the Assistant Superintendent shall be a pastor. In the event the Assistant Superintendent does not qualify, an ordained pastor, who meets the qualifications of an executive officer, shall be elected as General Presbyter by the District Council in session. Nominations shall be by secret ballot and a two-thirds majority vote shall be required to elect.

Section 6. General Council Executive Presbyter Nominee

The Southern Missouri District Council shall, at its annual meeting prior to the General Council session, nominate two ministers from its district, one of whom is not an elected full-time district official, to be presented to the General Council as nominees from its area. These nominees shall be presented to and be balloted upon by the General Council in session. A two-thirds vote shall be required to nominate and to elect.

Section 7. Corporate Action

The District Superintendent and Secretary (or Secretary-Treasurer) shall also serve as President and Secretary of the Corporation respectively in business matters requiring such officers. They shall be, and are hereby designated to be, the officers to sign, execute and deliver, in the name of and on behalf of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, all instruments that have been authorized by the Board of Directors (or, as provided below, by the District Council or Executive Presbytery) affecting the properties of the District Council. Both the President and Secretary (or Secretary-Treasurer) shall be required to sign all official and legal documents of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God. In the event one of the officers is not available, the Assistant Superintendent shall be allowed as an additional signature.

a. Real Property. Real property for use by the entire District, such as District Headquarters offices or campgrounds shall be bought, taken or otherwise acquired, sold, transferred, mortgaged, assigned or conveyed, or otherwise alienated upon authorization as given by a two-thirds affirmative vote by the District Council in regular or in special sessions called for that purpose. Written notice of the time, place, and purpose of any such meeting shall be published not later than one month prior thereto either in the Assembly Messenger or by letter from the District Superintendent to all ordained and licensed ministers and certified ministers.

b. Home Missions Properties. Purchase or sale of home missions properties, personal and real, or church properties with title to be held temporarily by the District shall be authorized and directed by the District Presbytery.

c. Donated Funds. The Executive Presbytery shall be authorized, and hereby is authorized, to hold in trust such funds as may be entrusted to the District Council, or to dispose of the same as may be designated by donors.

Section 8. Limited Authority

The President and Secretary (or Secretary-Treasurer) shall be authorized, and they hereby are authorized, to act for the directors of the corporation in the interim between meetings of the Board of Directors in such matters as follows: to buy, sell, transfer, mortgage, lease, assign or convey property of whatsoever kind with the provision that such actions shall be limited to matters involving sums up to \$20,000 but not in excess thereof for any single transaction. When authorized by action of the Board of Directors the aforesaid limitation shall not apply.

ARTICLE X. SECTIONS

Section 1. Boundaries

The District Council shall, from time to time, divide the District into well-defined sections, which sections shall constitute units of fellowship and administration. The convenience and wishes of assemblies and pastors within these areas shall be considered by the District Council in arranging or rearranging the boundary lines of these sections, but the decision of the District Council in the matter shall be final.

Section 2. Membership

The membership of each section shall consist of (1) all ordained and licensed ministers within the section holding a current fellowship certificate with the General Council and approved by the District Credentials Committee, (2) all certified ministers within the section approved by the District Credentials Committee, and (3) all General Council and District Council affiliated assemblies located in the section. An individual can be a member of only one section. If a member resides in a section other than the one in which the employing church is located, membership shall be in the section in which the church is located.

Section 3. Prerogatives

Each section shall hold fellowship meetings, conduct rallies, promote evangelistic and educational programs and otherwise advance the cause of the Assemblies of God within its section according to its own desires and

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discretion, consistent with the provisions of the District Council Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 4. Sectional Councils

Each Sectional Council shall meet annually within two months before the annual District Council meeting. Resolutions to be presented at Sectional Council are for that Section's use only and cannot be added to the next District Council in-session unless it fulfills the procedures stated in the Bylaws, (Article IV. Committees, Section 1.d.1.)

Section 5. Voting Constituency

The voting constituency at a Sectional Council shall be composed of (1) all members of the section who are present at such Sectional Council, and (2) such lay delegates as may be chosen by General Council and District Council affiliated assemblies located within the Section and who are present at such Sectional Council, each Assembly being entitled to one such lay delegate. Since members and delegates must be present in order to be eligible to vote, absentee or proxy voting shall not be allowed.

Section 6. Sectional Officers

a. Presbyter. Each Sectional Council shall nominate one of its ordained ministers to serve as Presbyter of its section. Each nominee for the office of Sectional Presbyter, together with the individual's sectional identity, shall be presented to the District Council for election by secret ballot. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote shall be required for election. Presbyters so elected shall become members of the District Presbytery.

b. Assistant Presbyter. At the annual meeting of the Section, another ordained minister shall be elected to serve as Assistant Presbyter. This individual shall be eligible for election as Presbyter by the District Council in the event the nominee of the section fails to be elected.

c. Secretary-Treasurer. A Sectional Secretary-Treasurer shall also be elected by each Section at its annual business meeting, from among its ordained ministers.

d. Eligibility. The Presbyter and Assistant Presbyter shall be selected from among ordained ministers who pastor churches within the section. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be selected from ordained ministers who pastor a church with in the section. However, if there are no ordained ministers who qualify, then the Secretary/Treasurer may be selected from among licensed ministers who qualify. No minister shall be eligible for Sectional Presbyter, Assistant Presbyter, or Secretary-Treasurer until after they have served as

pastor of a church in the section for at least one year immediately preceding the time of taking office.

e. Other Officers. Other officers of the Section shall consist of the departmental representatives.

Section 7. Executive Committee

The Presbyter, Assistant Presbyter, and the Secretary-Treasurer of each section shall constitute the Executive Committee (“executive officers”) of that section and as such, shall have those rights and duties which shall be vested in them by the other members of that Section.

Section 8. Elections

a. Executive Officers. All elections shall be by secret ballot. On the nominating ballot, at least three votes shall be necessary for nomination. A two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be required for the election of the Sectional Presbyter, Assistant Presbyter, and Secretary-Treasurer.

b. Other Sectional Officers. Other Sectional officers shall be elected as follows: The Sectional Executive Committee in consultation with the District Departmental Director shall appoint the Sectional officers of the respective departments and submit the names of said appointees to the Sectional Council in session on a printed ballot with the nominees listed. A blank line shall be left for other nominations to be written in. The Sectional Council must ratify said appointees by secret ballot by a majority vote.

c. District Executive Presbyter Nominee. Each Section shall choose a nominee for District Executive Presbyter as provided for in the Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, b.

Section 9. Vacancies

a. Executive officers. In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of a District Presbyter, the Assistant Presbyter shall succeed to the office to fill the unexpired term, if such succession is first ratified by the remaining members of the District Presbytery. Should the Assistant Presbyter choose not to fill the vacant office, the Sectional Council shall elect a Presbyter. Vacancies among Assistant District Presbyters and Sectional Secretary-Treasurers may be filled by their respective Sectional Councils for the unexpired term.

b. Other Sectional Officers. Vacancies occurring in any other sectional office shall be filled through appointment by the Sectional Executive Committee in consultation with the District Departmental Director.

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Section 10. Term of Office

All elections shall be for a two year term and shall begin on May 1st.

Section 11. Staggered Voting

a. Even Years

(1) Sections consisting of Sullivan, St. Louis, Park Hills, Cape Girardeau, Kennett, and Van Buren shall nominate a Presbyter to be presented at District Council for ratification. These Sections shall elect an Assistant Presbyter and Secretary-Treasurer. On the uneven years they shall elect all other sectional leaders.

(2) An Ethnic Presbyter nominee shall be chosen at a special called caucus, to be at a central location no later than one month prior to District Council. Place and time to be set by the Presbytery and meeting to be presided over by a member of the District Executive Committee. Said nominee to be presented to the District Council for ratification. Nominees shall meet all the requirements for a District Presbyter.

b. Uneven Years

Sections consisting of Kansas City, Sedalia, Clinton, Joplin, Springfield North, Springfield South and West Plains shall nominate a Presbyter to be presented at District Council for ratification. These Sections shall elect an Assistant Presbyter and Secretary-Treasurer. On the even years they shall elect all other sectional leaders.

ARTICLE XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

Section 1. General Council Affiliated Assemblies

A General Council affiliated assembly is one which has applied for and has received a Certificate of Affiliation from The General Council of the Assemblies of God, operating under Article XI, Local Assemblies, of the General Council Constitution. This assembly will have adopted Articles of Incorporation, and a constitution or bylaws compatible with models recommended by the District Council, or district approved governance models that provide for adequate accountability, amenability, and safeguards so that a pastor and/or governing board cannot directly or indirectly exert dictatorial control over a church.

Section 2. District Council Affiliated Assemblies

Provision shall be made for District Council affiliated assemblies which shall be under the supervision of the District Council, in accordance with the provisions of the District Council Bylaws. These assemblies shall

be encouraged to proceed to the status of sovereign General Council affiliated assemblies.

Section 3. Assemblies of God Total Giving Participation

All assemblies are expected to have an interest in, and contribute regularly to, the Assemblies of God Total Giving plan.

ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the District Presbytery shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, transfer and distribute all of its remaining assets to The General Council of the Assemblies of God, provided that The General Council of the Assemblies of God is at such time an exempt organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future federal income tax law. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Circuit Court of Greene County, Missouri, to such organization which is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes, and which is an exempt organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provisions of any future federal income tax law, and which has purposes nearest those of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any regular or special meeting of the District Council, provided the proposed amendment has been submitted to the District Presbytery first for consideration, and a copy mailed to each member of the District Council not less than one month prior to the time of the meeting at which the amendment is to be considered. A two-thirds majority vote of all members present and voting shall be necessary for adoption.

**BYLAWS
OF THE
SOUTHERN MISSOURI DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

**Bylaws of the
Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God**

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**Bylaws
of the Southern Missouri District Council
of the Assemblies of God**

ARTICLE I. PARLIAMENTARY ORDER

The work of the District Council shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

**ARTICLE II.
NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Section 1. Executive Officers

All executive officers of the District Council shall be chosen from among the ordained membership of the District Council. They shall be individuals of mature experience and proven ability, having been a member of the District for at least one year.

Section 2. Nomination and Election

a. District Superintendent, Assistant District Superintendent, and Secretary-Treasurer. Nomination and election of District Superintendent, Assistant District Superintendent, Secretary and Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer) shall be by secret ballot. On the nominating ballot, at least three votes shall be necessary for nomination. A two-thirds majority of ballots cast shall be required for an election. Should a two-thirds majority vote be achieved on the nominating ballot, an election shall be declared. If there is no election declared after the second elective ballot, the three candidates receiving the largest number of votes on the second elective ballot shall be voted upon the third and succeeding ballots.

b. Executive Presbyters

(1) Geographical Representation. Four Executive Presbyters shall be elected from among the pastors of the geographical areas within the District. One from the Northwest Area comprising the sections of Kansas City, Sedalia, and Clinton; and one from the Northeast Area comprising the sections of Sullivan, St. Louis, and Park Hills; one from the Southeast Area comprising the sections of Cape Girardeau, Kennett, and Van Buren; and one from the Southwest Area comprising the sections of West Plains, Springfield North, Springfield South and Joplin.

(2) Procedure of Election. The procedure for choosing and electing the Executive Presbyters shall be as Follows:

(a) Each section shall choose a nominee for Executive

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Presbyter at their sectional council. This nominee shall be an ordained minister who has served as a senior pastor of a church within the section for at least one year immediately preceding nomination. Nominations shall be by secret ballot. At least three votes shall be necessary to become a candidate for nomination, and a two-thirds majority vote shall be required.

(b) These nominees (3 from the Northwest Area, 3 from the Northeast Area, 3 from the Southeast Area, and 3 from the Southwest Area) shall be presented to the District Council in session, and from the nominees, one pastor shall be chosen to serve each area: one as Executive Presbyter of the Northwest Area, one as Executive Presbyter of the Northeast Area, one as Executive Presbyter of the Southeast Area, and one as Executive Presbyter of the Southwest Area.

(c) Election of Executive Presbyters shall be by secret ballot. A two-thirds majority of ballots cast shall be required for an election. If there is no election declared after the second elective ballot, the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes on the second elective ballot shall be voted upon the third and succeeding ballots.

Section 3. Vacancies

Any vacancy that may occur in any office in the District, with the exception of District Superintendent and District Presbyters, may be filled for the unexpired term by appointment of the District Superintendent, ratified by the District Presbytery. Should a mid-term vacancy occur in the office of the District Superintendent, for any cause other than disability (see Bylaws Article III, Section 2, b), election shall be held by a specially called District Council. Notice requirements set forth in Constitution Article VIII, Section 2, shall apply.

Any vacancy that occurs in the office of a District Presbyter shall be filled in the manner prescribed in Constitution Article X, Section 9.

ARTICLE III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Duties of District Superintendent

The duties and responsibilities of the District Superintendent shall be as follows:

- a.** To preside at all sessions of the District Council.
- b.** To act as chairman of the Executive Presbytery and the District Presbytery, and to be an ex officio member of all committees of the District Council.
- c.** To serve as supervisor of all ministries and departments related to the District, and supervise the work of the District office.

- d. To be responsible for the supervision of budget control.
- e. To employ any additional staff that may be deemed necessary subject to ratification of the District Presbytery.
- f. To emphasize, coordinate, and promote evangelism in all its phases throughout the fellowship. The District Superintendent shall serve as chairman of the Evangelism Committee, which shall be composed of the members of the District Executive Presbytery.
- g. To give advice and assistance to the ministers and assemblies of the District when needed.
- h. To act in a supervisory capacity during the interim between Council sessions in such matters as pertain to the relation of ministers and local assemblies to the District.
- i. To promote the welfare of ministers and assemblies, and to stimulate the growth of the assemblies, and of the District as a whole.
- j. To administer discipline where needed, upon the authorization and advice of the District Presbytery.
- k. To submit a report to every annual District Council meeting of all important business transacted by the District Presbytery throughout the year, of personal activities through the year, and a comprehensive statement of conditions existing throughout the District.

Section 2. Duties of Assistant District Superintendent

The duties and responsibilities of the Assistant District Superintendent shall be as follows:

- a. To assist the District Superintendent as far as practicable.
- b. In the event the District Superintendent becomes disabled (as determined by the District Presbytery), to perform any or all of the functions of the District Superintendent's office for so long as the disability continues. The Assistant District Superintendent shall not be required to discontinue the pastorate while assuming the duties of District Superintendent.
- c. To perform any other functions under the supervision of the District Superintendent or such as may be directed by the District Council, or the District Presbytery.

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d. To be an ex officio member of all committees of the District Council.

Section 3. Duties of District Secretary

The duties and responsibilities of the District Secretary shall be as follows:

a. To keep a true record of the proceedings of all meetings of the District Council, the District Presbytery and Executive Presbytery.

b. On behalf of the District and in conjunction with the District Superintendent, to issue and receive transfers of accredited Assemblies of God ministers leaving or entering the District.

c. To keep an accurate and up-to-date record of all assemblies and ministers of the District.

d. To be the custodian of the seal of the District Council and of all records and important documents thereof.

e. To perform any other functions under the supervision of the District Superintendent or such as may be directed by the District Council or the District Presbytery.

f. To be an ex officio member of all committees of the District Council.

Section 4. Duties of District Treasurer

The duties and responsibilities of the District Treasurer shall be as follows:

a. To receive and record all offerings and monies to be used for the work of the District Council and to keep same on deposit in that bank designated by the District Presbytery.

b. To pay out and spend the money of the District only at the specific instruction and authorization of the District Presbytery.

c. To perform any other function under the supervision of the District Superintendent or such as may be directed by the District Council or the District Presbytery.

Section 5. Combined Duties of Secretary-Treasurer

If the offices of the Secretary and Treasurer shall be held by one

person, the officer shall have the rights and duties of both offices.

Section 6. Duties of Executive Presbytery

The Executive Presbytery shall be considered the Executive Committee of the District Presbytery and shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- a.** To exercise those rights which shall be delegated to and invested in them by the District Presbytery, and to have the oversight of the activities and departments of the District Council during the interim between District Council and District Presbytery sessions.
- b.** To initiate and implement policies and programs in keeping with the District Council Constitution and Bylaws.
- c.** To oversee District finances as provided in the Constitution (Article IX, Section 7, c), or as authorized by the District Presbytery.
- d.** To constitute the investigating ministerial relations committee of the District, and as such, to function in all matters involving ministerial discipline with the exception of those involving charges.
- e.** To serve as the credentials committee of the District Council.

Section 7. Duties of Executive Presbyters

- a.** To assist Sectional Presbyters at their request, in church or ministerial problems, serving as a liaison for and with the District Superintendent.
- b.** To assist the Sectional Presbyter with District churches concerning church discipline, removal of the pastor, purchase or sale of property, and any other legal matters.
- c.** To respond to the call of the District Superintendent or District Presbytery for meetings.
- d.** Executive Presbyters shall be ineligible to serve as Sectional Presbyters during their tenure.

Section 8. Duties of District Presbytery

The District Presbytery shall be considered the Board of Directors of the District and shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

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a. To act for and on behalf of the District in all matters that affect its interests while the District Council is not in session. Its acts and decisions shall be authoritative and final unless revised by the District Council.

b. To report its acts on behalf of the District to each regular District Council session through its chairman, the District Superintendent.

c. To call its own meetings and conduct the same, and carry on the business of the District according to its own discretion and best judgment.

Section 9. Duties of Sectional Presbyters

The District Presbyters shall serve and represent the District Council in their respective sections as follows:

a. To seek to promote and assist in the upbuilding of the assemblies therein.

b. Under the District Superintendent, to supervise assemblies and ministers in such matters as pertain to their relation to the District.

c. To attempt to resolve all difficulties that arise.

d. To consult with the area Executive Presbyter regarding district churches in matters concerning church discipline, removal of the pastor, purchase or sale of property, and any other legal matters.

e. To call a meeting of the General Board of each district council affiliated assembly in the assigned section on at least an annual basis and to serve as chairman of the General Board.

f. To use all available resources for the evangelizing of the Section.

g. To report their sectional activities to the District Superintendent.

h. Each presbyter shall attend and participate, if at all possible, in at least one camp other than the main camp, each year in order to know from personal knowledge how the camps operate.

Section 10. Duties of Assistant Sectional Presbyter

The duties and responsibilities of the Assistant Sectional Presbyter shall be as follows:

- a. To assist the Sectional Presbyter as far as practicable.
- b. To perform other duties as prescribed in the Constitution.

Section 11. Duties of Sectional Secretary-Treasurer

The duties and responsibilities of the Sectional Secretary-Treasurer shall be as follows:

- a. To keep a true record of all business in the section in a uniform book as prescribed by the Executive Committee of the District.
- b. To receive and record all offerings and monies for the section and deposit the same in a bank where the officer resides.
- c. To disburse all monies by check as authorized by the Sectional Executive Committee or the ministers of the section in their monthly meeting held in conjunction with the monthly fellowship meeting.
- d. To maintain a unified system of bookkeeping as directed by the District Executive Committee.
- e. To keep secretarial and financial record books of the section for two years after closing them, and then turn said records over to the District Secretary to be maintained as a “Library of Sectional Records” in the District office.

ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES

Section 1. District Committees

- a. **Standing Committees.** Standing committees shall be appointed as necessity may require. They shall serve for the designated time or until their purpose is accomplished.
- b. **Credentials Committee.** The Executive Presbytery shall constitute the District Credentials Committee.
- c. **Roster Committee.** A roster committee shall be appointed by the District Superintendent prior to each meeting of the District Council. This committee shall be expected to open the roster on the day of the convening of the District Council. It shall be entrusted with the responsibility of examining credentials of all ministers and delegates. Ordained ministers shall identify themselves by fellowship cards of the current year; delegates from assemblies shall obtain letters from their church secretary or pastor certifying their

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appointment by the assembly to represent it in the District Council. Suitable badges shall be issued by the committee indicating the classification of ordained ministers, licensed ministers, delegates from assemblies, or visitors.

d. Resolutions Committee. A resolutions committee shall be appointed by the District Superintendent.

(1) **Procedure for presentation of resolutions.** All resolutions for presentation to the District Council, except emergency measures, shall be presented to the Secretary-Treasurer's office at least 60 days prior to a District Council session. The resolutions committee shall prepare the resolutions in printed form and mail them to the District Council ministers and churches 30 days prior to the District Council, with the understanding that this does not apply to business growing out of District Presbytery meetings just prior to the District Council; and that resolutions of an emergency nature shall be decided by a two-thirds vote of the District Council in session.

(2) **Sponsorship policy.** All resolutions presented to the resolutions committee shall be signed by the author or sponsor. When a resolution is presented for the consideration of the District Council in session the author, sponsor, or a spokesperson therefor shall be expected to be the first speaker on behalf of the resolution.

(3) **Appropriateness of resolution.** The resolutions committee shall, by a two-thirds vote, determine the appropriateness of a proposed resolution, including the following criteria in its decision: (a) possible conflict with the corporate charter, constitution, or bylaws; (b) those proposals absurd in substance.

(4) **Right of sponsor.** If the resolutions committee determines that a resolution is inappropriate, it shall so advise the author and shall apprise the author of their right to present the proposed resolution to the house for determination as to appropriateness.

(5) **Format of presentation.** The resolutions committee shall (a) put the resolutions in proper form, and (b) eliminate duplication where similar resolutions relating to a specific subject are offered.

e. Other Committees. Other committees may be appointed as deemed necessary.

Section 2. Sectional Committees

The Sectional officers shall appoint such sectional committees as they deem necessary, among which may be an audit committee to audit the financial records of the section as determined by the Executive officers of the section.

ARTICLE V. SECTIONS

Section 1. Boundaries

The Southern Missouri District shall be divided into thirteen sections, composing units of fellowship and administration. These sections shall be defined by name and area as follows:

a. KANSAS CITY SECTION shall be composed of Cass, Jackson, Johnson, and Lafayette Counties.

b. SEDALIA SECTION shall be composed of Camden, Cole, Cooper, Miller, Moniteau, Morgan, Pettis, and Saline Counties.

c. SULLIVAN SECTION shall be composed of Crawford, Dent, Franklin, Gasconade, Maries, Osage, Phelps, and Pulaski Counties.

d. ST. LOUIS SECTION shall be composed of St. Louis and St. Louis County.

e. PARK HILLS SECTION shall be composed of Jefferson, Madison, St. Genevieve, St. Francois, and Washington Counties; that part of Iron County lying north of Highway 143 and west of Highway 49.

f. CAPE GIRARDEAU SECTION shall be composed of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Perry, and Scott Counties; that part of Butler County lying on or north of Highway 60; that part of Stoddard County lying on or north of Highway 60; that part of New Madrid County lying east and north of a point drawn from the southeast corner of Stoddard County to the nearest point on the Mississippi River; that part of Wayne County lying east of Highway 67.

g. KENNETT SECTION shall be composed of Dunklin, Mississippi, and Pemsicot Counties; that part of Butler County lying south of Highway 60 and east of Highway 67; that part of New Madrid County lying west and south of a point drawn from the southeast corner of Stoddard County to the nearest point on the Mississippi River; that part of Stoddard County lying south of Highway 60.

h. VAN BUREN SECTION shall be composed of Carter, Reynolds, Ripley, and Shannon Counties; that part of Butler lying west of Highway 67; that part of Iron County lying south of Highway 143 and east of Highway 49, that part of Wayne County lying on and west of Highway 67.

i. WEST PLAINS SECTION shall be composed of Douglas, Howell, Oregon, Ozark, Texas, and Wright Counties.

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j. SPRINGFIELD-NORTH SECTION shall be composed of Dallas, Laclede, Polk, and Northern Greene Counties (the dividing line being Sunshine Street in Springfield).

k. SPRINGFIELD-SOUTH SECTION shall be composed of Christian, Stone, Taney, Southern Greene and Webster Counties (the dividing line being Sunshine Street in Springfield).

l. JOPLIN SECTION shall be composed of Barry, Barton, Dade, Jasper, Lawrence, McDonald, and Newton Counties.

m. CLINTON SECTION shall be composed of Bates, Benton, Cedar, Henry, Hickory, St. Clair, and Vernon Counties.

n. ETHNIC FELLOWSHIP shall be composed of a minimum of seven churches. Whenever an Ethnic group has less than seven churches, a representative from that group may be invited to sit in as a representative of that group as the District Presbyter sees fit.

Section 2. Officers

The officers of the Section shall consist of such officers as set forth in Constitution Article X, Section 6.

Section 3. Elections

The elections of Sectional officers shall be in the manner as set forth in Constitution Article X, Section 8.

ARTICLE VI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

Section 1. Affiliation

Groups of believers desiring to become qualified as an Assemblies of God church may submit a request through the pastor to the Sectional Presbyter who shall communicate the request to the District Superintendent.

a. Procedure for General Council Affiliation. It shall be the responsibility of the District Presbytery to determine when an assembly has reached a state of growth, stability, and maturity qualifying it for affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Qualifications shall include a minimum active voting membership of 20 persons, and a scripturally qualified board of deacons of at least three members. These steps for affiliation shall be followed:

(1) A church desiring affiliation shall forward its request to the office of the District Council. The District Council shall provide an approved application form and procedural instructions.

(2) The meeting in which an assembly shall be set in order shall be presided over by the District Superintendent or District Secretary-Treasurer who shall assist the assembly in the adoption of the constitution and bylaws recommended by the District.

(3) An existing, mature church which desires to affiliate with the General Council of the Assemblies of God shall apply to the office of the District Council for guidance and assistance.

(4) Upon approval by the District Presbytery, the application for affiliation shall be forwarded to the General Secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Recognition of affiliation shall be regarded as completed upon receipt by the assembly of an official Certificate of Affiliation to be issued by the General Secretary.

b. Procedure for District Council Affiliation. The qualifications for District Council affiliation include maintaining Southern Missouri District standards for membership; accepting supervision by elected District and Sectional officials; giving the executive officers and sectional presbyter the authority to appoint the pastor and other necessary church officers; and involvement in programs of the Assemblies of God.

A District Council affiliated church will have the privilege of sending one representative to serve as its delegate to the District Council sessions. New Church Plants may become District Council affiliated when they average 35 or more in Sunday School for more than a full quarter. Presbyters may preside at meetings for the recognition of District Council affiliated status.

Section 2. New Church Planting/Revitalization

a. Our Missions Statement. Since the work of missions necessitates a strong and aggressive district missions program, it is the objective of the Southern Missouri District of the Assemblies of God to conduct a district missions program that will result in (1) the opening and establishing of new churches; and (2) the strengthening of existing district churches through training, coaching and assessment (See Article 3. Affiliation). This ministry should be held in priority and supported both by the district and it's local churches.

b. Policies and procedures for planting churches and revitalization within the Southern Missouri District shall be implemented by the District Missions Department.

c. Procedure for establishing a new work and/or revitalization.

(1) Approval must be granted by the District Missions Committee (District Superintendent, Assistant District Superintendent, District Secretary/

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Treasurer, Executive Presbyter of area of focus, District Missions Director, Women's Ministries Director) and in consultation with the Executive Committee of the respective Section.

(2) Approval must be based upon investigation of the population of the affected area, growth patterns, and the impact the new work will have on existing affiliated churches. The evaluation shall take into consideration the recommendations of the pastors of such churches before making a final decision.

(3) It is recommended that new works be located one mile or more from existing affiliated churches.

d. Church Planting/Revitalization funds shall be funded by the following means and recommendations. All churches should consider including Church Planting/Revitalization as a part of their missions budgets. Other funds come from liquidation of assets, rental properties, district, corporate grants, foundations, interest from loans.

Section 3. Relocation of Assemblies

Relocation of General Council Assemblies shall be at the discretion of the assembly, provided such church shall not be located within one mile of an existing affiliated church. In the event of unusual circumstances warranting profit for the Kingdom of God, the one mile limit may be waived. In such cases, the relocating church shall secure approval of the District Superintendent, and Sectional Executive Committee, and a representative from the affected churches, who shall act with due consideration for the existing church, and in keeping with ministerial courtesy and ethics.

Section 4. General Council Affiliated Assemblies

The General Council affiliated assembly is the highest recognition given to affiliated churches. It is recognized to have arrived at a mature status of growth and may govern itself according to the provisions of its constitution and bylaws.

a. Nature. General Council affiliated churches are sovereign, autonomous, self-governing, and self-determining bodies which have, by their sovereign, self-determining action in making application for and receiving recognition as a General Council church, entered into an agreement with the Fellowship to be amenable to the General Council and District Council in matters of doctrine and practice.

b. Organizational relationship. The Assemblies of God is a cooperative fellowship between local churches, the District Council, and the General Council. Each General Council affiliated assembly may have representation at General Council and District Council meetings by one lay

delegate. He or she shall have full speaking and voting privileges at the Council sessions. Written evidence of delegate appointment must be presented to the roster committee.

c. Organizational assistance. The services of both the General Council and District Council are available to assist a General Council affiliated church in dealing with any of its problems, either internal or external, when requested by the pastor or a majority of the official board of the church, or a petition signed by 20 percent of the voting members.

d. Preservation of affiliation. In the event the termination of affiliation with the General Council of the Assemblies of God is under consideration by an affiliated assembly, the pastor or board shall invite the District Executive Officers to participate in a specially-called business meeting for the express purpose of giving the District Executive Officers the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation.

e. Guidelines for minimal membership and minimal number of deacons.

(1) When the membership of a General Council affiliated church falls below twenty active voting members for a period of one year, it shall revert to District Council affiliated status, and shall conduct its business under the provisions of the constitution and bylaws for the District Council affiliated assemblies. When the active membership increases to twenty or more, the pastor may request that recognition be restored as a General Council affiliated assembly, if other qualifications for such recognition can be met.

(2) When the number of qualified persons to serve as deacons shall fall below two, the church shall revert back to District Council affiliated status, and shall conduct its business under the provisions of the constitution and bylaws for District Council affiliated assemblies. When the pastor feels the church is able to elect at least two qualified persons as deacons, it may be requested that recognition be restored as a General Council affiliated assembly, if other qualifications for such recognition can be met.

f. District authorization to appoint a pastor. If a General Council affiliated assembly neglects or is unable to elect a pastor within sixty days after the stated termination date of the previous pastor, the District shall be authorized to appoint a pastor to such church who may serve under such appointment for one year.

g. District guidelines for deacons.

(1) Credentialed ministers or their spouse shall not be elected to the board of deacons in an assembly. If such election occurs, and the minister or spouse chooses to serve as deacon, the minister shall immediately surrender his/her credentials.

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(2) Deacons must be active members in good standing, filled with the Spirit according to Acts 2:4, and be free from marriage entanglements.

Section 5. Incorporation of churches

All General Council and District Council affiliated assemblies shall be incorporated using the non-profit method of incorporation. In a spirit of cooperation, any church wishing assistance in incorporation should contact the District officers for help and advice in arranging for or maintaining incorporation.

Section 6. Legal Liabilities of District Affiliated Churches.

All New Church Plants and District affiliated assemblies shall be required to:

- a. Become and remain incorporated with the State of Missouri.
- b. Secure and maintain adequate insurance coverage of building, contents, related liabilities, and liability coverage for professional misconduct.
- c. Maintain weekly church services.
- d. Submit a quarterly report form to the Sectional Presbyter and District.
- e. Maintain an active voting membership roll.

If any New Church Plant or District affiliated assembly cannot fulfill these requirements, the Sectional Presbyter or Sectional Executive Committee may investigate and evaluate that assembly's viability, and based upon their findings the Sectional Executive Committee may recommend to the District Presbytery any supervision, assistance or necessary actions that may be helpful to the church or District for the protection of the District.

Section 7. General directives

- a. The constitution and bylaws under which assemblies of the District are requested to operate is included in these agreements and made a part of this publication.
- b. Each assembly is requested to keep an up-to-date membership roll and report this number annually to the District office.
- c. The standard of individual membership in each assembly in the District Council provides that only persons possessing the following

qualifications shall be admitted to membership:

- (1) A testimony to an experience of the “new birth.”
- (2) Approval for membership shall be preceded by baptism in water by immersion.
- (3) The applicant shall be expected to manifest a lifestyle portraying a positive Christian testimony, which is free from worldliness (I John 2:15).
- (4) The applicant must abstain from drinking intoxicating liquors of any kind and the use of tobacco in any form.
- (5) The applicant must refrain from the sins listed in Galatians 5:19-21.
- (6) The applicant must agree and adhere to Scriptural basis for divorce and remarriage (Matthew 19:9; I Corinthians 7:15-28).
- (7) The applicant must indicate willingness to contribute regularly to the financial support of the church of which they are to become a member.
- (8) The applicant must evidence a belief in all the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith including the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with speaking in other tongues as the initial physical evidence, divine healing, and the pre-millennial second coming of Jesus Christ.

d. An assembly shall not call a minister as pastor or evangelist who is not a member in good standing with the General Council, or of one of its District Councils, or one whose character and doctrines are not endorsed by the District Presbytery. It is recommended that churches call their pastors for indefinite terms. When a pastor is elected for a specific term, only a majority vote shall be required for re-election.

e. If a vote on an incumbent pastor is less than the number required for his/her re-election, then that pastor shall have the right of appeal if he/she feels there is impropriety in the qualification of voters, an unrealistic representation of membership or that there were other improprieties in the election process. The District Superintendent shall be notified and, subject to the approval of the Sectional Committee, a district or sectional official shall meet with the pastor and board. The membership roll shall be examined and all duly qualified voting members shall be notified of a second business meeting within two weeks. At such meeting a second and official vote shall be taken on the pastor under the supervision of a district or sectional official. The results of this vote shall be considered final and official.

f. When a pastorate becomes vacant, the Presbyter and the District Superintendent should be advised immediately. It is recommended that when a pastorate is filled that any applicants being considered should be notified within ten days.

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g. As soon as possible after a new pastor's first service in the local church, it is recommended that the local church and the pastor arrange a service for their official installation, and that the Superintendent be called to officiate in the installation service. In the event the Superintendent is not available to conduct the service, a substitute shall be recommend.

h. When a member moves to a new community, either the member or the pastor of the church now being attended shall write a request to the former church for a transfer of membership. The pastor and official board should then transfer such member with any notation of status of position in the church from which membership is being transferred.

i. The Southern Missouri District Council believes in Missions and the method of supporting missionaries as recommended by the Missions Department of the General Council. Therefore, we urge all assemblies to receive regular monthly Missions offerings to be sent: 70% Assemblies of God World Missions, 20% District Home Missions, 5% Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, and 5% Assemblies of God World Missions departmental expense. The District Home Missions portion should be separated and sent to the District office and the rest to the General Council.

j. Should irreconcilable differences arise between the pastor and other members of the church board or members of the church body, destroying unity and the successful ministry of the local assembly, the District Executive Presbytery along with the Sectional Presbyter (the investigating committee) upon request from the pastor or a majority of the official board members, or a petition signed by not less than 20% of the voting members, shall investigate such differences and upon a two- thirds majority vote of the investigating committee, may declare the church under District supervision. The term "District Supervision" means that the investigating committee has the authority to: (1) suspend the Constitution and Bylaws of the church, (2) suspend the board invested with the authority to manage the affairs of the church, (3) re-classify the church as a District Council affiliated church, and (4) appoint a temporary church board of directors invested with the authority to manage both the secular and ecclesiastical affairs of the church until such strife will cease.

If the pastor is also the Sectional Presbyter, then the Assistant Sectional Presbyter shall be a member of the investigating committee.

k. Special meetings of the church may be called by the pastor, a majority of the members of the official board, or by a petition signed by at least 20% of the active members of the congregation. The active members of the congregation presenting a valid petition shall currently support the church

with their tithes and offerings, and their weekly attendance, as verified by the annual financial and attendance records of the church.

Section 8. Property

The District Council disapproves of the private ownership of church properties if such property was secured by, or paid for, or otherwise supported by funds which were solicited for God's work.

a. All property purchased by or for a New Church Plant or District affiliated assemblies shall be deeded to the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God. Should the Executive Presbytery or the Executive Committee of the section in which such property is located, feel it to be desirable, the title may be transferred to the church upon the approval of the District Presbytery.

b. In the event that any General Council affiliated assembly or District Council affiliated assembly located within the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God shall be divided over doctrinal or any other issues, or shall vote to disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God, all property of the assembly shall remain with those members whatever their number, desiring continued affiliation with the Assemblies of God and adhering to its Statement of Fundamental Truths. The determination of which group of members desires continued affiliation with the Assemblies of God and adheres to its Statement of Fundamental Truths shall be arbitrated by the District Presbytery of the Southern Missouri District Council, and its decision shall be final and binding. If all of the members of the local assembly shall vote to disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God for doctrinal or any other reason, then all of the property of such assembly shall revert to the Southern Missouri District Council and shall be used by the District as an Assemblies of God Church if possible, and if not possible, the District may sell the property and apply the proceeds in any manner consistent with its stated purposes.

Section 9. Discipline of assemblies

Any local assembly which shall disobey or fall below the requirements for local assemblies as set forth in these Bylaws, and shall reject or ignore the request and warning of the District representatives to return to assembly standards and requirements, may be suspended or expelled from membership in the District Council by action of the District Presbytery.

Section 10. Right of Appeal

All assemblies and ministers shall have the right of appeal to the District Superintendent from any decision made by a District Presbyter.

ARTICLE VII. MINISTRY

Section 1. Ministry described

Christ's gifts to the Church include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (Ephesians 4:11), exhorters, administrators, leaders, and helpers (Romans 12:7,8).

In terms of maturity of ministry, three classifications of ministry are recognized—the ordained minister, the licensed minister, and the certified minister.

All ministers holding current ministerial credentials are authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church in accordance with applicable federal or state laws.

Section 2. Basic qualifications

The following qualifications pertain to all applicants for ministerial recognition:

a. Salvation. Testimony to having experienced the new birth (John 3:5).

b. Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Testimony to having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues according to Acts 2:4. The Spirit-filled life will enable the individual to fulfill the threefold mission of the church (Constitution Article V, paragraph 10).

c. Evidence of call. Clear evidence of a divine call to the ministry, evidenced by a personal conviction, confirmed by the work of the Spirit and the testimony of fellow ministers.

d. Christian character. A blameless Christian life and a good report of those who are without (Titus 1:7; I Timothy 3:7).

e. Doctrinal position. A thorough understanding of and agreement with our doctrinal position as contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.

f. Assemblies of God polity. A satisfactory working knowledge of the principles, practices and purposes of the Fellowship through a study of the General Council and District Council constitution and bylaws.

g. Commitment to the Fellowship. An active loyalty to our constitutional agreements, a cooperative spirit, and a readiness to seek and receive the counsel of older brethren and those in positions of authority.

h. Basic educational requirements. Any level of formal academic achievement (diploma or degree) shall not be a requirement for credentials; however, credential applicants shall meet the following criteria:

(1) All applicants are required to be interviewed by the district credentials committee and, in preparation for the interview, pass a standard exam approved by the General Presbytery whereby they demonstrate knowledge of the Bible, Assemblies of God doctrines, and ministerial practices; and either

(2) Successfully complete equivalent training to that indicated in paragraph (3) below, preferably, in an endorsed Assemblies of God post-secondary school; or in a seminary, college, Bible college, or school approved by the district credentials committee consistent with criteria established by the General Council Credentials Committee; or

(3) Successfully complete courses, prescribed by the General Presbytery, offered in correspondence through the Berean College of the Assemblies of God, or

(4) Be recommended by a district credentials committee as qualifying for credentials through self-study and ministerial experience. Such candidates shall have a proven and fruitful ministry of substantial duration. Requests from a district for such a candidate shall be presented to the General Council Credentials Committee and may be granted on a case by case basis.

i. Marriage status. The Southern Missouri District Council disapproves of any married persons holding ministerial credentials if either marriage partner has a former spouse living, unless the divorce happened prior to salvation; or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9); or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1Corinthians 7:10-15), except as hereinafter provided.

j. Annulments and marriage dissolutions. The District Presbytery shall make recommendations to the General Council Credentials Committee regarding annulments and marriage dissolutions. The General Council Credentials Committee shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant's annulment of a former marriage is consistent with the Scriptural position of the Fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials; or, in the case of a divorce or dissolution whether the circumstances would more appropriately be classified as calling for an annulment. The application for annulment must be accompanied by clear and satisfactory evidence of an illegal marriage through deception or fraud. (Appeals from the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the General Presbytery.)

k. Eligibility of women. The Scriptures plainly teach that divinely called and qualified women may also serve the church in the ministry of the

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Word (Joel 2:29; Acts 21:9; I Corinthians 11:5). Women who have developed in the ministry of the Word so that their ministry is acceptable generally, and who have proved their qualifications in actual service, and who have met all the requirements of the District Credentials Committee, are entitled to whatever grade of credentials their qualifications warrant and the right to administer the ordinances of the church when such acts are necessary.

l. Ministers from other organizations. If a minister from another reputable body desires to affiliate with the Assemblies of God, the District Credentials Committee is under no obligation to accept the applicant's previous ministerial status, but will judge each candidate on their own merits as to the level of credentials to be granted. Such applicants shall be required to:

(1) Conform to Assemblies of God criteria for recognition.

(2) Complete an application for ministerial recognition.

(3) Submit a recommendation for ministerial recognition.

(4) Submit a recommendation from the body with which he or she was formerly affiliated. If such is not available, letters of recommendation should be sought from three reputable ordained ministers who are familiar with the applicant's ministry.

(5) Take the credential examination.

(6) Meet with the District Credentials Committee.

(7) Be recommended by the District Credentials Committee for the approval of the General Council Credentials Committee.

(8) All previously ordained ministers so approved shall receive recognition as ordained Assemblies of God ministers with the laying on of hands by the District Presbytery.

(9) Ministers who receive Assemblies of God recognition will relinquish their ministerial credentials with any other organization.

m. Church membership. Membership in an Assemblies of God church shall be required of all candidates for credentials, with the pastor's approval of character of such applicant.

Section 3. Specific qualifications

a. Residency requirements of applicants. Applicants for all credentials must be residents of or hold credentials in the district where they make application and appear before its credentials committee.

b. Certified Minister.

(1) **General requirements.** They shall show promise of usefulness in the gospel work. They shall devote a part of their time to Christian ministry and, at the discretion of the district credentials committee, remain under the supervision of a pastor or a designated supervisor. They shall preach

at least 12 times a year or be actively engaged in some other aspect of ministry except in case of ill health or advanced age.

(2) **Pastoral requirements.** In the event a certified minister is serving in a position as the pastor, they shall be expected to advance to license to preach within 2 years of acceptance of the pastorate. This shall not apply to any minister who has reached the age of 65 or older, or whose certificate has been issued on a provisional basis. Any exceptions shall be at the discretion of the district credentials committee.

(3) **Exception for provisional issuance.** A Certificate of Ministry may be issued on a provisional basis to a person who has not met all the credentialing requirements but who is deemed by the district credentials committee to be essential to the continuity of a church or a ministry outreach for which a duly credentialed and qualified minister is unavailable. The reason for such a provisional issuance must be ministry driven, and the justification for its use is terminated when the minister ceases to be involved in the ministry for which it was initially granted unless they accept another qualifying assignment. Other limitations are:

(a) The ministry certificate on a provisional basis will be issued for one year and shall not be renewed more than two times.

(b) A person who has been granted the Certificate of Ministry on a provisional basis must meet the qualifications for a ministry certificate within a three-year period.

c. **Licensed Minister.** Qualifications for license shall be in two categories:

(1) **Preaching Ministry.** Clear evidence of a divine call, a practical experience in preaching, together with an evident purpose to devote one's time to preaching the gospel. They shall preach at least 15 times a year, except in case of ill health or infirmity.

(2) **Specialized Ministry.** An evident purpose to devote one's time to a specialized ministry such as Christian education, music, church-related ministry by a minister's spouse, or other full-time ministers. The same qualifications as outlined in Section 2 of this Article shall apply.

d. **Ordained Minister.** Qualifications for ordination are outlined in the New Testament Scriptures (I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9). In addition:

(1) Applicants must be 23 years of age or older.

(2) They must have met all the requirements in making application and in completing the prescribed application form.

(3) No person may be ordained to the ministry until having held a license to preach and shall have been engaged in active work as a pastor, evangelist, or some other recognized and proven full-time preaching ministry for at least 2 full consecutive years immediately prior thereto.

(4) Residency requirements of applicants. Applicants must be

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residents of or hold credentials in the District where they make application and appear before its credentials committee. District Councils are required to refrain from approving any applicant for ordination who may have been licensed in another District, until such licensed minister shall have been a member of the District in which they are seeking ordination at least 1 year. If the applicant has not been a member of the District where application was made for ordination for 2 full consecutive years, they must meet the requirements and secure the endorsement of the officary of the District where previously licensed, as well as the District of residence.

(5) Exceptions to residency requirements. In the event that an applicant has qualified and been approved for ordination by the district of their former residence before being publicly ordained, the district where the applicant resides may waive the 1-year residency requirement and ordain that minister upon the request or approval of the former district.

(6) In order to maintain active status, ordained ministers must preach at least 15 times each year.

Section 4. Credentials

The granting of credentials shall be as follows:

a. The Executive Presbytery shall constitute the credentials committee of the District Council and, as such, shall examine all applications and applicants for District recognition. They shall submit to the District Presbytery the names of all candidates for the ministry with their recommendations concerning each. The District Presbytery also has the right to examine any candidate, and to reject or alter any recommendations made concerning them by the credentials committee.

b. The District Presbytery shall be empowered to accept all those candidates who conform to requirements constituted herein, and who, in its judgment, are fitted for ordination, license, or certified minister's certificates and to arrange for their formal dedication to such ministry. Those who qualify shall be recommended to the General Council Credentials Committee for final approval. The appropriate credentials shall be issued to approved applicants.

c. Application for ordination, license, or certified minister's certificates shall be considered by the District Presbytery only when submitted to the District Secretary on a regular application form no later than six weeks prior to the meeting at which time it is to be considered.

d. All credential and renewal certificates shall be issued by the General Council Credentials Committee after the District has approved and recommended such application. All fellowship certificates shall expire on December 31, each year.

e. All applications for credentials shall be accompanied by a fee as authorized by the District Presbytery.

Section 5. Official List

a. **Active ministers.** The official list of all credential holders shall be compiled by the District Credentials Committee. This official list shall be revised annually and shall contain the names of those who are engaged in active ministry and whose credentials have been renewed by the issuance of a Fellowship card for the current year.

b. **Senior ministers.** Those ministers who shall reach the age of 65 or older shall be given status of recognition as senior ministers. A minister who is active at least three-fourths of the time in ministry, shall be listed as senior-active; a minister who gives one-half or less time to the ministry shall be listed as senior-semi-retired; a minister without regular ministry shall be listed as senior-retired.

c. **Inactive ministers.**

(1) **Definition.** All ordained and licensed ministers who shall withdraw from active ministry or who fail to qualify in minimum preaching requirements during the year preceding the application for renewal, shall be placed on the inactive list. Fellowship certificates shall not be issued to ministers who have been inactive for two successive years. It is understood that this shall not apply to inactivity caused by infirmity of old age or ill health. Those placed on the inactive list may request reinstatement upon evidence that they have met the minimum preaching requirements if they have met all other requirements for renewal. The District Credentials Committee shall make the necessary approval.

(2) **Exceptions.** This shall not apply to those who are engaged in other aspects of full-time ministry, such as General Council employees, District employees, educators, ministers of music, ministers of youth, and ministers of Christian education, or those who have reached the age of 60 years, or those ministers who have had 25 years of approved service as ministers in the Assemblies of God regardless of age.

d. **Restoration to active status.** Should the minister at any time return to active ministry, his or her name may be restored to the active list upon application bearing endorsement by the District Executive Officers.

Section 6. Ministerial relations

a. **Amenability.** All ministers holding credentials with the District shall be amenable to the District Presbytery in matters of doctrine and conduct.

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Those ministers who are ordained shall be amenable to both the District and General Council. “Amenability” means that the minister is subject to discipline for (1) rejecting any part of the Statement of Fundamental Truths, (2) endorsing any of the “Doctrines and Practices Disapproved” listed in Article VIII of the General Council and District Council Bylaws, or (3) committing any of the “causes for disciplinary action” identified in Article IX of the General Council and District Council Bylaws.

b. Arbitration. Inasmuch as the scriptures require Christians to take their disputes to the saints and not to the civil courts (1 Corinthians 6:1-8), all disputes that may arise (1) between any minister holding credentials with this District or serving as pastor of a church located within the District and either the Southern Missouri District Council (including any officer thereof) or the General Council of the Assemblies of God (including any officer thereof), or (2) between any General Council or District Council affiliated church located within this District, and either the Southern Missouri District Council (including any officer thereof) or the General Council of the Assemblies of God (including any officer thereof), shall be resolved by binding arbitration if efforts to mediate or conciliate the dispute have failed. Either party to the dispute may initiate the arbitration process by filing with the other party a written request for arbitration within a reasonable time after the dispute has arisen and efforts to mediate or conciliate have failed. In such a case, the minister and the District (or General Council, as the case may be) shall each name an arbitrator, and the two so selected shall name a third. If a minister has a dispute with both the District and General Council, then the District and General Council shall together agree upon and select one arbitrator. All arbitrators must be ordained Assemblies of God ministers who are not executive officers of the Southern Missouri District. The third arbitrator chosen by the other two shall disclose, before accepting the appointment, any financial or personal interest in the outcome of the arbitration, and any existing or past financial, professional, family, or social relationships which are likely to affect impartiality or which might reasonably create an appearance of partiality or bias. Either of the parties to the arbitration, on the basis of such disclosures, may disqualify such a candidate from serving as the third arbitrator. A third arbitrator who serves without objection from either party has a continuing duty to disclose relationships or interest which may impair impartiality. Either party, regardless of the stage of the arbitration process, may, on the basis of such disclosures, disqualify such a person from further participation.

The arbitrators shall appoint the time and place for the hearing and cause notification to the parties to be served personally or by registered mail not less than five days before the hearing. Appearance at the hearing waives such notice. The arbitrators may adjourn the hearing from time to time as necessary and, on request of a party and for good cause, or upon their own motion, may postpone the hearing to a later date. The arbitrators may hear

and determine the controversy upon the evidence produced notwithstanding the failure of a party duly notified to appear. The parties are entitled to be heard, to present evidence material to the controversy, and to cross-examine witnesses appearing at the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by all the arbitrators, but a majority of them may determine any question and render a final award. If during the course of the hearing, an arbitrator for any reason ceases to act, a replacement shall be made in the same manner in which the person was originally selected. The arbitrators may in their absolute discretion admit as evidence any affidavit or declaration concerning the matters in dispute, a copy thereof having been given at least ten days previously to the party against whom the same is offered, but the person whose evidence is so taken shall be subject to cross-examination by such party. The arbitrators shall have the power to order and direct what they shall deem necessary to be done by either of the parties relating to the matters in dispute. Costs of the arbitration shall be assessed in the discretion of the arbitrators, who may award by and whom they shall be paid. Any submission of a dispute to arbitration shall not be revoked by the death of the minister involved in the dispute, and any award will be binding upon their estate.

The decision of the arbitrators shall be binding on both parties, and both parties submit themselves to the personal jurisdiction of the courts of Missouri, both state and federal, for the entry of a judgment confirming the arbitrators' award.

The arbitration process is not a substitute for the disciplinary process set forth in the Bylaws of the District and the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and shall in no way affect the authority of either the District or the General Council of the Assemblies of God to investigate reports of ministerial misconduct, conduct hearings, and administer discipline.

Any matter not provided for herein shall be governed by the provisions of the Uniform Arbitration Act.

If a dispute may result in an award of monetary damages, then use of this arbitration procedure is conditioned on acceptance of the procedure by the liability insurers of both the District and General Council, and the insurers' agreement to honor any arbitration award up to any applicable policy limits.

c. Affiliation. All ministers holding credentials shall be expected to affiliate with the District Council within the boundaries in which they reside, and to work in cooperation with the same. When a minister labors in another District they shall be expected to cooperate with the policies of that District. In the case where a minister resides in one district but pastors a church located in another district, the minister shall be required to be a member of the district in which the church is located.

Exceptions. See General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 8b and 9a, for exceptions in District Affiliation or Transfer.

d. Non-Assemblies of God ministers. Inasmuch as unity is a vital principle of the church, the condition of growth and spirit, development and power in the apostolic body, it is essential that we recognize our vital relationship to each other, and that we practice Christian cooperation in all our pastoral, evangelistic, missionary, and local church work and business. Therefore, all assemblies and ministers shall use Assemblies of God ministers in preference to non-Assemblies of God ministers and workers, and no minister holding credentials with the Assemblies of God shall be permitted to hold meetings for a non-Assemblies of God church without the consent of the Assemblies of God ministers in the immediate area and the approval of a District Executive Officer.

ARTICLE VIII. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED

In accordance with its constitutional prerogatives, and in conformity with the doctrinal position of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, the Southern Missouri District Council emphasizes and endorses the position taken in Article VIII of the General Council Bylaws.

Section 1. Unconditional security.

In view of the Biblical teaching that the security of the believer depends on a living relationship with Christ (John 15:6); in view of the clear teaching that a man may have his part taken out of the Book of Life (Revelation 22:19); and in view of the fact that one who believes for a while can fall away (Luke 8:13); the District disapproves of the unconditional security position which holds that it is impossible for a person once saved to be lost.

Section 2. Legalism

a. Matters of conscience. The Assemblies of God disapproves of those who hold to matters of conscience, such as the eating or not eating of meats, who press their personal opinions on others.

b. Adding conditions to salvation. The Assemblies of God also disapproves of those who hold to issues which seem to add conditions to salvation, such as the keeping of the seventh day, who press their opinions on others.

Section 3. Eschatological Errors

a. The restitution of all things. The Assemblies of God understands the teaching of Acts 3:21 to limit the restoration to that of which the prophets

have spoken, thus denying the universal redemption theory. We are opposed to all forms of universalism (Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:10).

b. Setting a date for the Lord's return. It is unwise to teach that the Lord will come at some specified time, thereby setting a date for His appearing (Mark 13:32,33; Luke 12:37-40; I Thessalonians 5:2). It is also unwise to give out from the platform, or publish, visions of numbers and dates fixing the time of the second coming of the Lord.

c. Post-Tribulation Rapture. The Assemblies of God holds to the belief in the imminent coming of the Lord as the blessed hope of the Church; and since the teaching that the Church must go through the Tribulation tends to bring confusion and division among the saints, it is recommended that all our ministers teach the imminent coming of Christ, warning all men to be prepared for that coming, which may occur at any time, and not lull their minds into complacency by any teaching that would cause them to feel that specific Tribulation events must occur before the rapture of the saints.

d. Amillennialism. The Assemblies of God disapproves of the amillennial teaching and its attendant erroneous philosophy which denies the fact of a literal 1,000 years' reign of Christ on the earth, and substitutes for it the theory that this Christian or Church dispensation is the spiritual Millennium of which, its proponents say, the Bible writers prophesied.

e. Credentials jeopardized if made an issue. The District recommends that ministers who embrace any of the foregoing eschatological errors, refrain from preaching or teaching them. Should they persist in emphasizing these doctrines to the point of making them an issue, their standing in the Fellowship will be seriously affected (Luke 21:34-36; I Thessalonians 5:9,10; 2 Thessalonians 1:4-10; Revelation 3:10,19,20).

Section 4. Membership in Secret Orders.

Ours is a last-day message in preparation for the coming of the Lord (Matthew 24:14), leaving us no alternative but wholehearted devotion to the cause of spreading the gospel (Luke 9:62), and it is well known that the various secret orders require much valuable time and interest, thus diverting the servant of the Lord out of the way (Ephesians 5:16)

The nature of such organizations demands secrecy (John 18:20; Acts 26:26) reinforced by religious oaths (Matthew 5:34) and strong attachment by binding obligations to persons who are for the most part unregenerated (2 Corinthians 6:14). The spirit, philosophy, and general influence of such secret orders aim at the improvement of the natural man only (I Corinthians 2:14; Colossians 2:8), thus wrongly channeling by incorrect interpretation important spiritual truths (2 Peter 3:16).

Confidence in these secret orders and their teachings has always tended toward the embracing of a false hope of salvation through good works and improved moral service (Ephesians 2:8,9).

In consideration of the foregoing, all Assemblies of God ministers should refrain from identifying themselves with any of the secret orders, and those who may have identified themselves with such orders are advised to sever their connections therewith (2 Corinthians 6:17). Furthermore, ministers are requested to use their good influence among lay church members to dissuade them from such fraternal affiliations (I Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:24-26).

Section 5. Divorce and Remarriage

a. Membership.

(1) **Marriage entanglements before conversion.** There are now among Christian people those who became entangled in their marriage relations in their former lives of sin and who do not see how these matters can be adjusted. We recommend that these people be received into the membership of local assemblies and that their marriage complications be left in the hands of the Lord (I Corinthians 7:17, 20,24).

(2) **Common-law marriage.** We recommend that in no case shall persons be accepted into membership who are known to be living in a common-law state of matrimony.

b. Remarriage. Low standards on marriage and divorce are very hurtful to individuals, to the family, and to the cause of Christ. Therefore, we discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching. We positively disapprove of Christians getting divorces for any cause except fornication and adultery (Matthew 19:9). Where these exceptional circumstances exist or when a Christian has been divorced by an unbeliever, we recommend that the question of remarriage be resolved by the believer while walking in the light of God's Word (I Corinthians 7:17,27,28).

c. Local church leadership.

(1) **Standard for offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon.** Since the New Testament restricts divorced and remarried believers from the church offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon, we recommend that this standard be upheld by all our assemblies except when the divorce occurred prior to conversion (Titus 1:5-9; I Timothy 3:12); or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9); or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (I Corinthians 7:10-15). However, we recommend that all other opportunities for Christian service for which these believers may be qualified be made available to them.

(2) *Prerogative of local assemblies.* It is understood that recommendations are not binding, but local assemblies shall maintain the

prerogative of setting their own standards (in accord with provisions of Article XI of the Constitution).

d. Performing marriage ceremonies.

(1) Ministerial guidelines. We disapprove of any Assemblies of God minister performing a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former companion is still living, unless the case is included in the exceptional circumstances described in Article VIII, Section 5, paragraph b. Any minister of our Fellowship who performs a ceremony for a disapproved marriage (indicated above), unless innocently deceived into doing so, may be dismissed from the Fellowship. An Assemblies of God minister is required to counsel applicants for marriage ceremonies with scriptural guidelines for Christian marriage prior to the performing of the ceremony. The minister may not perform ceremonies for persons who, in the minister's opinion, approach marriage without proper forethought, wisdom, and sobriety.

(2) Violation of conscience not required. Remarrying of such persons included in the exceptive circumstances in Article VIII, Section 5, paragraph b, could violate the conscience of a minister, and if this should be the case, the minister should not be expected to perform such ceremonies.

e. Ministerial credentials. We disapprove of any married minister of the Assemblies of God holding credentials if either minister or spouse has a former companion living unless the divorce happened prior to salvation; or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9); or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1Corinthians 7:10-15). (See also Article VII, Section 2, paragraphs i and j).

Section 6. Worldliness

In view of the alarming erosion of national moral standards, we reaffirm our intention of holding up Bible standards against all forms of worldliness. We urge all believers to "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.... For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (I John 2:15,16).

In its teaching regarding worldliness, the Scripture warns against participation in activity which defiles the body, or corrupts the mind and spirit; the inordinate love of or preoccupation with pleasures, position, or unbecoming speech, or inappropriate appearance; any fascination or association which lessens one's affection for spiritual things (Luke 21:34,35; Romans 8:5-8; 12:1,2; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:11; I Timothy 2:8-10; 4:12; James 4:4; I John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12).

Section 7. Tithing Abuses

a. According to the Scriptures, tithes should be used for the support of active ministry and for the propagation of the gospel and work of the Lord and not be given to charity or used for other purposes. In tithing, the ministers ought to be examples.

b. We recognize the duty of tithing and urge all our people to pay tithes to God. It is recommended that arrangements satisfactory to the pastor and the church be made by all pastors and churches, so that the pastor may receive regular and adequate support. We disapprove however, of the teaching that all tithes necessarily should belong to the pastor for their support.

Section 8. Violation of Ministerial Courtesy

All discourteous conduct is disapproved, and all ministers are advised against interfering with pastors in charge of assemblies, whether it be by going in upon their work without consent or by such correspondence with members of the assembly as will hurt the influence of the leader. All correspondence which concerns the whole assembly shall be addressed to the one in charge and not to individual members. Where there is no pastor, letters concerning the work shall be addressed to the officers of the assembly.

Any minister who so offends shall be subject to scriptural discipline.

Section 9. Ministry in a Non-Assemblies Church

Ministers shall not be limited or restrained from entering open doors to preach this Pentecostal message, so long as they retain Assemblies of God doctrine, standards of holiness, proper attitudes, and proper ministerial conduct without compromise.

Inasmuch as unity is a vital principle for growth and spiritual development of the Assemblies of God fellowship, it is essential that we recognize our relationship to each other and that we practice Christian cooperation in all our pastoral, evangelistic, missionary, and local church work.

We recommend therefore that our ministers confer with one or more of the Executive Officers of the District before engaging in ministry in any church group or organization not affiliated with the Assemblies of God so as to ascertain whether such ministry might result in confusion or misunderstandings. A minister who does not have District approval, shall be expected to refrain from conducting services for the church. Ministers who violate this principle shall be considered as having opened the door for censure or charge which may necessitate the recall of their credentials.

Section 10. An Improper Attitude Toward Those Removed From The Fellowship

In order to render effective decisions made in the interest of proper discipline and for the protection of our assemblies, all who hold credentials shall refrain from taking any attitude toward offenders that would tend to nullify or set at naught the solemn verdict of those entrusted with this responsibility. The offenders shall be subject to reprimand or, if persisted in, appropriate discipline.

Section 11. The Ecumenical Movement

The Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of ministers or churches participating in any of the modern ecumenical organizations on a local, national, or international level in such a manner as to promote the Ecumenical Movement, because:

a. We believe the basis of doctrinal fellowship of said movement to be so broad that it includes people who reject the inspiration of Scripture, the deity of Christ, the universality of sin, the substitutionary atonement, and other cardinal teachings which we understand to be essential to biblical Christianity.

b. We believe the emphases of the Ecumenical Movement to be at variance with what we hold to be biblical priorities, frequently displacing the urgency of individual salvation with social concerns.

c. We believe that the combination of many religious organizations into a world superchurch will culminate in the religious Babylon of Revelation 17 and 18.

(This is not to be interpreted to mean that a limitation may be imposed upon any Assemblies of God minister regarding their Pentecostal witness or participation on a local level with interdenominational activities.)

ARTICLE IX. DISCIPLINE

Section 1. The Nature and Purposes of Discipline

Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible. The aims of discipline are that God may be honored, that the purity and welfare of the ministry may be maintained, and that those under discipline may be brought to repentance and restoration.

Discipline is to be administered for the restoration of the minister, while fully providing for the protection of the spiritual welfare of our local assemblies. It is to be redemptive in nature as well as corrective and is to be exercised as under a dispensation of mercy.

Section 2. The Relationship Between the District and General Council Credentials Committee

The Executive Presbytery of the General Council is the Credentials Committee of the General Council of the Assemblies of God (Constitution Article X, Paragraphs d and f). It shall have the final authority in matters of doctrine and the personal conduct of all ministers. District actions related to the termination of credentials or the remedial discipline of rehabilitation are to be in the form of recommendations to the General Council Credentials Committee.

Section 3. Causes of Disciplinary Action

Violations of Assemblies of God principles as stated in these Constitution and Bylaws may give cause for disciplinary action by the Credentials committee. Among such causes for action shall be:

- a. Any moral failure involving sexual misconduct.
- b. Any moral or ethical failure other than sexual misconduct.
- c. General inefficiency in the ministry.
- d. A failure to represent our Pentecostal testimony correctly.
- e. A contentious or non-cooperative spirit.
- f. An assumption of dictatorial authority over an assembly.
- g. An arbitrary rejection of district counsel.
- h. A declared open change in doctrinal views.
- i. A habit of running into debt which brings reproach upon the cause.
- j. A marriage in violation of our stand on marriage and divorce.
- k. Violations of ministerial courtesy.
- l. Ministry without prior approval in a non-Assemblies church.
- m. An improper attitude toward those dismissed from the Fellowship.

Section 4. General Directives

a. Charges against a minister shall be presented in writing to the District Superintendent and shall be signed by at least two members in good standing in the local congregation, or by two fellow ministers. In the event such charges filed against the minister are found to be false, the accusers shall be disciplined at the discretion of the District Presbytery. Grounds for such action shall include those causes listed in Section 3 of this Article.

b. Oral charges brought against a minister may be investigated at the discretion of the District Superintendent. Should the District Superintendent feel that sufficient grounds exist, disciplinary action shall be instituted.

c. All charges involving the minister shall be fully stated to that individual in writing. An opportunity shall be given the minister to answer and to present evidence in defense. Should the Credentials Committee feel it wise, the minister may be placed on suspension, requiring the fellowship card be surrendered until having successfully answered those charges, lest disrepute be laid to the ministry.

d. A minister may be dropped from our fellowship by a two-thirds majority vote of the Credentials Committee. When such action has been taken, the disciplined minister may appeal to the General Council Executive Presbytery within 30 days. Failure to appeal within the prescribed time shall result in severance of fellowship.

e. It is obvious that the Credentials Committee which has the authority to grant ministerial recognition also has the right to withdraw such approval and to recall such credentials. The Credentials Committee shall have the right to institute action against a minister on the basis of the foregoing as well as on statements contained in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws. The Credentials Committee shall consider charges brought against a minister and shall decide disciplinary action when such is necessary.

f. When a pastor's credentials are withheld or withdrawn by the District Credentials Committee and the General Council Credentials Committee, their term of office as pastor shall be automatically terminated forthwith.

Section 5. District Action

In addition to the general directives as outlined in Section 4, the District Credentials Committee shall proceed in the following manner in matters of disciplinary action:

District Bylaws

a. Ordained. In the event that an ordained member of the Southern Missouri District Council should violate Assemblies of God principles as outlined in Section 3, thus subjecting that individual to disciplinary action, the District Credentials Committee will handle District actions, procedures, and appeals which may result therefrom in accordance with Article IX Discipline, of the General Council Bylaws.

b. Licensed and Certified Minister. In the event that a licensed or a certified minister member of the Southern Missouri District Council should violate Assemblies of God principles as outlined in Section 3, thus subjecting that individual to disciplinary action, the District Credentials Committee will handle district actions, procedures, and appeals which may result therefrom in accordance with the Southern Missouri District Bylaws, in accordance with Article IX of the General Council Bylaws where applicable.

Section 6. Trial by Jury

The procedure for trial by jury is described fully in Article IX of the General Council Bylaws.

ARTICLE X. FINANCES

Section I. Voluntary Cooperation

The principle of voluntary cooperation upon which the General Council of the Assemblies of God is based involves the following:

a. Voluntary. By “voluntary” it is meant that, upon learning the principles, doctrines, and practices of the Assemblies of God, and by seeing the benefits one could derive from being associated with such an organization, a person freely chooses to become a member, thus subscribing to all that for which the organization stands.

b. Cooperation. By “cooperation”, it is meant that, to the best of their ability, one will comply with all decisions setting forth and defining duties and responsibilities incumbent upon members of the organization, and will respect the will of the majority, expressed through democratic processes, as long as the minister remains a member.

c. Voluntary Cooperation. “Voluntary cooperation” therefore means that by one’s own will, the decision is made to become a cooperating member of the Assemblies of God, this cooperation being obligatory and not optional. Each should be willing to carry his/her share of the expense of the District work voluntarily. Failure to do so will be considered a serious spiritual problem.

Section 2. Manner of Remitting

a. Minister's Support of the District. It shall be considered the standard of cooperation with District policy that a minister contribute not less than one-half of their tithe, from ministerial and secular income, to the District Treasurer, 528 W. Battlefield Road, Springfield, Missouri, 65807. It is recommended that remittance be made on a monthly basis, and all active ministers of the Southern Missouri District who fail to contribute at least quarterly to the District shall receive a letter from the District office requiring an explanation.

b. Support From Evangelists. Ministers of the District shall, while serving as evangelists within the District, contribute on the same basis as provided in paragraph "a." When ministering in another district, however, it is recommended that the evangelist's tithes be divided between the District visited and the home District.

c. Church Financial Assistance Plan. All ministers shall support the District with their tithe support as explained in the Constitution and Bylaws. Then, if the pastor feels their church is in need of financial assistance, a written request shall be made, (first) to the Sectional Presbyter, who then shall make recommendations to the District Presbytery. At their discretion, the District Presbytery may designate funds that they deem necessary to the local church, not to exceed 5% of the minister's income. Each request shall be reviewed annually by the District Presbytery.

d. Support of Missionaries. It shall be considered the standard of cooperation with District financial policy for the missionary to contribute not less than \$10.00 per month while serving overseas, and not less than \$25.00 per month while on furlough, to the District Treasurer, 528 W. Battlefield Road, Springfield, Missouri 65807.

e. Support of Chaplains. It shall be considered the standard of cooperation with District financial policy concerning chaplains, military and institutional, to contribute ten percent of their tithes from income earned from the chaplaincy to District support. It is understood that this policy does not affect the obligation of chaplains to support the District from other sources of income as outlined in paragraph "a" of this section.

f. Support of Senior Ministers. Senior-active and senior semiretired ministers shall continue to designate the required amount of support to the district headquarters as set forth in Bylaw Article X, Section 2. Paragraph a. Senior Retired Ministers shall not be required to pay any certain amount. Whatever support they give shall be on a voluntary basis.

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g. Support of the General Council Offices. All ordained ministers are expected to contribute from their tithes or other income twenty dollars (\$20.00) each month to the support of the General Council offices. Licensed ministers should contribute the sum of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per month. Certified Ministers should contribute the sum of seven dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50) per month. All who can contribute more, personally or through their assemblies, are urged to do so and to send such contributions to the General Treasurer, 1445 Boonville, Springfield, Missouri 65802.

h. Assembly Offerings. It is recommended that all assemblies contribute to the District campgrounds an offering each year to be used for its development.

i. Special Financial Assistance Plan. Ministers working in a recognized special ministries area will make a request for the return of ministerial contributions, first to the Sectional Presbyter, who shall make recommendations to the District Presbytery. At their discretion, the District Presbytery may designate funds that they deem necessary to the ministry, not to exceed 5% of the minister's income. It is understood that these funds would be used for the special ministry and not to supplement the minister's salary. Each request shall be reviewed annually by the District Presbytery.

For the purposes of this provision, recognized special ministries area shall be defined as those ministries appearing under the special ministries heading of the District Directory.

Section 3. Disbursements

a. Executive Officers. The District Superintendent, the Secretary, and the Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer) shall be paid adequate salaries and traveling expenses as determined by the District Presbytery.

b. District Presbyters. The District Presbyters shall be allowed traveling expenses for all trips on District business (apart from fellowship meetings, conventions, councils, camp meetings, rallies, etc.) less that amount which shall be given them by pastors and assemblies for such service.

c. Home Missions Funds. The District Presbytery shall be authorized to invest and expend all Home Missionary funds of the District in a manner, which in their judgement, will yield the best results. All Home Missions funds derived from the division of the World Missions offering shall be used under the control of the Section from which they originate.

d. Surplus Funds. Any surplus of funds which may accrue to the District shall be invested or expended by the District Presbytery in that manner which they shall consider best for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

e. Investment of Funds. The District Presbytery shall be authorized to invest or to expend all funds of the District subject to any provisions or limitations as may be contained in the Constitution and Bylaws.

f. Resolutions for Fund Expenditure. The procedure to present to a District Council meeting a resolution or motion that may involve the expenditure of more than \$5,000.00 shall be to first refer it to the District Presbytery, and then the resolution shall be presented to the Council in session with the District Presbytery's evaluation of any financial involvements contained in it.

g. Sectional Funds. Each Sectional Treasurer shall keep the record of all home missions funds in books separate from the general fund and other finances of the section.

Section 4. Audit

a. District Records. The District Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer shall be empowered and authorized to provide for an annual audit of the financial records of the District.

b. Sectional Records. The Executive Committee of the Section shall be empowered to appoint an audit committee comprised of ministers within the Section to audit the financial records annually.

ARTICLE XI. DEPARTMENTS

For the purpose of furthering the work of the District in its various fields of service, the establishing of departments is authorized. Such departments shall function within the organizational structure of the District Council and shall be subordinate and amenable thereto.

Section 1. Youth Department

a. Authorization. In recognition of the strength and potentiality of youth for the building of the Kingdom of God and the perpetuation of the full-Gospel message, authorization is given for the establishment of a Youth Department, which shall be responsible for the youth work.

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b. Government. The government, organization, purpose, and scope of this department shall be hereafter defined in writing and made a part of this publication.

Section 2. Church Growth and Education Department

a. Authorization. The District Council recognizes the Sunday School as a successful agency in Christian education and instruction, and authorizes the establishment of a department to be known as the District Church Growth and Education Department.

b. Government. The government, organization, purpose, and scope of this department shall be hereafter defined in writing and made a part of this publication.

c. Relationship. It is understood that this department shall be set up and operated in keeping with the General Council Sunday School program.

Section 3. District Missions Department

a. Authorization. The District Council recognized the value and impact of missions throughout the district and authorizes the establishment of a department which shall be called the "DISTRICT MISSIONS DEPARTMENT" of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God.

b. Government. The government, organization, purpose, and scope of the department shall be hereafter defined and made a part of this publication.

Section 4. Women's Ministries Department

a. Authorization. The District Council recognizes the capability of women in forwarding the cause of Christ, both in the homeland and abroad, and authorizes the establishment of a department which shall be known as the Women's Ministries Department of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God.

b. Government. The government, organization, purpose, and scope of this department shall be hereafter defined and made a part of this publication.

Section 5. Men's Ministries Department

a. Authorization. The District Council recognizes the potential

ministry of its laymen and authorizes the establishment of a department which shall be called the Men's Ministries Department of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God.

b. Government. The government, organization, purpose, and scope of this department shall be hereafter defined and made a part of this publication.

Section 6. Recommendation

The District Council recommends that each local assembly organize the above departments when feasible, in keeping with District Council rules and regulations.

Section 7. Directorship

The District Superintendent shall appoint the Executive Director of each department subject to the ratification by the District Presbytery.

**ARTICLE XII.
MINISTERS RETIREMENT PROGRAM**

Section 1. Program

The Southern Missouri District Ministers Retirement Program will consist of the enrollment of each credentialed minister who desires to enroll in the Minister's Benefit Association of the General Council of the Assemblies of God and supported by a monthly fee from each minister or his/her church. This will provide a foundation upon which it is recommended that each minister build an effective personal retirement program.

Section 2. Membership

All credentialed ministers of the Southern Missouri District shall be recommended to participate in the District Retirement Program.

Section 3. Administration

The Southern Missouri District will only be responsible for making sure each minister is enrolled in the MBA. All other administrative responsibilities will be handled by the MBA.

Section 4. Fees

A \$10.00 monthly fee shall be recommended of each credentialed minister to be sent to the MBA and deposited in the minister's MBA retirement account.

**ARTICLE XIII.
MINISTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND (MBF)**

Section 1. Administration

This program shall be administered by the District Presbyters.

Section 2. Membership

It is mandatory that all credentialed ministers of the Southern Missouri District participate in the MBF program, and shall be classified as follows:

a. Class-A Member. All credentialed ministers of the Southern Missouri District who have not reached the age of 56 years at the time of granting of credentials or by the time of transferring into the District.

b. Class-B Member. All credentialed ministers of the Southern Missouri District who have reached the age of 56 years at the time of granting credentials or the time of transferring into the District.

c. Class-C Member. All credentialed ministers who have transferred to other districts.

Section 3. Spouse

a. Eligibility for enrollment. The spouse of those ministers being granted credentials and those transferred into the District are eligible to enroll in the Ministers' Benevolent Fund (MBF) program within ninety (90) days after the credentials are issued, or having transferred into the District.

b. Conditions of Ineligibility. When a minister no longer holds credentials with the Southern Missouri District for any reason except in the case of death, then the spouse is no longer eligible to participate in the program.

Section 4. Benefits

a. Class-A Membership. The beneficiary will receive \$1,000.00 if death of the member should occur during the first year of membership; \$3,000.00 if death of member occurs during second year of membership; \$5,000.00 if death of member occurs during third year of membership or thereafter.

b. Class-B Membership. These members shall receive 6% interest added to their contributions on an annual basis. The principal and interest accrued at the time of death will be paid to the beneficiary.

c. Class-C Membership. Members transferring to other districts will be separated from active membership. Credit of 50% of what has been paid into the member's account will be separated and 6% interest added to this amount annually. Principal and interest will be paid to the beneficiary at the time of certification of the death of such member.

d. Spouse Membership. The benefits will be the same for the spouse as for the minister which is determined by the classification of the minister.

e. Transfers Back Into District.

(1) Class-A Members. Class-A members who transfer out of the District and then transfer back into the District will have the option to reimburse the District Ministers' Benevolent Fund the full amount of the monthly contributions should they have remained in the District. Upon meeting this requirement they will be reinstated to their previous Class-A membership status. Should a member be under the age of 56 at time of transfer back into the District and chooses not to reimburse the required amount, such member will be classified as a Class-A member with reduced benefits during the first two years as provided for in Section 4, a, of this Article.

(2) Class-B Members. Ministers who have reached the age of 56 by time of transfer back into the District and who do not choose the option of paragraph (1) above will be retained as Class-B members.

Section 5. Dues

Dues of \$5.00 per month shall be required of each credentialed minister and each participating spouse.

Section 6. Forfeiture

a. Surrender of Credentials. Should a minister withdraw from the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God or be severed from membership for any reason, their MBF fund shall be forfeited.

b. Failure to Pay Dues.

(1) Credentialed Members.

(a) If a credentialed member's account is 6 to 12 months in arrears, their benefit shall be reduced to \$1,000.00.

(b) Those in the program less than two years, the benefits will be reduced/prorated as follows: members in arrears 6 to 12 months during the first year will have the benefit reduced to \$250.00.

(c) If a credentialed member's account is 12 or more months delinquent at the time of the annual credentialing renewal, his/her credentials will not be renewed. In order to be moved from lapsed status or to be reinstated,

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the minister must pay all of the delinquent dues.

Should the credentialed member pay the dues that are in arrears, he/she shall be restored to full benefits automatically.

(2) **Member's Spouse.** Should the spouse become more than 6 months in arrears, all benefits shall be dropped. Reinstatement shall be granted upon full payment of all membership dues, if such dues are paid before the spouse's death.

c. **Full Restoration.** The policy of full restoration of benefits shall only apply if dues in arrears are paid prior to the member's being deceased.

Section 7. Claims

a. **Submitting Claims.** All claims shall be made within one year after the death of the member, in writing. Proof of death shall be given by proper certification prior to the payment of any claim.

b. **Beneficiary.** It is necessary to have in the District Office files information as to the beneficiary so that payment may be made on the basis of the minister's or spouse's desire. In the absence of such information, the fund shall pay to the estate of the deceased minister.

Section 8. Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of the Ministers' Benevolent Fund (MBF) for any reason whatsoever, the residue held in the fund at such time, after the expenses and liabilities are paid, shall be divided as follows:

a. **Class-A and Class-B members.** The existing current members will share in proportion to the amount each has paid into the fund.

b. **Class-C members.** Class-C members with accounts in the Ministers' Benevolent Fund (MBF) will share in gains or losses in proportion to the amount of money in their accounts. Losses in no case shall exceed the balance in the account.

Section 9. MBF Hardship Exception

a. **Senior Retired Ministers.** Senior Retired ministers living on a very limited income with health related expenses that take much of their income and are living with a financial strain may make application to their Sectional Presbyter for MBF Hardship Exception. Each application will be kept confidential and considered on a case by case basis. Upon approval, their dues will be paid by the District Council.

b. Disabled Ministers. Ministers who are totally disabled may make application to their Sectional Presbyter for MBF Hardship Exception. Each application will be kept confidential and considered on a case by case basis. Upon approval, their dues will be paid by the District Council.

ARTICLE XIV. MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Sessions

Annual sessions of the District Council shall convene as provided for in the Constitution Article VIII, Section 1.

Section 2. Special Sessions

Special sessions of the District Council shall be held in accordance with the Constitution Article VIII, Section 2 and 3.

Section 3. Voting Constituency

a. Qualifying Voters. The voting constituency shall consist of those persons qualified in the Constitution Article VII, Section 3.

b. Qualifying Church Delegates. The official board of General Council affiliated assemblies shall have the right to appoint one lay delegate to the District Council. Written evidence signed by the Pastor or the church secretary shall be presented to the Roster Committee. A delegate from a District Council affiliated assembly may be appointed by the pastor. Written evidence of such appointment, signed by the pastor, shall be presented to the Roster Committee.

c. Visiting Ministers. The courtesy of the floor shall be extended to visiting ministers from other districts of the Assemblies of God and to all members of the Executive Presbytery of the General Council.

d. Absentee Voting. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be allowed.

ARTICLE XV. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The regular order of business for the annual District Council meetings shall be as follows:

- A.** Report of the District Superintendent
- B.** Discussion of reports

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- C. Report of Committees
- D. Unfinished business
- E. Election of officers
- F. New business
- G. Adjournment

All business sessions of the District Council shall commence with prayer.

ARTICLE XVI. QUORUM

All qualified members, registered and voting at a duly announced meeting of the District Council or of the Sectional Council shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XVII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these Bylaws may be made by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the District Council.

**BYLAWS FOR
CHURCH GROWTH AND EDUCATION**

**Bylaws For
Church Growth And Education**

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ARTICLE I. NAME

Section 1.

The name of this organization shall be the Southern Missouri District Church Growth and Education Department of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2.

The Church Growth and Education Department shall be recognized as that integral part of the church which particularly provides for the teaching ministry of the church.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to encourage the Sunday school of each church in the District to become an evangelistic and educational agency through which an effective effort is made to reach, teach, and win individuals of all ages to Christ, and to mature and train those individuals for Christian service; to encourage efficiency and growth under the national Sunday school guidelines.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

The voting membership of this department, at the District Council sessions, shall be the same as that of the active membership of the District Council as enumerated in Article VII, of the District Constitution.

ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH

The Church Growth and Education Department of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God stands for the Holy Scriptures as the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice, and adopt the Statement of Fundamental Truths as stated in Article V of the Constitution of the Southern Missouri District Council.

ARTICLE V. GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Officers

a. Executive Director. The Executive Director of the Church Growth and Education Department shall be appointed by the District Superintendent from among the Executive Presbytery, and ratified by the District Presbytery.

Church Growth & Education Bylaws

b. Departmental Officers. The Church Growth and Education Department officers shall consist of a Director, Assistant Director, and Secretary, together with such officers as may be needed in the future.

c. Sectional Representatives. A Sectional Representative shall be selected from among the ministers of the section. They shall be elected on alternate years at the Sectional Council. Other officers may be chosen as needed.

d. Executive Committee. The Director, Assistant Director, and Secretary of the Church Growth and Education Department, together with the Executive Director of the Department, shall compose the Executive Committee of the Church Growth and Education Department. The Director of the Church Growth and Education Department shall be chairman of this committee and, in consultation with the District Superintendent, shall be empowered to call meetings of the Executive Committee.

e. District Church Growth and Education Committee. The District Church Growth and Education Committee shall be composed of the Executive Director, the District Director, and the Sectional Representatives. The District Director shall act as chairman of the committee. The District Presbytery shall be ex officio members of the committee.

f. District Superintendent. The District Superintendent shall be considered an ex officio member of the Church Growth and Education Committee and shall have all the prerogatives of his office thereto.

g. Other Committees. The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint an additional Sunday School Committee, from among this number or others, to serve at District Council time or during the interim between sessions. Such additional committee shall complement the work of, but shall not supersede the District Church Growth and Education Committee as defined in paragraph “e”.

Section 2. Duties of officers

a. Executive Director. The Executive Director shall serve as a member of the Church Growth and Education Executive Committee, and the District Church Growth and Education Committee.

b. District Director. The District Director, under the oversight of, and amenable to, the District Superintendent, shall be responsible for the operations of the Church Growth and Education Department. They shall

supervise all departmental activities of that department, such as promotion, seminars, rallies, conventions, pastoral assistance, representative seminars, and other duties that may be assigned by the Executive Committee.

c. District Church Growth and Education Committee. The District Church Growth and Education Committee shall plan and promote the interests of the Sunday school in the interim between District Council sessions.

d. Sectional Representatives. The Sectional Representative shall plan and preside at rallies in their section, in cooperation with the wishes of the ministers in the section, and shall fulfill the following duties:

(1) Serve as a member of the District Church Growth and Education Committee and attend all the committee meetings as called by the District Director.

(2) Promote the District Church Growth and Education programs and ministries to the pastors and churches of the section.

(3) Maintain a file of resource materials available from the National Sunday School Department and inform the pastors and Sunday School administrators of their availability and purpose.

(4) Be available to the local Sunday Schools to serve as a consultant in evaluation, goal setting, and planning.

(5) Conduct at least one sectional Sunday School seminar each year featuring practical training in both administration and teaching techniques.

(6) Promote and participate in the district boys and girls camps.

(7) Emphasize missions education in every Sunday School through Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade.

(8) Attend regional or area Church Growth and Education seminars when provided.

(9) Cooperate with and promote the ministries of the other sectional leaders.

(10) Assist the District Director in district sponsored tours, seminars, or conferences held within the section.

ARTICLE VI. ELECTIONS, VACANCIES, REMOVALS

Section 1. Qualifications and Elections.

a. Departmental Officers.

(1) **Qualifications.** The Director, Assistant Director, and Secretary shall be ordained ministers of the Southern Missouri District Council and shall have been a member of the District for at least one year. They shall

Church Growth & Education Bylaws

have proven leadership and be properly qualified (organization, staff training, proper planning and promotion, mature judgment, and District cooperation). It is understood that the leadership must have experience in Sunday School work; therefore having a proven ministry as a pastor or pastoral staff member shall be a prerequisite to the position.

(2) Elections and term of office.

(a) The District Superintendent may nominate a nominee for each office of the Church Growth and Education Department subject to the approval of the District Presbytery. These approved nominees shall then be presented to the voting body at District Council. This will not, however, preclude nominations from the voting constituency at the District Council where at least three votes shall be required to nominate from the floor. In the event of a failure to elect, subsequent nominees shall be presented by the Superintendent until there is an election.

(b) The officers of the Church Growth and Education Department shall be elected in alternate years to the election of the District officers and shall serve for two years or until their successors are elected.

(c) The officers of the Church Growth and Education Department shall be elected by secret ballot and by a two-thirds majority vote. They shall take office on the first day of the second month following their election.

b. Sectional Representatives.

(1) **Qualifications.** The Sectional Representative shall be selected from among the ministers of the section. To be considered for selection as Sectional Sunday School Representative, a person must express a willingness to fulfill the duties of the office as defined in the job description listed under Article V, Section 2, Duties, and updates as determined by the Church Growth and Education Committee.

(2) **Elections and term of office.** The Sectional Executive Committee with the approval of the District Departmental Director shall appoint the Sectional officers of the Church Growth and Education Department and submit the names of said appointees to the Sectional Council in session on a printed ballot with the nominees listed. A blank line shall be left for other nominations to be written in. The Sectional Council must ratify said appointees by secret ballot by a majority vote. (see District Council Constitution, Article X, Section 8, paragraph "b".) They shall be elected on alternate years from the Executive Officers of the Section, and shall serve for two years.

Section 2. Vacancies/Removals.

a. District Departmental Officers. In the event of a vacancy in any District Church Growth and Education office, the Church Growth and Education Executive Committee, together with the District Presbytery shall

be authorized to fill such vacancy by appointment to complete an unexpired term.

b. Sectional Officers. In case of a vacancy in the Sectional Sunday School office between Sectional Councils, the vacancy will be filled through appointment by the Sectional Executive Committee in consultation with the District Departmental Director.

ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS

Section 1. District Meetings.

Annual meetings of the Church Growth and Education Department should be held in conjunction with the District Council. Special meetings may be called by the District Director or the Executive Committee of the Church Growth and Education Department subject to the approval of the District Presbytery.

Section 2. Sectional Meetings.

The Sectional Representative shall plan and preside at rallies in their section, in cooperation with the wishes of the ministers in the section.

ARTICLE VIII. FINANCES

Section 1. Sunday School Tithe.

It is expected that each Sunday School shall tithe its regular offerings or give an equivalent pledge to the district department, sending such contribution each month.

Section 2. District Funds.

All remittances and disbursements of district funds shall be made according to policies determined by the Executive Committee, and the District Presbytery.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 majority of all votes cast at any regular District Council in session, provided it does not conflict with the District Council Constitution and Bylaws.

**BYLAWS FOR
YOUTH MINISTRIES**

**Bylaws For
Southern Missouri Youth Ministries**

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ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Southern Missouri Youth Ministries Department of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

A. The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the spiritual life and welfare of the young people of our churches.

B. To assist each local church in:

- 1) establishing a vigorous youth ministry, dedicated to winning the lost, building disciples, and sending youth into the harvest.
- 2) involving every teen in the process of discipleship, to go beyond the basic survival skills, equipped for Christian living, service, and leadership.
- 3) involving every teen in the cause of world evangelism.
- 4) insuring that a clear, personal presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is given to every student before graduating from high school.
- 5) training and equipping youth leaders committed to winning, building, and sending youth into the harvest.

C. Sectional organizations shall provide rallies and other events for the purpose of fellowship, inspiration, motivation for Christian living and service. The sectional organization shall serve to strengthen and promote the youth ministry of each local church.

D. Southern Missouri Youth Ministries exists to equip and enhance youth ministry in the local church by providing relevant, life-changing events and programs for students and quality training and equipping of youth leaders.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

The voting membership of this department, at the District Council sessions, shall be the same as that of the active membership of the District Council as enumerated in Article VII, of the District Constitution.

ARTICLE IV. RELATIONSHIPS

Section 1. Local Groups.

Each local youth group shall be considered a subordinate part of its church, shall harmonize its activities with those of its church, and shall be subject to the pastor who is the spiritual head of the church. It shall work in

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cooperation with the Sectional and District organizations to provide unity and effectiveness in all of the programs of these organizations.

Section 2. Sections and District.

The Sectional and District organizations shall be considered subordinate parts of the Sections and District and, as such, shall be amenable to the Sectional and District councils and to their appointed representatives.

ARTICLE V. TENETS OF FAITH

The Southern Missouri Youth Ministries department of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God stands for the Holy Scriptures as the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice, and adopt the Statement of Fundamental Truths as stated in Article V of the Constitution of the Southern Missouri District Council.

ARTICLE VI. GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Officers

a. Executive Director. There shall be an Executive Director of the Southern Missouri Youth Ministries Department who shall be appointed by the District Superintendent from among the Executive Presbytery, and ratified by the District Presbytery.

b. Departmental Officers. The Southern Missouri Youth Ministries officers shall consist of a Director, Assistant Director, and Secretary-Treasurer, together with such officers as may be needed in the future.

c. Sectional Officers. The Sectional officers shall consist of a Youth Representative, Assistant Youth Representative, and Secretary-Treasurer.

d. Executive Council. The Director, Assistant Director, and Secretary of the Southern Missouri Youth Ministries, together with the Executive Director of the department, shall comprise the District Youth Executive Council. The District Youth Director will serve as chairman of this Council.

e. Youth Ministries Council. The District Youth Executive Council along with all the sectional youth representatives shall constitute the District Youth Ministries Council. The District Youth Director shall serve as chairman of this Council. The District Presbytery shall be ex officio members of this Council.

Section 2. Duties of officers

a. Executive Director. The Executive Director shall serve as a member of the District Youth Executive Council, and the District Youth Ministries Council.

b. District Director. The duties and responsibilities of the District Youth Director shall be as follows:

(1) To oversee all district youth activities and meetings, and to be responsible for the following programs: Summer Youth Camps, Ambassadors in Missions (A.I.M.), the Fine Arts Festival (formerly known as Teen Talent), Bible Quiz, Speed-The-Light, Youth Convention, as well as any other programs that need to be created for a better ministry to the young people of the District.

(2) To represent the Southern Missouri Youth Ministries at District Council meetings and in the interim between Councils.

(3) To enlist other members of the District Youth Executive Council in the planning and administration of the programs mentioned in Article VI, Section 2, paragraph b, (1) of these Bylaws.

c. Sectional Officers. The duties and responsibilities of the Sectional Youth Officers shall be as follows:

(1) They shall arrange for and conduct all sectional rallies and other ministry activities for the youth of their section. All sectional youth events shall be scheduled with the Sectional Presbyter at least two months in advance to allow for proper promotion and to prevent scheduling conflicts within the Section.

(2) They shall send a monthly report with 20% of each sectional offering to the District Youth Department. They shall also be required to send an annual financial report to the District Youth Department and their sectional Presbyter.

(3) The Sectional Youth Ministries Representative shall have general supervision of all areas within a section, and shall be amenable to the section and district.

ARTICLE VII. ELECTIONS, VACANCIES, REMOVALS

Section 1. Qualifications and Elections.

a. Departmental Officers.

(1) **Qualifications.** The District Youth Director, Assistant Director, and Secretary-Treasurer shall be ordained ministers of the Southern Missouri District. They shall have been members of the district for at least one year. They shall be within the ages of 23 and 40 at the time of the initial

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election. They shall have proven leadership and be properly qualified in the area of youth ministry.

(2) Elections and term of office.

(a) The District Superintendent may nominate a nominee for each office of the Youth Ministries Department subject to the approval of the District Presbytery. These approved nominees shall then be presented to the voting body at District Council. This will not, however, preclude nominations from the voting constituency at the District Council where at least three votes shall be required to nominate from the floor. In the event of a failure to elect, subsequent nominees shall be presented by the Superintendent until there is an election.

(b) The officers of the Youth Ministries Department shall be elected in alternate years to the election of the District officers and shall serve for two years or until their successors are elected.

(c) The officers of the Youth Ministries Department shall be elected by secret ballot and by a two-thirds majority vote. They shall take office on the first day of the second month following their election.

b. Sectional Officers.

(1) Qualifications. The Sectional Youth Ministries Representative, the Assistant Representative, and the Secretary-Treasurer shall be selected from the ministers of the section. They shall be between the ages of twenty-three and forty at the time of initial election. If no minister of this age designation is available at the time of election, the Sectional Council shall elect the minister most qualified to serve that term.

(2) Elections and term of office. The Sectional Executive Committee with the approval of the District Departmental Director shall appoint the Sectional officers of the Youth Ministries Department and submit the names of said appointees to the Sectional Council in session on a printed ballot with the nominees listed. A blank line shall be left for other nominations to be written in. The Sectional Council must ratify said appointees by secret ballot by a majority vote. (see District Council Constitution, Article X, Section 8, paragraph "b".) They shall be elected on alternate years from the Executive Officers of the Section, and shall serve for two years.

Section 2. Vacancies/Removals.

a. District Departmental Officers. In the event of a vacancy in any District Youth Department office, the District Youth Executive Council, together with the District Presbytery shall be authorized to fill such vacancy by appointment to complete an unexpired term. Such appointment shall be made at a regular or special called Presbyters' meeting and shall be by secret ballot. A two-thirds majority vote shall be required to appoint. The District Youth Executive Council shall have the right to vote in this election.

In the event a district Departmental officer shall move from the geographical boundaries of the Southern Missouri District to take up residence, the office shall be declared vacant.

b. Sectional Officers. In case of a vacancy in the sectional youth office occurring between Sectional Councils, the vacancy shall be filled through appointment by the Sectional Executive Committee in consultation with the District Youth Director.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Section 1. Local Groups

The local youth group shall meet as directed by the local church. They shall provide meetings and activities in cooperation with the church leadership.

Section 2. Sectional Meetings

The Sectional Youth Ministries Department may hold rallies as well as other functions under the direction of the sectional youth officers and the sectional Presbyter.

Section 3. District Functions

The District Youth Ministries Department will host district functions throughout the year as are deemed necessary. They will be held under the supervision of the District Youth Ministries Council, and the District Presbytery.

ARTICLE IX. FINANCES

Section 1. Sectional Offerings

Each section shall send 20% of each sectional offering to the District Youth Department.

Section 2. Local Youth Group Offerings

Each church is expected to send one offering per month to the District Youth Department.

Section 3. Disbursements

All Southern Missouri Youth Ministries Department funds shall be expended under the direction of the District Presbytery and the District Youth Executive Council.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 majority of all votes cast at any regular District Council in session, provided it does not conflict with the District Council Constitution and Bylaws.

**BYLAWS FOR THE
DISTRICT MISSIONS DEPARTMENT**

**Bylaws
for the District Missions Department**

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ARTICLE I. NAME

This organization shall be called the DISTRICT MISSIONS DEPARTMENT of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE II. NATURE

The District Missions Department shall be recognized as that integral part of the church through which the church fulfills the first of its threefold mission:

- A. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world;
- B. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God;
- C. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.

ARTICLE III. PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to:

- A. Promote missions (World and U.S.) in the churches of the District.
- B. Direct the missions program and activity of the District at home and abroad.
- C. Serve the needs and interests of Southern Missouri District missionaries, U.S. and World, liaison with them, giving direction where required.
- D. Promote and assist in the conducting of missions conventions in the churches of Southern Missouri.
- E. Initiate and assist in the strategic planting of new churches in the District, and to cooperate with other districts in church planting endeavors in the Metroplex areas.
- F. Develop, propagate, and effect a master plan for a comprehensive strategy to reach the geographic area of the Southern Missouri District with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

The voting membership of this department, at the District Council sessions, shall be the same as that of the active membership of the District Council as enumerated in Article VII, of the District Constitution.

ARTICLE V. TENETS OF FAITH

The District Missions Department of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God stands for the Holy Scriptures as the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice, and adopt the Statement of Fundamental Truths as stated in Article V of the Constitution of the Southern Missouri District Council.

ARTICLE VI. GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Officers

a. Executive Director. The Executive Director of the District Missions Department shall be the Assistant District Superintendent, by virtue of office.

b. Departmental Officers. The District Missions Departmental officers shall consist of a District Director, Assistant Director, and Secretary, together with such officers as may be needed in the future.

c. Sectional Representatives. A sectional representative shall be selected from among the ministers of the Section. Other officers may be chosen as needed.

d. Executive Committee. The District Director, Assistant Director, and Secretary of the District Missions Department, together with the Executive Director of the Department, shall compose the Executive Committee of the District Missions Department. The District Director of the District Missions Department shall be chairman of this committee.

e. District Missions Committee. The District Missions Committee shall be composed of the Executive Director, the Departmental Officers, and the Sectional Representatives, along with other such officers as may be needed in the future. The District Director shall be chairman of the committee. The District Presbytery shall be ex officio members of the committee.

f. District Superintendent. The District Superintendent shall be

considered an ex officio member of the District Missions Department, and shall have all the prerogatives of his office thereto.

g. Other Committees. The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint additional committees with missions-related responsibilities. Such additional committees shall complement and serve, but shall not supersede, the District Missions Committee as defined in paragraph “e”.

Section 2. Duties of officers

a. Executive Director. The duties of the Executive Director shall be as follows:

- (1) Provide general oversight for the ministry of the District Missions Department.
- (2) Be available as a resource to the District Missions Department Director.
- (3) Attend duly called meetings of the District Missions Executive Committee, and District Missions Committee, as deemed necessary.
- (4) Assist in liaison with, and representing the District Missions Department to, the District Superintendent, District Executive Presbytery, and District Presbytery.

b. District Director. The duties of the District Director shall be as follows:

- (1) Work in harmony with, and accountable to, the District Presbytery, the District Superintendent, and the Executive Director of the District Missions Department.
- (2) Promote world missions in the churches of the District.
- (3) When possible, conduct services in the interests of the missions program in the local churches.
- (4) Supervise the missions program and activity of the District.
- (5) Promote and assist in the conducting of missions conventions throughout the District.
- (6) Assist the Sections in the supervision and planting of new churches.
- (7) Recognizing that the District Superintendent’s approval is necessary for missionary candidates, U.S. and World, he shall offer to assist the District Superintendent in the approval process.
- (8) Approve itineration in the Southern Missouri District of U.S. and World missionaries credentialed in other Districts, and inform them of the Southern Missouri District itineration policy.
- (9) Receive and disseminate information concerning missionaries credentialed with the Southern Missouri District and represent the missionaries

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and their needs to the constituency of the District.

(10) Call and chair meetings of the District Missions Department's Executive Committee and the District Missions Committee.

(11) Encourage support for camp, in that many missionaries and ministers are called from this ministry endeavor. Also, Total Giving credit shall be given for this support.

c. Other Departmental Officers (Assistant Director and Secretary). The duties of these officers shall be to:

(1) Assist the Director in planning and implementing the missions program of the District.

(2) Attend all duly called meetings of committees to which they belong.

d. District Missions Committee. The duties of the District Missions Committee shall be to:

(1) Design and implement the missions program of the District.

(2) Attend all duly called meetings of the District Missions Committee.

e. Sectional Representatives. The duties of the Sectional Representative of the District Missions Department shall be to:

(1) Attend each Missions Representative meeting called by the District Missions Director.

(2) Become knowledgeable about all areas of U.S. and World Missions.

(3) Be a part of the line of communication between the District Missions Director and the pastors of the section.

(4) Conduct at least one missions rally per year at the Sectional level.

(5) Provide pastors and congregations with training on how to have a Missions Convention.

(6) Encourage each church in the section to support the District Missions Department.

(7) Work with the Sectional Presbyter to help churches and pastors with training, encouragement, support, orientations, and outreach projects.

(8) Assist in other missions related ministries of other Section.

(9) Promote Church Planting and Revitalization projects in the section, and attend sectional fellowship meetings and other sectional activities.

**ARTICLE VII. ELECTIONS, TERMS OF OFFICE, VACANCIES,
REMOVALS**

Section 1. Qualifications and Elections

a. Executive Director

(1) **Qualifications.** The Executive Director shall be the Assistant District Superintendent by virtue of office.

(2) **Election and term of office.** The Executive Director shall be the Assistant District Superintendent by virtue of office, and his term shall run concurrently therewith.

b. District Director

(1) **Qualifications.** The District Director of the District Missions Department shall meet the following qualifications:

(a) Be an ordained minister in good standing in the Southern Missouri District Council.

(b) Have been a member of the Southern Missouri District for at least one year.

(c) Be a minister of mature ability who has demonstrated functional competence, philosophical integrity, and spiritual commitment in the area of world missions.

(d) Be capable of promoting the cause of world missions and representing the Southern Missouri District Council therein.

(e) Have demonstrated competency in administration and motivation of others.

(f) Not hold any other salaried office in the District, and shall be able to focus on the District Missions Department, the District Missions Department Director being considered a full-time position.

(2) **Election and term of office.**

(a) The District Director may be nominated by the District Superintendent in consultation with the District Presbytery. The approved nominee shall then be presented to the voting body at District Council. This will not, however, preclude nominations from the voting constituency at the District Council where at least three votes shall be required to nominate from the floor. In the event of failure to elect, subsequent nominees shall be presented by the Superintendent until there is an election.

(b) The District Director shall be elected in alternate years to the election of the District Executive Officers and shall serve for two years or until a successor is elected.

(c) The District Director shall be elected by secret ballot by a two-thirds majority vote and shall take office on the first day of the second month following the election.

c. Other Departmental Officers

(1) Qualifications. The Assistant Director and Secretary of the District Missions Department shall meet the following qualifications:

(a) They shall be ordained ministers in good standing in the Southern Missouri District

(b) They shall have been a member of the Southern Missouri District for at least one year.

(c) They shall exhibit mature ability, support the District and its ministries, support the cause of world missions, and have a cooperative spirit with the missions thrust of the Assemblies of God.

(d) They shall demonstrate in their present ministry an exceptional and firm commitment to the cause of world missions.

(2) Elections and terms of office.

(a) The Assistant Director and Secretary shall be nominated by the District Director and the Executive Director, in consultation with the District Superintendent, subject to the approval of the District Presbytery. These approved nominees shall then be presented to the voting body at District Council.

(b) The Assistant Director and Secretary shall be elected in alternate years to the election of the District Executive Officers and shall serve for two years or until their successors are elected.

(c) The Assistant Director and Secretary shall be elected by secret ballot by a two-thirds majority vote. They shall take office on the first day of the second month following their election.

d. Sectional Representatives

(1) Qualifications. The Sectional Representative shall be selected from among the ministers of the section and shall further meet the following qualifications:

(a) Express desire and willingness to fulfill the duties of the office as defined in the job description under Article VI, Section 2, e, Duties of Sectional Representatives.

(b) Be willing to fulfill other duties as prescribed by the District Missions Committee.

(c) Evidence strong support for the cause of world missions and personal and/or church involvement therein.

(2) Elections and terms of office.

(a) The Sectional Executive Committee, in consultation with and with the approval of the District Missions Department Director, shall appoint the Sectional Officers of the District Missions Department. They shall submit the names of said appointees to the Sectional Council in session on a printed ballot with the nominees listed. A blank line shall be left for other nominees to be written in. The Sectional Council must ratify said appointees by secret ballot by a majority vote.

(b) The Sectional Representatives shall be elected on alternate years from the Sectional Executive Officers and shall serve for two years.

Section 2. Vacancies/Removals

a. District Missions Departmental Officers. The District Missions Executive Committee, together with the District Presbytery, shall be authorized to fill any vacancies in these offices by appointment to complete an unexpired term.

b. Sectional Representatives. The Sectional Executive Committee, in consultation with the District Director of the District Missions Department, shall be authorized to fill such vacancies by appointment to complete an unexpired term.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Section 1. Executive Committee

a. Meetings. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called as required periodically through the year. The Executive committee will meet no less than one time annually, with a strong recommendation to meet at least twice.

b. Expenses. Expenses incurred by the members of the Executive Committee in attending duly called meetings shall be reimbursed, as funds are available, from the funds of the District Missions Department.

Section 2. District Missions Committee.

a. Meetings. Meetings of the District Missions Committee may be called as required periodically through the year. This committee will meet at least once annually.

b. Expenses. Expenses incurred by the members of the District Missions Committee in attending duly called meeting shall be reimbursed, as funds are available, from the funds of the District Missions Department.

ARTICLE IX. FINANCES

Section 1. Support of Missions Department

a. Each church is strongly encouraged to support the District Missions

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Department ministry in an amount commensurate with it's support of other missionaries, sending such contribution each month.

b. Churches are encouraged to participate in the Southern Missouri District 2% Plan, because 1/2 of the 2% plan is designated for camp, and 1/2 for the support of the Missions Department.

c. Policies regarding funding of the Missions Department and disbursement of Department funds shall be determined by the Missions Department Executive Committee and the District Presbytery.

d. An annual budget shall be prepared by the Missions Department Executive Committee, and presented to the District Presbytery for approval.

Section 2. Sectional Funds

It is recommended that the District Missions Department be informed of projected expenditures from the Sectional Home Missions accounts.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority of all votes cast at any regular District Council in session, provided it does not conflict with the District Council Constitution and Bylaws.

**BYLAWS FOR
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT**

**Bylaws for
Women’s Ministries Department**

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PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, there is a need of closer fellowship among the women of the Assemblies of God in united effort to spread the gospel both at home and abroad, and

WHEREAS, there is a need of concerted prayer and Bible study in these days of false teaching and error, and

WHEREAS, it appears from Paul's writings that in the early church, women workers ministered in every place as helpers, who labored much in the Lord under the local church government, and whose work was commended by the Apostle, and

WHEREAS, there are many latent possibilities for service among the women of every assembly which should be developed and used for the glory of God and salvation of souls, and

WHEREAS, since its inception in 1926, God has set His seal in a remarkable way upon the Women's Ministries groups,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a department of women workers be formed under the supervision of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE I. NAME

This organization shall be known as the Women's Ministries Department of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE II. AUTHORIZATION

The Women's Ministries Department is authorized by Article XI, Section 3, of the Bylaws of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God. This department shall be recognized as an integral part of the Southern Missouri District Council and shall be amenable to the District Presbytery.

ARTICLE III. PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to unite women of the Southern Missouri District in definite efforts to spread the Gospel both at home and abroad.

The objective of the organization is to offer every woman an opportunity for involvement and support in the following six areas of ministry:

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A. World Missions

(1) **Missionary Field Outfit.** The local Women's Ministries group helps supply household furnishings and major appliances for the field outfit of missionaries affiliated with the district.

(2) **Women's Ministries Adoption Plan.** Local group members keep in close touch with the mission field by adopting a member of a missionary's family to remember with prayer, correspondence, and gifts upon special occasions.

(3) **Etta Calhoun Memorial Fund.** Each year in September, on Etta Calhoun's birthday, the Women's Ministries and Girls Ministries remember her by giving a special offering. These offerings go toward indoor furnishings for home and foreign missions and benevolence institutions.

(4) **Women's Ministries Library Fund.** Members collect canceled postage stamps. The stamps are marketed and the fund administered by the National Women's Ministries Department.

B. U.S. Missions. Nationally appointed U.S. missionaries and U.S. missions institutions are eligible for the same assistance as World missions personnel and institutions.

C. Benevolence. Women's Ministries groups provide assistance to Assemblies of God benevolence institutions. Retired ministers and missionaries may be included in the Women's Ministries adoption plan.

D. District. Women's Ministries groups assist with district projects as designated.

E. Local Church and Community. Women's Ministries groups assist programs of the local church in cooperation with its leadership.

F. Girls Ministries. The Women's Ministries Department hereby provides for the establishment of Girls Ministries for young women and girls as is embraced by the District and General Councils. The Girls Ministries shall be under the general supervision of the Women's Ministries Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

All members of Women's Ministries in any Southern Missouri District Assemblies of God church are members of the District Women's Ministries Department.

ARTICLE V. TENETS OF FAITH

The Women's Ministries Department of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God stands for the Holy Scriptures as the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice, and adopt the Statement of Fundamental Truths as stated in Article V of the Constitution of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE VI. GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Officers

a. Women's Ministries Executive Officers. The executive officers shall be the District Women's Ministries Executive Director, the District Women's Ministries Director, and the District Women's Ministries Secretary-Treasurer.

b. Sectional Representatives. There shall be a representative from each section.

c. Other Officers. Herein is provided for the election or appointment of any other officers needed to meet the requirements of the Women's Ministries Department or Girls Ministries.

d. Women's Ministries Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Executive Officers as listed and other committee members as designated. The District Superintendent is an ex officio member.

e. Advisory Board. The Advisory Board shall consist of the Executive Committee and the Sectional Representatives.

Section 2. Duties of Officers

a. Executive Director. The District Women's Ministries Executive Director shall provide direction and counsel to the District Women's Ministries Executive Committee.

b. District Director. The District Women's Ministries Director shall preside at all District Women's Ministries meetings and have general oversight of the District Women's Ministries work.

c. Secretary-Treasurer. The District Women's Ministries

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Secretary-Treasurer shall keep a record of proceedings, prepare reports, and assist as requested by the Director.

d. Sectional Representative. The Sectional Representative shall serve in cooperation with the District Women's Ministries Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII. APPOINTMENTS, VACANCIES, REMOVALS

Section 1. Qualifications and Appointments.

a. Qualifications. The officers shall be women of mature experience, sound Christian character, and have executive ability, baptized in the Holy Spirit, and are members of the Assemblies of God. At least one of the executive officers on both district and sectional level, shall be a minister's wife or an ordained minister.

b. Appointments

(1) Executive Director. The Executive Director of this department shall be appointed by the District Superintendent and ratified by the District Presbytery.

(2) District Director, Secretary-Treasurer. The District Director and the Secretary-Treasurer shall be appointed by the District Presbytery for a term of two years.

(3) Sectional Officers. The Sectional Executive Committee with the approval of the District Departmental Director shall appoint the Sectional officers of the Women's Ministries Department and submit the names of said appointees to the Sectional Council in session on a printed ballot with the nominees listed. A blank line shall be left for other nominations to be written in. The Sectional Council must ratify said appointees by secret ballot by a majority vote. They shall be elected on alternate years from the Executive Officers of the Section, and shall serve for two years.

Section 2. Vacancies & Removals

a. District Officers. The Women's Ministries Executive Committee, in consultation with and approval of the District Executive Presbytery, shall fill any vacancies by appointment. The appointment shall be for the unexpired term.

b. Sectional Officers. The Sectional Executive Committee in consultation with and approval of the District Director, shall fill any vacancies by appointment. The appointment shall be for the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Section 1. District

The District Women's Ministries shall meet at least annually.

Section 2. Section

It is suggested that the sectional rallies be held at least once a quarter. Other meetings may be called by the sectional officers as the need arises.

Section 3. Executive Committee

Special meetings of the District Women's Ministries Executive Committee may be held at the call of the District Women's Ministries Executive Director or the District Women's Ministries Director.

ARTICLE IX. FINANCES

Section 1. National

The District Women's Ministries Department shall tithe its general fund to the National Women's Ministries Department.

Special Women's Ministries Day offerings shall be received annually by local groups and sent for the support of the National Women's Ministries Department.

Section 2. District

The local Women's Ministries group shall tithe its income, sending two-thirds of such tithe to the District Women's Ministries Department.

Section 3. Section

The local Women's Ministries group shall send one-third of its tithe from income to the Sectional Women's Ministries Treasurer, to be used for the support of the sectional Women's Ministries program.

Section 4. Disbursements

All District Women's Ministries Department funds shall be expended under the direction of the District Presbytery and the District Women's Ministries Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 majority of all votes cast at any regular District Council in session, provided it does not conflict with the District Council Constitution and Bylaws.

**BYLAWS FOR
GIRLS MINISTRIES**

**Bylaws for
Girls Ministries**

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ARTICLE I. NAME

This organization shall be made up of Rainbows, Daisies, Prims, Stars and Ys, and will be known as Girls Ministries on the National, District, and Local levels. Operation, guidelines, and activities shall be under the direction of the Women's Ministries of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, and in harmony with the Southern Missouri District Council.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

A. The purpose of this organization shall be to unite girls of the Southern Missouri District in definite efforts to spread the gospel both at home and abroad.

B. The objective of the organization is to win members to Christ, to teach them Bible-based guidelines for Christian living, to acquaint them with World and U.S. missions, to challenge members to develop talents and potential for a happy and useful life, to help them develop Christian relationships and consider others.

ARTICLE III. TENETS OF FAITH

A. The Girls Ministries of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God accept the Holy Scriptures verbally inspired and adopt the Statement of Fundamental Truths approved by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

B. In keeping with the Four Cardinal Doctrines of the Bible, the spiritual emphasis in all teachings will center upon Salvation, the Holy Spirit, Divine Healing, and the Rapture of the Church.

ARTICLE IV. GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Officers

a. Girls Ministries Executive Officers. The executive officers shall be the District Women's Ministries Executive Director, the District Women's Ministries Director, and the District Girls Ministries Coordinator.

b. Sectional Girls Ministries Representatives. There shall be a representative from each section.

Girls Ministries Bylaws

c. Other officers. Other officers may be appointed as needed to meet the requirements of the Girls Ministries Department.

d. Girls Ministries Executive Committee. The Girls Ministries Executive Committee shall consist of the District Girls Ministries Coordinator as chairperson, the District Women's Ministries Executive Director, and the District Women's Ministries Director. The District Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent are ex officio members.

e. Advisory Board. The Advisory Board shall consist of the Executive Committee and the Sectional Representatives.

Section 2. Duties of Officers

a. District. The District Girls Ministries Coordinator shall follow a written job description supplied by the National Girls Ministries coordinator. This may be adapted to suit the Southern Missouri District Girls Ministries. The District Girls Ministries Coordinator shall chair the meetings of the Executive Committee and the Advisory Board.

b. Section. The Sectional Girls Ministries Representative shall facilitate the District Girls Ministries program at the Sectional level in cooperation with the District Girls Ministries Coordinator and the District and Sectional Women's Ministries leaders.

ARTICLE V. APPOINTMENTS, VACANCIES, REMOVALS

Section 1. Qualifications and Appointments

a. Qualifications. All officers shall be women of mature experience, sound Christian character, and have executive ability, baptized in the Holy Spirit, and are members of an Assemblies of God church. At least one of the executive officers on both the district and the sectional level shall be a minister's wife or an ordained minister.

(1) District Girls Ministries Coordinator. Qualifications for the District Girls Ministries Coordinator shall be the same as for the District Women's Ministries officers. She shall have completed or be working toward completing the Women's Ministries and Girls Ministries leadership courses.

(2) Sectional Girls Ministries Representatives. Qualifications for Sectional Girls Ministries Representatives shall be the same as the district Women's Ministries officers and the District Girls Ministries Coordinator. She shall have completed or be working toward completing the Women's Ministries and Girls Ministries leadership training courses.

b. Appointments.

(1) **District Girls Ministries Coordinator.** The District Girls Ministries Coordinator shall be nominated by the Executive Women's Ministries Committee, appointed by the District Superintendent, and ratified by the District Presbytery. Her term of office shall be for two years.

(2) **Sectional Girls Ministries Representatives.** The Sectional Executive Committee with the approval of the District Girls Ministries Coordinator, shall appoint the Sectional Girls Ministries Representative and submit the name of said appointee to the Sectional Council in session on a printed ballot with the nominee listed. A blank line shall be left for other nominations to be written in. The Sectional Council must ratify said appointee by secret ballot by a majority vote. The Sectional Girls Ministries Representative shall be elected on alternate years from the Executive Officers of the Section, and shall serve for two years.

Section 2. Vacancies and Removals

a. District. The Girls Ministries Executive Committee, in consultation with and approval of the District Executive Presbytery, shall fill any vacancies by appointment. The appointment shall be for the unexpired term.

b. Sectional Officers. The Sectional Executive Committee in consultation with and approval of the District Girls Ministries Coordinator, shall fill any vacancies by appointment. The appointment shall be for the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

Section 1. District

The District Girls Ministries shall meet at least annually.

Section 2. Section

Sectional meetings are to be held at least twice a year with the dates and places decided by the Sectional Representatives in consultation with, and approval of, the District Girls Ministries Coordinator. These will be held on days other than Sunday so as not to present a pattern of disloyalty to the local church.

Sectional meetings for the purpose of fellowship, planning, and promotion may be held at the request of the Sectional Representative.

Section 3. Girls Ministries Executive Committee

Special meetings of the Girls Ministries Executive Committee shall

Girls Ministries Bylaws

be held upon the request of the District Girls Ministries Coordinator or the District Women's Ministries Director.

ARTICLE VII. FINANCES

Section 1. National

The District Girls Ministries shall tithe its general fund to the National Women's Ministries Department, in line with the General Council policy of support for the national department.

Section 2. District

The local Girls Ministries groups shall tithe its income, sending two-thirds of such tithe to the District Girls Ministries Department.

Section 3. Section

The local Girls Ministries groups shall send one-third of its tithes to the Sectional Girls Ministries Representative to be used for the support of the sectional Girls Ministries program. Offerings shall be received at sectional Girls Ministries functions to defray the expenses incurred by the section. A tithe from income of a sectional activity should be sent to the District Girls Ministries Department.

Section 4. Disbursements

All funds of the District Girls Ministries shall be expended under the direction of the District Presbytery and the District Girls Ministries Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 majority of all votes cast at any regular District Council in session, provided it does not conflict with the District Council Constitution and Bylaws.

**BYLAWS FOR
MEN'S MINISTRIES**

**Bylaws for
Men’s Ministries**

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PREAMBLE

For the purpose of mobilizing men for Christian action, for fostering Christian fellowship and the utilization of our men in active Christian ministry in the local church, sectional and district levels, we, the members of the Men's Ministries Department of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, agree to be governed by the following Bylaws.

ARTICLE I. NAME

This organization shall be called the Men's Ministries Department of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

A. The purpose of this organization shall be to assist in unifying Assemblies of God men on the local church, section, district, and national levels in participating in the objectives of the Men's Ministries Department.

B. The objectives of the Men's Ministries Department of the Southern Missouri District are:

1) To Challenge, train, and involve men in meaningful ministries in key areas of the church under the leadership of the pastor.

2) To unite the efforts of men in national and district advances such as: HonorBound, National Men's Ministries resources; Lifestyle Evangelism, the personal soul-winning emphasis; Light-For-The-Lost, the foreign missionary arm; Royal Rangers, the boy's ministry; Church Construction Corps, the construction ministry; and other designated district projects.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the District Men's Ministries Department shall be comprised of all authorized Men's Ministries organizations in local Assemblies of God churches of the Southern Missouri District.

ARTICLE IV. RELATIONSHIP

A. The Men's Ministries shall be an integral part of and under the supervision of the Southern Missouri District Council. It may, however, enjoy the right to conduct its business and promote its ministries.

B. Each local Men's Ministries group shall be considered an integral part of the local church. It shall be under the supervision of the pastor or an appointed representative.

ARTICLE V. TENETS OF FAITH

The Men's Ministries Department of the Southern Missouri District shall subscribe to the Tenets of Faith as set forth by the General Council and the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, as stated in Article V of the Constitution of the Southern Missouri District Council.

ARTICLE VI. GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Officers

a. District Presbytery. The District Presbytery shall review and ratify all phases of the Men's Ministries.

b. Men's Ministries Executive Committee. The Men's Ministries Executive Committee shall be comprised of the District Superintendent, District Executive Men's Ministries Director, District Men's Ministries Director, the District Lifestyle Evangelism Coordinator, the District Chairman of Light-For-The-Lost, the District Royal Rangers Commander, the District Church Construction Corps Coordinator(s), and one regional Men's Ministries Director from each of the four regions of the Southern Missouri District. The District Men's Ministries Director shall serve as chairman of this committee.

c. Men's Ministries Sectional Committee. The Men's Ministries Sectional Committee shall be comprised of the Sectional Presbyter, Sectional Men's Ministries Representative, Sectional Lifestyle Evangelism Coordinator, Sectional Light-For-The-Lost Chairman, Church Construction Corps Coordinator, and the Sectional Royal Rangers Commander. The Sectional Men's Ministries Representative shall serve as chairman of this committee.

Section 2. Duties

a. District Officers. It shall be the duty of all District Men's Ministries officers to encourage and offer assistance in the conducting of district, sectional, and local meetings or get-togethers of the men of the district. They shall assist further in the formation of local Men's Ministries groups throughout the district in careful cooperation with the pastor.

(1) Men's Ministries Executive Committee. The Men's Ministries Executive Committee shall be responsible to develop and implement the District Men's Ministries program.

(2) District Executive Men's Ministries Director. The District Executive Men's Ministries Director shall be responsible for serving as liaison between the District Presbytery and the District Men's Ministries Executive Committee. He shall serve as an ex officio member of all district and sectional committees.

(3) **District Men's Ministries Director.** The District Men's Ministries Director shall be responsible for promoting and administering the ministries of Men's Ministries in the district. He shall serve as an ex officio member of all district and sectional committees. He shall serve as chairman of the Men's Ministries Executive Committee. Progress of the Men's Ministries as administered by the District Men's Ministries Director shall be reviewed periodically by the District Presbytery.

(4) **Assistant District Men's Ministries Director.** The Assistant District Men's Ministries Director shall assist the director in the work of Men's Ministries and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Men's Ministries Executive Committee.

(5) **District Lifestyle Evangelism Coordinator.** The District Lifestyle Evangelism Coordinator shall promote and coordinate evangelism training and personal witnessing invasions. He shall make plans and help conduct Lifestyle Evangelism meetings in every church.

(6) **District Light-For-The-Lost Chairman.** The District Light-For-The-Lost Chairman shall promote and coordinate Light-For-The-Lost activities in the district. He shall assist in planning and conducting Light-For-The-Lost area banquets.

(7) **District Royal Rangers Commander.** The District Royal Rangers Commander shall upon request, assist organizing local Royal Rangers outposts and conduct such leadership training seminars, commanders conferences, pow wows, etc., that are deemed necessary for implementing the Royal Rangers program in his district.

(8) **District Church Construction Corps Coordinator(s).** The District Church Construction Corps Coordinator(s) shall assist in promoting and organizing approved domestic and foreign construction projects.

b. Sectional Officers

(1) **Sectional Men's Ministries Committee.** The Sectional Men's Ministries Committee shall correlate the overall activities of Men's Ministries on a sectional basis. Specifically, it shall promote each of the phases of Men's Ministries in the section during the year.

(2) **Sectional Men's Ministries Representative.** The Sectional Men's Ministries Representative shall be responsible for coordinating all facets of the Men's Ministries within the section and shall serve under the supervision of the District Men's Ministries Director and the Sectional Presbyter. He shall serve as chairman of the Men's Ministries Sectional Committee. He shall encourage the organizing of Men's Ministries in each church in his section in cooperation with the pastor and local groups.

(3) **Other Sectional Officers.** The Sectional Lifestyle Evangelism Coordinator, the Sectional Church Construction Corps Coordinator, the Sectional Light-For-The-Lost Chairman, and the Sectional Royal Rangers Commander shall assist the Sectional Men's Ministries Representative in

promoting Men's Ministries. Each Sectional Chairman shall be responsible to make plans and administrate the activities in his respective ministry through the section. He shall contribute his time, talent, and finances in the support of the District Men's Ministries Department.

ARTICLE VII. APPOINTMENTS, VACANCIES, REMOVALS

Section 1. Qualifications and Appointments

a. Qualifications

(1) **District Officers.** The district officers shall be men of mature experience, sound Christian character, and have executive ability, baptized in the Holy Spirit, and are members of the Assemblies of God. At least one of the executive officers on the district level shall be an ordained minister.

(2) **Sectional Officers**

(a) The Men's Ministries Representative, the Lifestyle Evangelism Coordinator, Church Construction Corps Coordinator(s), and the Light-For-The-Lost Chairman shall be men who have a special interest and burden for his respective ministry, member of the Assemblies of God, and is willing to support the District Men's Ministries with his time, talent, and finances.

(b) The Sectional Royal Rangers Commander shall be a man, preferably layman, of the highest caliber who should have received the Leaders Medal of Achievement, and shall be a member of the Assemblies of God.

b. Appointments

(1) **District Officers**

(a) The District Executive Men's Ministries Director and the District Men's Ministries Director shall be appointed by the District Presbytery for a term of two years.

(b) The Assistant District Men's Ministries Director shall be nominated by the District Men's Ministries Director from among the other members of the District Men's Ministries Executive Committee, and appointed by the District Superintendent and/or the District Presbytery, and shall serve for two years.

(c) The District Lifestyle Evangelism Coordinator, the District Church Construction Corps Coordinator(s), the District Chairman of Light-For-The-Lost, and the District Royal Rangers Commander shall be nominated by the District Men's Ministries Executive Committee and appointed by the District Superintendent and/or the District Presbytery, and shall serve for two years.

(2) **Sectional Officers**

(a) **Men's Ministries Representative.** The Sectional

Executive Committee with the approval of the District Men's Ministries Executive Committee shall appoint the Sectional Men's Ministries Representative, and submit the name of said appointee to the Sectional Council in session on a printed ballot with the nominee listed. A blank line shall be left for other nominations to be written in. The Sectional Council must ratify said appointees by secret ballot by a majority vote. He shall be elected on alternate years from the Executive Officers of the Section, and shall serve for two years.

(b) Lifestyle Evangelism Coordinator, Church Construction Corps Coordinator, and L.F.T.L. Chairman. The Sectional Lifestyle Evangelism Coordinator, the Sectional Church Construction Corps Coordinator, and the Sectional Light-For-The-Lost Chairman, shall be appointed by the District Men's Ministries Director with the approval of the Sectional Presbyter of the section where they will serve. Their term of office shall be two years.

(c) Royal Rangers Commander. The Sectional Royal Rangers Commander shall be appointed by the District Royal Rangers Commander, subject to the approval of the District Men's Ministries Director and the Sectional Presbyter.

Section 2. Vacancies & Removals

a. District Officers. The District Men's Ministries Executive Committee, in consultation with and approval of the District Executive Presbytery, shall fill any vacancies by appointments. The appointment shall be for the unexpired term.

b. Sectional Officers

(1) Men's Ministries Representative, Lifestyle Evangelism Coordinator, Church Construction Corps Coordinator, L.F.T.L. Chairman. The Sectional Executive Committee, in consultation with and approval of the District Men's Ministries Director, shall fill any vacancies occurring in the office of Men's Ministries Representative, Lifestyle Evangelism, Church Construction Corps, or Light-For-The-Lost, by appointment. The appointment shall be for the unexpired term.

(2) Royal Rangers Commander. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Royal Rangers Commander, the Sectional Executive Committee, in consultation with, and approval of the District Royal Rangers Commander, shall fill such vacancy by appointment for the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VIII. DISTRICT FINANCES

District finances may be obtained from several sources:

Men's Ministries Bylaws

1) Each Sectional Lifestyle Evangelism Coordinator, Sectional Light-For-The-Lost Chairman, Sectional Church Construction Corps Coordinator, and Sectional Royal Rangers Commander may be asked to contribute an amount (to be decided upon) for the support of the District Men's Ministries Department.

2) Men who have an interest and a particular burden to underwrite the expenses of the Men's Ministries program may be enrolled in the district on a "club" basis.

3) District Men's Ministries Department is encouraged to give financial support to the National Men's Ministries Department.

4) Offerings received from the sectional rallies and sectional boys activities in local churches.

5) Other projects may be utilized for support of the Men's Ministries program as recommended by the Men's Ministries committee of the district or section.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 majority of all votes cast at any regular District Council in session, provided it does not conflict with the District Council Constitution and Bylaws.

**BYLAWS FOR
ROYAL RANGERS**

**Bylaws for
Royal Rangers**

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ARTICLE I. NAME

Royal Rangers shall be considered a division of the Men's Ministries Department of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to reach, teach, and keep boys for Jesus Christ, and to provide for men a ministry among boys. The goals shall be to instruct in Bible doctrine, to challenge for Christian service, to inspire a belief in the Fundamental Truths of our church, and to satisfy the boy's basic need for activity.

ARTICLE III. RELATIONSHIP

A. Each local Royal Rangers Outpost shall be considered a subordinate part of its church, and shall be subject to the direction of the pastor.

B. The sectional and district organizations shall likewise be considered subordinate parts of the section and district, and shall be amenable thereto.

ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH

A. The Royal Rangers of the Southern Missouri District shall subscribe to the Tenets of Faith as set forth by the General Council and the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, as stated in Article V of the Constitution of the Southern Missouri District Council.

B. In keeping with the Four Cardinal Doctrines of the Bible, the spiritual emphasis in all outposts shall center upon Salvation, the Holy Spirit, Divine Healing, and the Rapture of the Church.

ARTICLE V. GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Officers

a. District Officers

(1) District Chaplain. The District Superintendent shall, by virtue of office, serve as the District Chaplain and shall be an ex officio member of all committees.

(2) Executive Director. The District Executive Men's Ministries

Royal Rangers Bylaws

Director shall, by virtue of his office, serve as the Executive Director of the Royal Rangers program.

(3) **Director.** The District Men's Ministries Department Director shall, by virtue of his office, serve as the Director of the Royal Rangers program.

(4) **District Organization.** The officers of the district organization shall consist of the District Royal Rangers Commander, the Deputy District Commanders, including the Divisional Commanders, the District Public Relations Coordinator, the District Training Coordinator, the District Program Coordinator, and the President of the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship (FCF).

(5) **Executive Committee.** The officers listed above shall comprise the District Royal Rangers Executive Committee.

(6) **District Advisory Committee.** The district officers together with the sectional officers shall comprise the District Advisory Committee. The District Advisory Committee serves as an advisory body only to the Royal Ranger Executive Committee.

b. Sectional Officers

(1) **Sectional Chaplain.** The Sectional Presbyter may serve as chaplain of the sectional organization.

(2) **Sectional Organization.** The officers of the sectional organization shall consist of Sectional and Area Commanders.

c. National Royal Rangers Council. Seven officers of the District Royal Rangers Executive Committee: The District Men's Ministries Director; The District Royal Rangers Commander; a Deputy District Royal Rangers Commander; the District Public Relations Coordinator; the District Training Coordinator; The District Program Coordinator; and the President of the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship; shall represent the Southern Missouri District Royal Rangers at the annual National Royal Rangers Council.

d. Other Officers. The District Royal Rangers Commander may appoint other officers as needed to serve on a district or sectional level.

Section 2. Duties of Officers

a. District Officers

(1) **Director.** The District Men's Ministries Department Director shall serve as the Director of the Royal Rangers and shall have the general oversight of the Royal Rangers program.

(2) **District Commander.** The District Royal Rangers Commander shall work in harmony with the District Men's Ministries Department Director in promoting interest in the Royal Rangers. He shall

supervise District Pow-Wows and perform other duties customary with his office.

b. Sectional Officers. Sectional and area commanders shall work with their respective Men's Ministries Department Directors in promotion of the Royal Rangers program.

c. Other Officers. Other officers of the district and sections shall cooperate with the District Royal Rangers Commander in properly relating the Royal Rangers program to local churches.

ARTICLE VI. APPOINTMENTS, VACANCIES, REMOVALS

Section 1. Appointments

a. District Officers

(1) **Director.** By virtue of office, the District Men's Ministries Department Director shall be the Director of the Royal Rangers.

(2) **District Commander.** The District Royal Rangers Commander shall be nominated by the District Men's Ministries Executive Committee and appointed by the District Superintendent and/or the District Presbytery, and shall serve for two years, or until his successor is appointed.

(3) **Other Officers.** The District Royal Rangers Commander in consultation with the District Men's Ministries Director may appoint, subject to the approval of the District Superintendent and/or the District Presbytery, the Deputy District Commanders, including the Divisional Commanders, the District Public Relations Coordinator, the District Training Coordinator, the District Program Coordinator, and the President of the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship. The term of office shall be for two years.

b. Sectional Officers. The Sectional Royal Rangers Commander and Area Commanders shall be appointed by the District Royal Rangers Commander, subject to the approval of the District Men's Ministries Director and the Sectional Presbyter.

c. Other Officers. Other officers may be appointed by the District Royal Rangers Commander as needed to serve on a district or sectional level.

Section 2. Vacancies and Removals

a. District Officers. The District Royal Rangers Commander in consultation with the District Mens Ministries Director, subject to the

Royal Rangers Bylaws

approval of the Executive Presbytery, shall fill all vacancies by appointment. Appointment shall be for the unexpired term.

b. Sectional Officers. The Sectional Executive Committee, in consultation with, and approval of the District Royal Rangers Commander, shall fill such vacancy by appointment for the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS

Section 1. District Meetings

Annual and semiannual meetings of the Royal Rangers shall be held in the out-of-doors with emphasis to be on spiritual life and camping skills. These gatherings may be known as Pow-Wows, Trace, Rendezvous, Camporama, etc., with date and place to be determined by the District Royal Rangers Commander in consultation with the District Royal Rangers Executive Committee.

Section 2. Executive Meetings

Special meetings of the District Royal Rangers Executive Committee and the District Advisory Committee shall be held upon the call of the District Royal Rangers Commander.

Section 3. Sectional Meetings

Sectional meetings for the purpose of fellowship and promotion may be held at the call of the Sectional Royal Rangers Commander in cooperation with the Sectional Men's Ministries Director.

ARTICLE VIII. FRONTIERSMEN CAMPING FELLOWSHIP

Section 1. Purpose

The District shall have a chapter of the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship. Its purpose shall be to give special recognition to men and boys of outstanding achievement and to build an elite corps of camping enthusiasts.

Section 2. Officers

a. President. The President of the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship shall be elected at the District Fall Trace and shall perform duties as recommended by the National Royal Rangers Office. A man may be elected to the office of President for 2 terms of 3 years each, and may not succeed himself for a third term without sitting out a term.

b. District Scout. The District Scout will be elected annually at the District Fall Trace. The Scout must be less than 17 1/2 years of age at the

time of the Fall Trace. He may serve for 3 terms of office of one year each.

c. Other Officers. All other officers are appointed by the District Royal Rangers Executive Committee.

Section 3. Meetings and Membership

Meetings and membership requirements shall be under the direction of the chapter officers in accord with National Royal Rangers Office directives.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 majority of all votes cast at any regular District Council in session, provided it does not conflict with the District Council Constitution and Bylaws.

**BYLAWS FOR
FIFTY PLUS ADULT MINISTRIES**

**Bylaws for
Fifty Plus Ministries**

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ARTICLE I. NAME

Fifty Plus Adult Ministries shall be considered a division of the Christian Education Department of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization is:

A. To continue to disciple and equip adult members and adherents of Southern Missouri District churches who have entered into their mature adult years.

B. To provide effective and meaningful opportunities for ministry to all senior adults in Southern Missouri District churches.

C. To provide fellowship opportunities for all senior adults in Southern Missouri District churches.

D. To evangelize senior adults who are unchurched throughout the Southern Missouri District.

E. To equip pastors and other ministers in Southern Missouri District churches to effectively minister to senior adults in their communities.

ARTICLE III. RELATIONSHIPS

Section 1.

The Fifty Plus Adult Ministries is a part of the Christian Education Department of the Southern Missouri District.

Section 2.

The Sectional Fifty Plus Adult Ministries Representative shall be considered a subordinate part of the section and shall be amenable thereto.

Section 3.

Fifty Plus Adult Ministries Representatives in the local church, district or general council, shall be considered a subordinate part of the church and amenable thereto.

ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH

The Fifty Plus Adult Ministries ascribes wholly to the Statement of Fundamental Truths contained in Article V of the Constitution of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE V. GOVERNMENT

Section 1.

District Presbytery. The District Presbytery shall review and ratify all phases of Fifty Plus Adult Ministries.

Section 2.

District Fifty Plus Adult Ministries Director. The District Fifty Plus Adult Ministries Director shall be appointed by the District Presbytery and shall be responsible for promoting and administering the ministries of Fifty Plus Adult Ministries in the district.

Section 3.

Sectional Fifty Plus Adult Ministries Representative: The Sectional Executive Committee with the consultation of the District Fifty Plus Adult Ministries Director shall appoint the Sectional Fifty Plus Adult Ministries Representative and submit the name of the appointee to the Sectional Council on a printed ballot with the nominee listed. The Sectional Council must ratify the appointee by secret ballot by a majority vote. The Sectional Fifty Plus Adult Ministries Representative shall serve a term of two years.

ARTICLE VI. VACANCIES AND REMOVALS

Section 1.

District Fifty Plus Adult Ministries Director. The District Executive Presbytery shall fill any vacancies by appointment.

Section 2.

Sectional Fifty Plus Adult Ministries Director. The Sectional Executive Committee in consultation with the District Fifty Plus Adult Ministries Director shall fill any vacancies by appointment. The appointment shall be for the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VII. FINANCES

The goal of this ministry will be to become financially self-funding. However, the district is committed to assisting this ministry until it becomes self-sustaining. District finances may be obtained from several sources, including, but not limited to:

A. Each Sectional Fifty Plus Adult Ministries Representative may be asked to plan an event and contribute an amount (to be determined) for the support of the District Fifty Plus Adult Ministries.

B. Persons who have a particular interest or burden for District Fifty Plus

Adult Ministries to underwrite the expenses of the program may give designated gifts to the District.

C. Offerings will be received at Sectional and District rallies and other events.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 majority of all votes cast at any regular District Council in session. No amendment may conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Southern Missouri District of the Assemblies of God.

**BYLAWS FOR
DISTRICT COUNCIL
AFFILIATED ASSEMBLIES**

**Bylaws for
District Council Affiliated Assemblies**

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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 Spirit 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, the members of this assembly, do hereby recognize ourselves as a local assembly in fellowship with, and as a part of, the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God; and that we do hereby adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this assembly shall be _____ . This assembly's affiliation with the Assemblies of God shall be made known in it's name, its advertising, and its publications.

ARTICLE II. PREROGATIVES AND PURPOSES

The prerogatives and purposes of a District Council affiliated assembly shall be:

A. This assembly shall be governed by these Bylaws and the Bylaws of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, and shall conduct its affairs according to the standard of the New Testament scriptures and of the Southern Missouri District Council, "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace... till we all come to the unity of the 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. 4:12,13).

B. 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 purposes, and to exercise all other powers conferred upon it by its charter or by the applicable nonprofit corporation law of this state; all in accordance with its Bylaws as the same may be hereafter amended.

C. This assembly is organized exclusively for religious, charitable, and educational purposes, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under

District Council Affiliated Assemblies Bylaws

section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law). In particular, this assembly is organized exclusively for the following purposes: To establish and maintain 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 Spirit may be honored according to our distinctive testimony; and 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.

D. 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 sessions through its appointed delegate.

E. This assembly shall recognize that the District Council has the authority and right to approve scriptural doctrine and conduct; also to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct and to withdraw their certificate of affiliation if deemed necessary.

ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION

This assembly shall voluntarily enter into full cooperative fellowship with assemblies of like precious faith, associated in the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, and the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri; and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation.

Officers of the District Council and General Council shall be recognized and respected by the pastor and members of this assembly.

It is understood and agreed that this assembly shall conform its standards of membership, qualifications for officers, and requirements in a pastor, to those standards which are set by the District Council. All action taken under these Bylaws by the assembly shall be subject to review and approval by the church board.

By its affiliation, the assembly, its officers, and members agree to submit to the authority of, and be governed by, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God as now in effect or hereafter amended.

All New Church Plants and District affiliated assemblies shall be required to:

1. Become and remain incorporated with the State of Missouri.

2. Secure and maintain adequate insurance coverage of building, contents, related liabilities, and liability coverage for professional misconduct.
3. Maintain weekly church services.
4. Submit a quarterly report form to the Sectional Presbyter and District.
5. Maintain an active voting membership roll.

If any New Church Plant or District affiliated assembly cannot fulfill these requirements, the Sectional Presbyter or Sectional Executive Committee may investigate and evaluate that assembly's viability, and based upon their findings, the Sectional Executive Committee may recommend to the District Presbytery any supervision, assistance, or necessary actions that may be helpful to the church or District for the protection of the District.

ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH

(As stated in the Constitution of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God).

ARTICLE V. ORDINANCES

Section 1. Baptism in Water

The ordinance of baptism by immersion in water (Matt. 28:19) shall be administered to all who have believed on 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. Holy Communion

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly as enjoined in the Scriptures (Luke 22:19,20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership Eligibility

Active voting membership in this assembly shall be open to all those who possess the following qualifications:

- a. A testimony to an experience of the "new birth."
- b. Approval for membership shall be preceded by baptism in water by immersion.

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c. The applicant shall be expected to manifest a lifestyle portraying a positive Christian testimony which is free from worldliness (1 John 2:15).

d. The applicant must abstain from drinking intoxicating liquors of any kind and the use of tobacco in any form.

e. The applicant must refrain from the sins listed in Galatians 5:19-21.

f. The applicant must agree, and adhere to scriptural basis for divorce and remarriage (Matt. 19:9; 1 Cor. 7:15-28).

g. The applicant must indicate willingness to tithe regularly to the financial support of the church in which membership is requested.

h. The applicant must accept the Tenets of Faith as set forth in Article IV of these bylaws.

i. The applicant is at least 18 years of age.

j. The applicant has regularly attended services of, and supported this assembly with personal tithes, for a period of at least three consecutive months prior to the date of application for membership.

k. The applicant agrees to be governed by the bylaws of this assembly, and of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, as both may be amended from time to time.

Section 2. Procedure for Membership Recognition

Those individuals eligible for membership who shall desire to become members of this church shall make their request to the pastor. The pastor and Presbyter shall have the right and authority to determine the eligibility and acceptability of all applicants for membership. Those approved for membership shall be received into the church publicly at any of its regular services, and their names thereupon added to the church membership roll. No applicant for membership shall be accepted as a member within thirty days before an annual business meeting or within ten days before a special business meeting.

Section 3. Pastor and Spouse

By virtue of office the pastor shall be considered an active voting member of the church during the pastor's tenure. The pastor's spouse shall become an active voting member simultaneously with the pastor, subject to Article VI, Section 1.

Section 4. Transfer Members

A member in good standing of another Assemblies of God church, who satisfies the standards for membership eligibility specified in Section 1 of this Article VI (other than the attendance and support requirements), may apply for membership by submitting a letter of transfer from the pastor of the other assembly, upon the approval of the church board.

Section 5. Junior Membership

Junior membership shall be available for young people under 18 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 the pastor.

When the Junior member reaches the age of 18, they must then apply for adult membership and meet the same standard of membership as an active member at the time they apply.

Section 6. Associate Members

The pastor and Presbyter may approve the acceptance of associate members. Eligibility for associate membership is available to any person who is a member in good standing of an Assemblies of God church in another community, who is in this community on a temporary basis, and who intends to return to his or her home church. Associate members shall be entitled to all the privileges of active members, except that they shall not be eligible to vote and shall not be eligible for the office of secretary-treasurer.

Section 7. Honorary Members

The pastor and Presbyter may approve the acceptance of honorary members. Honorary membership is available to any member who has left the church indefinitely. Honorary membership recognition shall continue as long as the member maintains a consistent Christian life, remains sound in doctrine, and maintains a cooperative attitude toward the home assembly. Such membership shall have an inactive status unless activated by the pastor and presbyter.

Section 8. Inactive Membership

Voting members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of the assembly for a period of two consecutive months, or cease to contribute regularly to its support as determined by the pastor and Presbyter for a period of two consecutive months, shall be considered as inactive members and shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to active status. That person or persons shall be notified by first class mail that this action has been taken.

Section 9. Discipline

a. Grounds. Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible. Matt. 16:19; Matt. 18:15-20; Luke 17:3; John 20:23; Acts 16:4; Eph. 5:11; I Tim. 5:20; II Tim. 4:2; Heb. 13:17. The purpose of discipline is to promote repentance and restoration through exposing sinful behavior. It is to be redemptive in nature as well as corrective. Any member of the Assembly is subject to discipline on the basis of unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the Tenets of Faith of this assembly. The discipline of pastors is administered by the District Presbytery.

b. Procedure. Should any member of this church, in the opinion of the church board, fall below the standard of membership as stated in Bylaws Article I. Membership, Section 1, in faith or practice, or should their spirit become contentious and discordant to the well-being of the church the following procedure, based on Matt. 18:15-18, shall be followed.

(1) The pastor and/or a designated member of the church board shall make every reasonable effort to contact the person and resolve the matter.

(2) If the first step does not resolve the matter then the official board shall attempt to meet with the member in an effort to resolve the matter.

(3) If the first and second steps do not resolve the matter then the official board may, at it's discretion upon a majority vote, do one of two things:

(a) Place the person's membership on probation for a specific or indefinite time. The member may be restored from such inactive status to the active membership in the same manner.

(b) Dismiss the person from membership in the church. The disciplined or dismissed member shall have the right within 30 days of such action to appeal to the membership in a special business meeting called for that purpose. Such appeal shall be in writing and addressed to the church board. The decision of a majority of the voting members present at such a meeting shall be final.

c. Resignations. Members who are under discipline by this assembly forfeit and waive the right to resign from membership in this assembly. Resignations from membership are possible only by those members in good standing who are not under any disciplinary action.

ARTICLE VII. GOVERNMENT

Section 1. The Church Board

The government of this assembly shall be vested in the church board

made up of an Executive Board and a General Board. The Executive Board shall consist of the Pastor, the District Superintendent, the Assistant District Superintendent, the District Secretary-Treasurer, the Executive Presbyter of the area, and the Sectional Presbyter. The General Board shall consist of the Pastor and the Sectional Executive Committee. These boards shall act as trustees of the church property, and shall serve in the management of all spiritual and material affairs of the assembly. The General Board shall be empowered to act, between meetings of the Executive Board, in matters pertaining to the assembly. Their actions shall be subject to the approval, if contested, of the Executive Board. The Pastor and Sectional Presbyter shall serve on both the Executive Board and the General Board of the assembly. The General Board shall meet at least on an annual basis to review the state of the assembly.

Section 2. Ministry Committee

A ministry committee may be chosen at the discretion of the pastor and presbyter from the membership of the assembly to consult with the pastor and make recommendations to the pastor and church board in matters pertaining to the assembly. The pastor and presbyter, at their discretion, may receive names recommended for the Ministry Committee. The final appointment shall be made by the pastor in consultation with the presbyter.

It is understood that the Ministry Committee members are not deacons or trustees. They do not govern the church or have any authority over the church affairs unless some authority is delegated by the official board (refer to Article XII, Section - Church Board - Bylaws) for some special circumstance. This is a committee to assist the pastor as the pastor deems necessary.

This committee has no power or authority over the pastor to dictate to or demand any certain action from. The pastor is under the authority and supervision of the official board. The pastor has the authority to make decisions about ongoing operations of the church without seeking approval of the committee. The pastor, official board, and Ministry Committee shall be sensitive toward the needs and wishes of the congregation.

In the event of a pastoral vacancy, the Ministry Committee shall recognize the authority of the presbyter to appoint interim speakers to fill the pulpit, and the church board's authority to name the pastor's successor as defined in Article VIII, Section 1(a).

The members of this committee shall be supporters of the church in tithes and offerings and have a cooperative spirit and shall regularly attend church services. Ministry Committee members shall not hold ministerial credentials and shall act in a supportive role to the pastor.

Section 3. Duties of Officers

a. Pastor.

(1) The pastor shall be the chairman of the ministry committee, leader of the congregation, and be the spiritual overseer of the assembly, under the supervision of the church board. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the assembly without the pastor's approval.

(2) The pastor shall be responsible to maintain the membership roll, revising the membership roll at least annually, retaining a copy for the pastor's records, and providing a copy for the church secretary.

b. Secretary.

(1) The secretary shall keep a record of the membership of the assembly and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of the secretary's duties.

(2) The secretary shall keep official and legal documents committed to the secretary's care.

(3) The secretary shall file such annual corporation reports with the Secretary of State as may be required by state law.

(4) The secretary shall be amenable to the pastor and the church board.

c. Treasurer.

(1) The treasurer shall be entrusted with all the finances of the assembly that are committed to them, subject to the supervision of the pastor and church board. The treasurer shall deposit all funds in federally insured accounts, or any other account approved by the Official Board, in the name of the assembly. All checks issued on behalf of the church must be signed by the treasurer and the pastor.

(2) The treasurer shall keep an itemized account of receipts and disbursements. The treasurer shall assist the pastor in making the quarterly and annual financial reports required by the church board, and shall present an annual report to the assembly in its annual business meeting.

(3) The treasurer shall assist the assembly in acquiring and maintaining available tax exemptions under state and local law.

(4) The treasurer shall provide a record of all identified giving to each donor at least annually.

(5) The treasurer shall be charged with the care of the financial records of the church. It is recommended that all financial records be kept and secured within the church facilities.

(6) The treasurer shall be amenable to the pastor and the church board.

ARTICLE VIII. APPOINTMENTS, VACANCIES, REMOVALS

Section 1. Pastor

a. Appointment. The pastor shall be appointed by the church board. Whenever feasible, an expression of the assembly may be taken to determine the desire of the members. The pastor shall serve under such appointment until the pastor's successor shall be appointed. It is understood that the board that had the right to appoint the pastor, shall also have the right to limit the term of office.

b. Vacancy. In the event of the resignation of the pastor before the expiration of the term of office, the pastor shall notify the District Superintendent and the Sectional Presbyter at least 30 days in advance.

c. Removal. In the event of serious charges being preferred against a pastor, or should the pastor's ministry cease to be effective, the church board may remove the pastor.

Section 2. Secretary/Treasurer

A secretary and a treasurer (or secretary-treasurer) may be nominated by the congregation or the ministry committee, and appointed by the pastor, subject to the approval of the Sectional Presbyter, from among the members of the church, to serve for a period of one year from date of appointment, or until a successor is appointed.

Section 3. In General

Other positions of leadership in the church shall be appointed by the pastor, subject to the approval of the Sectional Presbyter.

Section 4. Vacancies

Should any vacancy occur among the officers of the assembly, the pastor, subject to the approval of the Sectional Presbyter, may fill such vacancy for the unexpired term, in consideration of the needs and desires of the assembly.

Section 5. Removals

Any office in the assembly may be declared vacant by action of the church board. Grounds for such action shall be: (1) unscriptural conduct, (2) doctrinal departure from the Tenets of Faith, (3) incompetency in office.

Any officer being removed shall have an opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing before the assembly if desired.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings for worship

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 or the church board if there is no pastor.

Section 2. Annual business meeting

There shall be an annual business meeting of the assembly, at which time the appointed officers shall be installed and the reports of all officers shall be read. This meeting shall be held in January of each year, the time and place to be announced by the pastor or a member of the church board, after approval of the meeting is given by the Presbyter. Due notice is to be given on the two Sunday mornings immediately preceding the time set for the meeting, or by First Class mail. In the case of the latter, the date of mailing shall be not more than 40 days or less than five (5) days in advance of the date of the meeting.

Section 3. Special business meetings

Special business meetings of the assembly may be called by the Sectional Presbyter at the request of the pastor. Special meetings may also be initiated by petition, having been signed by not less than one-fourth of the active voting members of the assembly, copies of such petition to be placed in the hands of the pastor, the church secretary, the Sectional Presbyter, and the District Superintendent. Such meeting shall be called by the presbyter. Only those members who have regularly attended services of, and supported this assembly with their tithes, for a period of at least six consecutive months prior to signing the petition shall be counted.

Petitions pertaining to the business affairs of the church shall be submitted to the pastor and the church board.

A petition pertaining to the status of the pastor shall be directed to the District Superintendent who shall arrange for a special business meeting of the assembly.

No more than one petition on a given subject shall be recognized in any twelve month period. Notice of the date, time, place, and purpose of each special business meeting shall be announced from the pulpit during morning worship services on the two Sunday mornings immediately preceding the time set for the meeting, or by First Class mail. In the case of the latter, the date of mailing shall be not more than 40 days or less than five (5) days in advance of the date of the meeting.

No business other than that specified in the notice of meeting shall be transacted at any special meeting of the assembly.

Section 4.

Annual and special business meetings of the assembly shall be

conducted by a member of the church board, who shall preside as chairman of the meeting. Upon authorization from the Presbyter, the pastor may chair such meeting. The recommended actions and business of the assembly shall be considered approved if no challenge is made by the church board within 30 days of such actions and recommendations being received by the District Superintendent and the Sectional Presbyter.

Section 5. Parliamentary Order

All business meetings of the church shall be conducted in the spirit of Christian love and fellowship, and governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of ROBERTS' RULES OF ORDER NEWLY REVISED.

Section 6. Voting Constituency

a. Qualifying of voters. The voting constituency at all business meetings of the assembly shall consist of all active voting members who are present and who are 18 years of age or older. (Article VI, Section 1).

b. Transfer members. Transfer members shall have voting privileges after 30 days of transfer of membership. (Article VI, Section 4).

c. Members under process of discipline. No member under the process of discipline shall be entitled to a vote until the process is completed. (Article VI, Section 9).

d. Absentee voting. Absentee ballots may be accepted in business meetings of the assembly from active voting members who are unable to attend by reason of illness, infirmity, workers on duty, or those out of town for valid reasons. Absentee ballots shall be qualified if:

(1) The ballot is sealed in an envelope with the voter's signature on the outside; on a printed ballot form that shall be provided by the assembly.

(2) The ballot shall denote the decision or position being voted on with the vote listed thereafter.

(3) The ballot shall be in the hand of the pastor, church secretary, or deposited in the church office, 24 hours prior to the convening of the business meeting. Such ballot may be delivered by mail, or by a person.

(4) The Sectional Presbyter shall check all absentee ballots to see whether they are qualified. If so, they shall be counted on each vote taken on the decision or position being considered in that meeting on the original proposition.

(5) If the validity of an absentee ballot is in question, the active voting members present shall make the final decisions as to its validity.

District Council Affiliated Assemblies Bylaws

(6) Absentee ballots shall not be accepted for meetings called for the removal of officers or other church leaders.

Section 7. Quorum

One-fourth of the active voting members of this assembly shall constitute a quorum.

Section 8. Order of business

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

- a. Devotional
- b. Reading of previous minutes
- c. Report of treasurer
- d. Report of committees
- e. Unfinished business
- f. Installation of officers
- g. New business
- h. Adjournment

Section 9. Ministry Committee

It is recommended that the ministry committee meet monthly at the call of the pastor to encourage, evaluate, and determine ministry tasks.

Section 10. Membership roll

It shall be the responsibility of the pastor to revise the membership roll at least annually, prior to the annual business meeting.

ARTICLE X. DEPARTMENTS

Section 1. In General

This assembly shall create and maintain such departments and sub-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 Sunday School Superintendent shall be appointed by the pastor, subject to the approval of the Presbyter, from among the members of the church. The pastor and the Sunday school superintendent shall have the right to appoint all officers, teachers, and other workers of the Sunday school.

Section 3. Youth Department

The purpose of the Youth Department shall be to promote fellowship and service among the young people of this assembly. The department shall be subservient to the church body and under the supervision of the pastor.

Section 4. Women's Ministries Department and Men's Ministries Department

The Women's Ministries and the Men's Ministries shall meet for the purpose of fellowship and prayer. They shall minister to the pastor and church locally, in the District, and the world.

ARTICLE XI. FINANCES

Section 1. In General

All funds for the maintenance of the assembly shall be provided by the voluntary contributions, 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 church board and shall be administered by the Treasurer under their direction (Mal. 3:10; Luke 6:38; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:6-8).

Section 2. Handling of offerings

All offerings shall be counted by at least two authorized persons before the funds are removed from the church building. An offering receipts form shall be signed in duplicate by those counting the offering, with one copy going to the treasurer and the other copy given to the pastor. A record shall be kept of all receipts and disbursements of the local assembly and of all individual giving. All funds shall be deposited in federally insured accounts, or any other account approved by the Official Board, in the name of the assembly.

Section 3. Required reports

The pastor and secretary-treasurer shall be responsible to complete the quarterly and annual financial, and other required reports, and submit them to the church board.

Section 4. Pastoral remuneration

a. The pastor shall be remunerated for pastoral services by a salary, a percentage of tithes and offerings, or by other means agreed upon by the church board, the congregation, and the pastor. The Sectional Presbyter shall review the pastor's remuneration at least annually, and make appropriate recommendations to the church membership at the annual business meeting.

b. The pastor shall be given consideration by the congregation for expenses incurred by attendance at District Councils, 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.

c. In the event that a pastor is removed by petition of the church members before the pastor's term expires for any reason except moral turpitude, the pastor shall be given a minimum of two months regular or average remuneration as severance pay.

d. In the event of the death of the senior pastor of a church, a benefit of compassion shall be given to the surviving spouse departing from and not continuing in the pastorate of that church. This benefit shall be the beginning of consideration and should not be limited to the following provisions. An extension of two months salary, weekly or in one sum, and benefits from the church being pastored at that time shall be provided, with further consideration urged and appreciated. Church owned housing or housing allowance shall also be provided for two months, with further consideration urged and appreciated.

e. Minister's Retirement. It is recommended that each church contribute an amount equal to 5% or more, in accordance to applicable legal limitations, of the minister's compensation to the minister's MBA Retirement account with a minimum contribution of \$50.00 each month. This should be in addition to the minister's regular compensation. A letter will be sent by the District Secretary/Treasurer in November of each year to each church to be read to the Official Board reminding them of this recommendation and encouraging their compliance.

Section 5. Benevolence Fund

A Benevolence Fund shall be established by this assembly for the exercise of its religious and charitable purposes. Suggestions by donors for fund disbursements shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. The administration of this fund, including all disbursements, is subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the church board. Donors making

contributions to the Benevolence Fund will receive a church receipt for their contributions.

ARTICLE XII. PROPERTY

Section 1.

All Property of the assembly shall be deeded to the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, a corporation, 528 W. Battlefield Rd., Springfield, Missouri 65807.

Should it seem feasible to the Official Board of the church, the Deed to the church property may be held in the name of the corporation.

Section 2.

Property deeded to the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, shall be held in trust by them for the assembly as provided in these Bylaws. When the church is affiliated as a General Council assembly, it may request the return of the deed in its corporate name. Such request may be approved provided the District Council is not responsible for the debt or encumbrances on the property.

Section 3.

No real property of the assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, encumbered, or otherwise disposed of, without the same having first been recommended by a vote of at least two-thirds of those in attendance and voting at the annual or special business meeting of the assembly called for the consideration of the proposal. The pastor shall submit these recommendations to the church board, who shall evaluate and act upon them appropriately. The chairman of the church board and the Sectional Presbyter shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized.

Section 4. Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the assembly, none of its funds or assets shall be distributed to any officer, deacon, trustee, or any other individual. The Church board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the assembly, dispose of all of the funds and assets of the assembly by conveying the same to the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, for the purposes of the assembly, and provided that said District Council at the time qualifies as an exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law). Any such funds or assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Circuit Court of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, to such organization as said Court shall determine, which is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes.

ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws can only be amended by the District Council in session by a majority vote.

**BYLAWS FOR
GENERAL COUNCIL AFFILIATED
ASSEMBLIES**

**Bylaws for
General Council Affiliated
Assemblies**

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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 Spirit 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, the members of this assembly, do hereby recognize ourselves as a local assembly in fellowship with, and as a part of, the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God; and that we do hereby adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this assembly shall be _____
_____. This assembly's affiliation with the Assemblies of God shall be made known in it's name, its advertising, and its publications.

ARTICLE II. PREROGATIVES AND PURPOSES

The prerogatives and purposes of a General Council affiliated assembly shall be:

A. This assembly shall have the right to govern itself and to conduct its own affairs according to the standard of the New Testament Scriptures and of the Southern Missouri District Council and the General Council of the Assemblies of God. This right shall specifically include such matters as the calling of a pastor, the election of the church board, and the discipline of its members and the conducting of its own services and church program.

B. 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 purposes, and to exercise all other powers conferred upon it by its charter or by the applicable nonprofit corporation law of this state; all in accordance with its Bylaws as the same may be hereafter amended.

C. This assembly is organized exclusively for religious, charitable, and educational purposes, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding

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D. 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.

E. This assembly shall recognize that the District Council and the General Council have the authority and right to approve scriptural doctrine and conduct; also to disapprove unscriptural 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 as herein set forth, this assembly shall voluntarily enter into full cooperative fellowship with assemblies of like precious faith, associated in the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, and the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri; and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation.

Officers of the District Council and General Council shall be recognized and respected by the pastor and members of this assembly.

As a member of the General Council, this assembly has the right to request the assistance of both the General Council and the District Council in dealing with any of its problems, upon the request of the pastor, a majority of the Church board, or a petition signed by at least twenty percent (20%) of the voting members of the assembly. Only those members who have regularly attended services of, and financially supported this assembly with their tithes, for a period of at least six consecutive months prior to signing the petition shall be counted.

It is understood and agreed that this assembly shall conform its standards of membership, qualifications for deacons, and requirements for a

pastor, to those standards which are set by the District Council and General Council.

By its affiliation, the assembly, its directors, officers and members agree to submit to the authority of and be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of both the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God and the General Council of the Assemblies of God as now in effect or hereafter amended.

ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH

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, 1 Corinthians 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 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 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 (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

THE ADORABLE GODHEAD

a. Terms Defined. The terms *trinity* and *persons*, as related to the Godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, 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, Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16,17).

b. Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead. Christ taught

a distinction of persons 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 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).

c. Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Accordingly, 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; Zechariah 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 no person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17- 30,32,37; 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 to the Holy Ghost. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God (Romans 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. (Matthew 1:23; 1 John 4:2,10,14; Revelation 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** (Matthew 1:21-23; 2 John 3; 1 John 3:8; Hebrews 7:3; 1:1-13).

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 relation 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; 1 John 2: 22,23; 4:1-5; Hebrews 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 (Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Romans 14:11; 1 Corinthians 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; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2: 8,9; Revelation 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; 1 Peter 2:22).
- c. His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
- d. His substitutionary work on the cross (1Corinthians 15:3; 2Corinthians 5:21).
- e. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1Corinthians 15:4).
- f. His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9,11; 2:33; Philippians 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).

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 Evidences 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 (Ephesians 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 also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47,48; 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 (1 Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

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 enduement 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; 1 Corinthians 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; Hebrews 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 Initial Physical 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 (1 Corinthians 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 (Romans 12:1,2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). Scriptures teach a life of “holiness without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). By the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to obey the command: “Be ye holy, for I am holy” (1 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 (Romans 6:1-11,13; 8:1,2,13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12,13; 1 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 firstborn, 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 worshiped 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 (1 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; 1Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).

The Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this 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 a worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12-14).

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 times for the edifying of the body of Christ (Galatians 5:22-26; 1Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

11. The Ministry

A 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), and (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; Matthew 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 (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 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 (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27,30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This 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 (Matthew 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. Baptism in Water

The ordinance of baptism by immersion in water (Matt. 28:19) shall be administered to all who have believed on 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. Holy Communion

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly as enjoined in the Scriptures (Luke 22:19,20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership Eligibility

Active voting membership in this assembly shall be open to all those who possess the following qualifications:

- a. A testimony to an experience of the "new birth."
- b. Approval for membership shall be preceded by baptism in water by immersion.
- c. The applicant shall be expected to manifest a lifestyle portraying a positive Christian testimony which is free from worldliness (1 John 2:15).
- d. The applicant must abstain from drinking intoxicating liquors of any kind and the use of tobacco in any form.
- e. The applicant must refrain from the sins listed in Galatians 5:19-21.
- f. The applicant must agree, and adhere to scriptural basis for divorce and remarriage (Matt. 19:9; 1 Cor. 7:15-28).
- g. The applicant must indicate willingness to tithe regularly to the financial support of the church in which membership is requested.
- h. The applicant must accept the Tenets of Faith as set forth in Article IV of these bylaws.
- i. The applicant is at least 18 years of age.

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j. The applicant has regularly attended services of, and supported this assembly with personal tithes, for a period of at least three consecutive months prior to the date of application for membership.

k. The applicant agrees to be governed by the bylaws of this assembly, and of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, as both may be amended from time to time.

Section 2. Procedure for Membership Recognition

Those individuals eligible for membership who shall desire to become members of this church shall make their request known to the pastor. The church board shall have the right and authority to determine the eligibility and acceptability of all applicants for membership by majority vote. Those approved for membership by the church board shall be received into the church publicly at any of its regular services, and their names thereupon added to the church membership roll. No applicant for membership shall be accepted as a member within thirty days before an annual business meeting or within ten days before a special business meeting.

Section 3. Pastor and Spouse

By virtue of office the pastor shall be considered an active voting member of the church during the pastor's tenure. The pastor's spouse shall become an active voting member simultaneously with the pastor, subject to Article VI, Section 1.

Section 4. Transfer Members

A member in good standing of another Assemblies of God church, who satisfies the standards for membership eligibility specified in Section 1 of this Article VI (other than the attendance and support requirements), 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 Membership

Junior membership shall be available for young people under 18 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.

When the Junior member reaches the age of 18, they must then apply for adult membership and meet the same standard of membership as an active member at the time they apply.

Section 6. Associate Members

The church board, at any regular or special meeting, may approve associate members by a majority vote. Eligibility for associate membership is

available to any person who is a member in good standing of an Assemblies of God church in another community, who is in this community on a temporary basis, and who intends to return to his or her home church. Associate members shall be entitled to all the privileges of active members, except that they shall not be eligible to vote and shall not be eligible for any of the offices described in Article VII of these Bylaws.

Section 7. Honorary Members

The church board, at any regular or special meeting, may approve honorary members by a unanimous vote of the members present. Honorary membership is available to any member who has left the church indefinitely, (District officers, missionaries, evangelists, Armed Forces, and those who have distinguished themselves in Christian service, etc.). Such membership shall have an inactive status unless activated by the church board. Honorary membership recognition shall continue as long as the member maintains a consistent Christian life, remains sound in doctrine, and maintains a cooperative attitude toward the home assembly. Removal of such membership shall be determined by a majority vote of the church board.

Section 8. Inactive Membership

Active voting members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of the assembly for a period of two consecutive months or more, or who cease to contribute regularly to its support as determined by the church board for a period of two consecutive months, shall be considered as inactive members and shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to the fellowship, their standing to be settled by the definite action of the assembly through its church board.

Section 9. Discipline

a. Grounds. Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible. Matt. 16:19; Matt. 18:15-20; Luke 17:3; John 20:23; Acts 16:4; Eph. 5:11; I Tim. 5:20; II Tim. 4:2; Heb. 13:17. The purpose of discipline is to promote repentance and restoration through exposing sinful behavior. It is to be redemptive in nature as well as corrective. Any member of the Assembly is subject to discipline on the basis of unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the Tenets of Faith of this assembly. The discipline of pastors is administered by the District Presbytery.

b. Procedure. Should any member of this church, in the opinion of the church board, fall below the standard of membership as stated in Bylaws Article I. Membership, Section 1, in faith or practice, or should their spirit become contentious and discordant to the well-being of the church the following procedure, based on Matt. 18:15-18, shall be followed.

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(1) The pastor and/or a designated member of the church board shall make every reasonable effort to contact the person and resolve the matter.

(2) If the first step does not resolve the matter then the official board shall attempt to meet with the member in an effort to resolve the matter.

(3) If the first and second steps do not resolve the matter then the official board may, at it's discretion upon a majority vote, do one of two things:

(a) Place the person's membership on probation for a specific or indefinite time. The member may be restored from such inactive status to the active membership in the same manner.

(b) Dismiss the person from membership in the church. The disciplined or dismissed member shall have the right within 30 days of such action to appeal to the membership in a special business meeting called for that purpose. Such appeal shall be in writing and addressed to the church board. The decision of a majority of the voting members present at such a meeting shall be final.

c. Resignations. Members who are under discipline by this assembly forfeit and waive the right to resign from membership in this assembly. Resignations from membership are possible only by those members in good standing who are not under any disciplinary action.

ARTICLE VII. GOVERNMENT

Section 1. The Church Board

a. In general. The government of this assembly shall be vested in the church board which shall consist of the pastor and at least three deacons, to the extent that such authority is not limited by "District supervision" as provided for under Article VI, Section 6(j), of the Bylaws of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God.

b. Qualifications of church board members. See qualifications for pastors and deacons, (Article VII, Sections 2 and 5).

c. Duties of church board

(1) The church board shall have general charge and management of the affairs, funds, and property of the assembly. The church board shall have the authority to carry out the purposes of the assembly according to its charter and these Bylaws.

(2) The church board shall act in the examination of applications for membership and in the administration of discipline.

(3) For so long as the church is temporarily without a pastor, the remaining members of the church board shall be empowered to select a temporary chairman of the church board.

(4) The church board shall elect a secretary from among its members. Where it is desired, the secretary may be chosen from among the active membership outside the church board.

(5) The church board shall elect a treasurer from among the active voting members who meet the qualifications for such office.

Section 2. Officers

a. In general. There shall be a president, secretary, and treasurer. The pastor, by virtue of office, shall be the president and chairman of the church board. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be held simultaneously by the same individual.

b. Qualifications

(1) **Pastor.** The pastor shall be in good standing with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, holding a current membership card, and a member in good standing of a District Council.

(2) **Secretary.** The secretary shall be an active voting member of this assembly for at least 1 year immediately preceding election to office, and shall currently support the church with tithes, and shall have a cooperative spirit and be faithful in attendance at church services.

(3) **Treasurer.** The treasurer shall be an active voting member of this assembly for at least 1 year immediately preceding election to office, and shall currently support the church with tithes, and shall have a cooperative spirit, and be faithful in attendance at church services.

c. Duties of officers

(1) Pastor

(a) The pastor shall be the spiritual overseer of the assembly and shall direct its activities.

(b) The pastor shall be recognized as a member of the church board, president of the assembly, and shall act as chairman of all the business meetings of the assembly and of the church board.

(c) The pastor shall provide for all services of the assembly and shall specifically arrange for all special meetings, conventions, and revival campaigns. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the assembly without the pastor's approval.

(d) As chairman of the church board, the pastor shall be a member of the nominating committee for the selection of deacon nominees. The pastor shall privately interview those nominated, ascertaining their eligibility and availability to serve as deacons.

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(e) The pastor should conduct a training class at least once a year on the responsibilities of the church board, deacons, trustees, secretary, treasurer, and other church leaders. Such training course shall be based upon the scriptural directives for church leadership and the church bylaws.

(f) The pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

(2) Secretary

(a) The secretary shall keep the minutes of the official meetings of the church board and of the annual and special business meetings of the assembly.

(b) The secretary shall keep a record of the membership of the assembly and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of the secretary's duties.

(c) The secretary shall be the custodian of all legal documents.

(d) The secretary shall file such annual corporation reports with the secretary of state as may be required by state law.

(e) The secretary shall be amenable to the pastor and the church board.

(3) Treasurer

(a) The treasurer shall be entrusted with all the finances of the assembly that are committed to them, subject to the supervision of the church board. The treasurer shall deposit all funds in federally insured accounts, or any other account approved by the Official Board, in the name of the assembly. All checks issued on behalf of the church must be signed by the treasurer and one additional officer authorized by the church board.

(b) The treasurer shall keep an itemized account of receipts and disbursements. The treasurer shall present a report for each regular meeting of the church board, and shall present an annual report to the assembly in its annual business meeting.

(c) The treasurer shall assist the assembly in acquiring and maintaining available tax exemptions under state and local law.

(d) The treasurer shall provide a record of all identified giving to each donor at least annually.

(e) The treasurer shall be the custodian of all the financial records of the church.

(f) The treasurer shall be amenable to the pastor and the church board.

Section 3. Deacons

The deacons shall be persons of mature Christian experience and knowledge, be filled with the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4, not be entangled in their marriage relations, except when the divorce occurred prior to conversion; or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital

unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9); or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15), and meet the requirements as set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Acts 6. Deacons shall be at least 23 years old, and shall have been members of the assembly for at least one year. They shall currently support the church with their tithes and offerings, have a cooperative spirit, and regularly attend church services. They shall not hold ministerial credentials.

All church board members are chosen to serve the church and therefore shall act in a supportive role to the pastor, according to Acts 6.

Section 4. Trustees

Three trustees (who may be deacons or officers) shall be elected for the holding of church property, if required by law. Trustees must be active voting members of the assembly.

Section 5. Fiduciary Duties

The law imposes several fiduciary duties on officers, deacons, and trustees, including the duties of due care and diligence, loyalty, avoidance of self-dealing, expending designated contributions for the purposes specified, and not commingling personal and corporate funds.

Section 6. Temporary Church Board

Should irreconcilable differences arise between the pastor and other members of the church board or members of the church body, destroying unity and the successful ministry of the local assembly, as many District Executive Presbytery as deemed necessary by the District Superintendent, along with the Sectional Presbyter, (the Executive Investigating Committee) upon request from the pastor or a majority of the church board members, or a petition signed by not less than 20% of the voting members, shall investigate such differences and upon a two-thirds majority vote of the investigating committee, may declare the church under District supervision. The term "District supervision" means that the investigating committee has the authority to: (1) suspend the Constitution and Bylaws of the church, (2) suspend the church board, (3) re-classify the church as a District Council affiliated church, and (4) appoint and establish a temporary church board invested with the authority to manage both the secular and ecclesiastical affairs of the church until such strife shall cease.

If the pastor is also the Sectional Presbyter, the Assistant Sectional Presbyter shall be a member of the investigating committee in the pastor's place.

ARTICLE VIII. ELECTIONS, VACANCIES, AND REMOVALS

Section 1. Elections

a. Pastor

(1) The pastor shall be nominated by the church board. Recommendations may be made to the church board by any member of the assembly.

(2) The pastor shall be elected to serve for one or more years or for an indefinite period of time as may be determined at time of election.

(3) Election shall be by secret ballot at the annual business meeting of the assembly or at a special business meeting called for that purpose. Balloting shall be on only one applicant at a time.

(4) A two-thirds majority vote of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election. Where a pastor is reinstated, only a majority vote is necessary.

(5) When voting on a pastoral candidate, a vote may be conducted at the conclusion of the last service in which the candidate is ministering.

(6) In the event either the pastor or any other member or members of the assembly shall challenge the validity of an election, the validity of the election shall be arbitrated by the District Executive Presbytery, or any three persons of its choice, and its decision shall be final.

b. Secretary

The secretary shall be elected by the church board from among its members. The term of office shall be one year, and the secretary may serve consecutive terms.

c. Treasurer

The treasurer shall be elected by the church board from among the active voting members of the assembly. The term of office shall be one year, and the treasurer may serve consecutive terms.

d. Deacons

Deacons shall be nominated by a nominating committee appointed by the church board, and they shall be elected by a majority vote of those active voting members present at an annual business meeting of the assembly at which an election is to be conducted. Active voting members may recommend nominees to the nominating committee, however nominations for deacon shall not be accepted from the floor during any business meeting. Deacons shall be elected for a term of one or more years, and shall hold office until the annual business meeting at which their successor is elected. Deacons may not serve more than six consecutive years. The terms of deacons shall be rotated appropriately.

e. Trustees

Trustees shall be nominated by a nominating committee appointed by the church board, and they shall be elected by a majority vote of those active voting members present at an annual business meeting of the assembly at which an election is to be conducted. Trustees shall be elected for a term of one or more years, and shall hold office until the annual business meeting at which their successor is elected. Trustees may not serve for more than six consecutive years.

Section 2. Vacancies and Removals

a. Pastor

When a vacancy in the office of the pastor shall occur, a temporary replacement shall be arranged for by the church board until a pastor shall be chosen as prescribed in Article VIII, Section 1,a.

When a pastor's credentials are withdrawn by the District or General Council, the pastor's term of office shall be automatically terminated.

Should a special business meeting be called as provided for in Article IX, Section 3, for the purpose of voting on a pastor before their term expires, a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting shall be required to remove the pastor from office. If a pastor is removed under such action, severance pay shall be given as provided in Article XI, Section 3, c, of these Bylaws.

b. Secretary and Treasurer

The office of secretary and treasurer shall be vacant upon the expiration of the term of office, or upon the termination of the officer's active membership, whichever shall occur first.

c. Deacons

The office of deacon shall be vacant upon the expiration of the term of office, or upon the termination of a deacon's active membership, whichever shall occur first.

d. In General

Any office or position of leadership in the church (other than that of the pastor) may be terminated by a majority vote of the active members present and voting at a special business meeting called for the limited purpose of removal of such member from office or position of leadership in which he/she holds.

The pastor may remove a person from a position of leadership if such person fails to be amenable to the pastor or the church board. This action shall be initiated by the pastor and ratified by the church board.

e. Filling Vacancies

A vacancy in the office of secretary, treasurer, or deacon may be filled by appointment of the church board for the unexpired term.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings for worship

Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under direction of the pastor or the church board if there is no pastor.

Section 2. Annual business meeting

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 presented. This meeting shall be held on the _____ of each year. The time and place shall be announced by the pastor. Notice of the date, time, and place of each annual business meeting shall be announced from the pulpit during morning worship services on the two Sunday mornings immediately preceding the time set for the meeting, or by First Class mail. In the case of the latter, the date of mailing shall be not more than 40 days or less than 5 days in advance of the date of the meeting. In the event of voting on a pastor, it is recommended that a special business meeting be held during the summer months.

Section 3. Special business meetings

Special business meetings of the assembly may be called by the pastor, or by a majority of the church board, or by a petition signed by not less than twenty percent (20%) of the active voting members of the assembly. Only those members who have regularly attended services of, and supported this assembly with their tithes, for a period of at least six consecutive months prior to signing the petition shall be counted.

Petitions pertaining to the business affairs of the church shall be submitted to the pastor or the secretary of the church board. A petition pertaining to the status of the pastor shall be directed to the District Superintendent who shall arrange for a special business meeting of the assembly. No more than one petition on a given subject shall be recognized in any twelve month period.

Notice of the date, time, place, and purpose of each special business meeting shall be announced from the pulpit during morning worship services on each of the two Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting, or by mail. In the case of the latter, the date of mailing shall be at least five days in advance of the date of the meeting. No business other than that specified in the notice of meeting shall be transacted at any special meeting of the assembly.

Section 4. Parliamentary Order

All business meetings of the church shall be conducted in the spirit of Christian love and fellowship, and governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of ROBERTS' RULES OF ORDER NEWLY REVISED.

Section 5. Voting Constituency

a. Qualifying of voters. The voting constituency at all business meetings of the assembly shall consist of all active voting members who are present and who are 18 years of age or older. (Article VI, Section 1).

b. Transfer members. Transfer members shall have voting privileges after 30 days of transfer of membership. (Article VI, Section 4).

c. Members under process of discipline. No member under the process of discipline shall be entitled to a vote until the process is completed. (Article VI, Section 9).

d. Absentee voting. Absentee ballots may be accepted in business meetings of the assembly from active voting members who are unable to attend by reason of illness, infirmity, workers on duty, or those out of town for valid reasons. Absentee ballots shall be qualified if:

(1) The ballot is sealed in an envelope with the voter's signature on the outside; on a printed ballot form that shall be provided by the assembly.

(2) The ballot shall denote the decision or position being voted on with the vote listed thereafter.

(3) The ballot shall be in the hand of the pastor, church secretary, or deposited in the church office, 24 hours prior to the convening of the business meeting. Such ballot may be delivered by mail, or by a person.

(4) The church board shall check all absentee ballots to see whether they are qualified. If so, they shall be counted on each vote taken on the decision or position being considered in that meeting on the original proposition.

(5) If the validity of an absentee ballot is in question, the active voting members present shall make the final decisions as to its validity.

(6) Absentee ballots shall not be accepted for meetings called for the removal of officers or other church leaders.

Section 6. Quorum

One-fourth of the active voting members of this assembly shall constitute a quorum.

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Section 7. Order of business

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

- a. Devotional
- b. Reading of previous minutes
- c. Report of treasurer
- d. Report of committees
- e. Unfinished business
- f. Election of officers
- g. New business
- h. Adjournment

Section 8. The Church Board

The church board shall meet monthly or at the call of the pastor for the transaction of business for the assembly, time and place to be announced by the pastor.

A majority of the board members must be present to constitute a quorum.

Section 9. Membership roll

The church board shall review the list of active voting members at least annually, at the regularly scheduled meeting of the board immediately preceding the annual business meeting, and compile a current list of active voting members.

ARTICLE X. DEPARTMENTS

Section 1. In general

This assembly shall create and maintain such departments and sub-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, with the official church board shall appoint the superintendent of the Sunday School from among the members of the church, which appointment shall be submitted for ratification to the church as a whole. Ratification of the nominations by a majority of the votes cast shall constitute an election. The pastor and the Sunday School superintendent 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 a Women's Ministries Department which shall be formed and made operable under the supervision of the pastor and church board.

ARTICLE XI. FINANCES

Section 1. In General

All funds for the maintenance of the assembly shall be provided by the voluntary contributions, 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 church board and shall be administered by the Treasurer under their direction (Mal. 3:10; Luke 6:38; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:6-8).

Section 2. Handling of offerings

All offerings shall be counted by at least two authorized persons before the funds are removed from the church building. An offering receipts form shall be signed in duplicate by those counting the offering, with one copy going to the treasurer and the other copy given to the pastor. A record shall be kept of all receipts and disbursements of the local assembly and of all individual giving. All funds shall be deposited in federally insured accounts.

Section 3. Pastoral remuneration

- a. The pastor shall be remunerated for pastoral services by a

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salary, a percentage of tithes and offerings, or by other means agreed upon by the church board and the pastor. The church board shall review the pastor's remuneration at least annually.

b. The pastor shall be given consideration by the church board for expenses incurred by attendance at District Councils, 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.

c. In the event a pastor is removed from office by a vote of the active voting membership of the church, or shall fail to be sustained by a vote of the active voting membership at the end of a term, he/she shall be given a minimum of two months regular or average remuneration as severance pay, except in the case of moral turpitude.

d. In the event of the death of the senior pastor of a church, a benefit of compassion shall be given to the surviving spouse departing from and not continuing in the pastorate of that church. This benefit shall be the beginning of consideration and should not be limited to the following provisions. An extension of two months salary, weekly or in one sum, and benefits from the church being pastored at that time shall be provided, with further consideration urged and appreciated. Church owned housing or housing allowance shall also be provided for two months, with further consideration urged and appreciated.

e. Minister's Retirement. It is recommended that each church contribute an amount equal to 5% or more, in accordance to applicable legal limitations, of the minister's compensation to the minister's MBA Retirement account with a minimum contribution of \$50.00 each month. This should be in addition to the minister's regular compensation. A letter will be sent by the District Secretary/Treasurer in November of each year to each church to be read to the Official Board reminding them of this recommendation and encouraging their compliance.

Section 4. Benevolence Fund

A Benevolence Fund shall be established by this assembly for the exercise of its religious and charitable purposes. Suggestions by donors for fund disbursements shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. The administration of this fund, including all disbursements, is subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the church board. Donors making contributions to the Benevolence Fund will receive a church receipt for their contributions.

ARTICLE XII. PROPERTY

Section 1. Title

All property of the assembly shall be deeded to the assembly and held in its name or, if required by law, to trustees acting on behalf of the assembly. Should the assembly choose to do so, it may request the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God to act as its trustee to hold title.

Section 2. Purchases and Sales of Real Property

All purchases, sales, mortgages or other encumbrances of real property shall be authorized by a vote of at least 2/3 of the voting membership who are in attendance and voting at a regular or special meeting of the assembly.

Section 3. Discontinuation of church services

Should this assembly cease to maintain a weekly worship service for a period of three months under the direction of a leader duly authorized by and in good standing with the District Council, it shall be dissolved and its properties disposed of according to Article XII, Section 5, of these Bylaws.

Section 4. Disaffiliation

Title to all real property now owned or hereafter acquired by the assembly shall be held in trust in favor of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, both of Springfield, Missouri. In the event that the assembly shall be divided over doctrinal or any other issues, or shall vote to disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God, all property of the assembly shall remain with those members, whatever their number, desiring continued affiliation with the Assemblies of God and adhering to its Statement of Fundamental Truths. The determination of which group of members desires continued affiliation with the Assemblies of God and adheres to its Statement of Fundamental Truths shall be arbitrated by the District Presbytery of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, and its decision shall be final and binding. If all of the members of the assembly shall vote to disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God for doctrinal or any other reasons, then all of the property of such assembly shall revert to said District Council and shall be used by the District as an Assemblies of God church if possible, and if not possible, the District may sell the property and apply the proceeds in any manner consistent with its stated purposes.

Section 5. Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the assembly, none of its funds or assets shall be distributed to any officer, deacon, trustee, or any other individual. The Church board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all

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of the liabilities of the assembly, dispose of all of the funds and assets of the assembly by conveying the same to the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, for the purposes of the assembly, and provided that said District Council at the time qualifies as an exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law). Any such funds or assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Circuit Court of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, to such organization as said Court shall determine, which is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes.

ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS

Articles III, XII, and XIII, of these Bylaws may be amended only by the affirmative vote of one-hundred percent (100%) of the active voting members present at any annual or special business meeting called for the exclusive purpose of amending these Bylaws. Article IV of these Bylaws is not subject to amendment. The remaining Articles of these Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present at an annual or special meeting of the assembly. All amendments are subject to the following conditions: (1) the amendment is consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, and (2) written notice of the proposed amendment is mailed (by regular mail) to the last known address of each voting member at least ten days before the date set for the meeting at which the proposed change will be considered. This written notice requirement applies to both annual and special meetings, and is in addition to any other applicable notice requirements for said meeting.

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
FOR
DEAF ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

**Constitution and Bylaws
For
Deaf Assemblies of God**

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Deaf Assemblies of God

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name shall be Deaf Assemblies of God of the Southern Missouri District.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the organization shall be:

- A.** To promote the evangelization of the deaf in our district.
- B.** To provide ministry for the deaf and all other necessary helps for the deaf.

ARTICLE III. RELATIONSHIP

The activities of the ministry to the deaf shall be considered a department of our district, and shall be amenable thereto.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1.

The voting membership of the deaf department at District Council shall be the active membership of the District Council as stated in Article VII, of the Constitution. Each deaf church shall be allowed one delegate in addition to the pastor.

Section 2.

The qualification for membership in the local deaf groups shall be the same as the hearing church.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

A. The officers of this department shall consist of a Director, Assistant Director, and Secretary.

B. All officers shall be ministers of the district and the Director and Assistant Director shall be ordained ministers of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE VI. ACTIVITIES

The activities of this department shall be worked in harmony with the District Executives under the supervision of the District Home Missions Director and shall provide for fellowship rallies, camps for the deaf, and all other meetings necessary.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by the same procedure governing the amending of the District Council Constitution.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. OFFICERS

Section 1.

The officers shall be appointed by the District Superintendent and be ratified by the District Presbytery.

Section 2.

The term of office shall be for two years. Term of office shall commence the first day of the second month following their election.

Section 3.

In case of a vacancy, the District Superintendent shall appoint someone to fill the unexpired term.

Section 4.

Duties of officers. The Home Missions Directors of the Southern Missouri District shall have spiritual oversight and shall be consulted in major decisions.

The Director for the Deaf shall:

- a. Coordinate the ministry to the deaf throughout the district.
- b. Seek out the need for, and sponsor, the development of new works for the deaf in the district.
- c. Direct all meetings of the deaf and arrange for publicity of the same.

The District Presbytery shall act as the official board for all cooperating deaf assemblies, except deaf groups which are a part of the local hearing church. In such cases they shall be under the government of the local church.

ARTICLE II. FINANCES

A. The District Ministry of the Deaf shall be financed through contributions from local deaf groups plus missionary offerings from the hearing churches of the district.

B. Hearing churches in the area of a deaf church shall be encouraged to sponsor their local work with the deaf as much as possible.

C. A district promotion fund shall be established through missionary services, rallies, etc. This fund shall be dispersed through the district office with all disbursements approved by the Director of the Deaf in conjunction with the Home Missions Director.

ARTICLE III. CHURCH ORGANIZATION

Realizing that most churches for the deaf are small and cannot meet the requirements for independent (sovereign) assemblies, they shall be organized as dependent assemblies under the District Department for the Deaf, and arrangements shall be made that even the smallest groups can have church membership in the assemblies through the District Department. This clause is mainly for those groups who are not connected to any hearing church as members. Those who are members in hearing churches shall remain with the hearing church if they desire.

ARTICLE IV. AMENDMENTS

The Bylaws of this department may be amended by the same procedure governing the Southern Missouri District Council Bylaws.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
FOR
LOCAL ASSEMBLY SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Constitution and Bylaws
For
Local Assembly Sunday School**

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**Constitution
For Local Assembly Sunday School**

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name shall be the Sunday School of the

(Name of church and location)

ARTICLE II. RELATIONSHIP

The Sunday School is an integral part of, and department of the church. Its purpose and doctrine shall be identical with that of the church, and it shall be amenable to the church and its governing body. The Sunday School shall work in close cooperation with the National Sunday School Department of the Assemblies of God and with the Church Growth and Education Department of the Southern Missouri District Council.

ARTICLE III. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Sunday School shall be:

Section 1. Salvation

To lead each person into an experience of the new birth.

Section 2. Biblical Knowledge

To help each person know, believe, and obey the Bible as the inspired Word of God.

Section 3. A Spirit-Filled Life

To encourage each believer to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit and maintain a Spirit-filled life.

Section 4. Christian Growth

To help each believer grow toward Christian maturity.

Section 5. Personal Commitment

To lead each believer into a continuing commitment of their life to the will of God.

Section 6. Christian Service

To help each believer find and fulfill their place of service as a member of the church and the Body of Christ.

Section 7. Christian Living

To help each believer apply Christian principles to every relationship of life. The overall objective shall be to reach and minister to all members of its church and its constituency, and to as many of the unchurched of its community as possible.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

A person may be enrolled as a member of this Sunday School when the pupil states a desire to become a member, or when the teacher determines that interest and attention warrant enrollment.

Names should not be removed from the roll unless the person requests it, moves away, affiliates with another Sunday School, or is deceased.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

Section 1.

There shall be a Sunday School Executive Committee consisting of the pastor, Sunday School superintendent, assistant superintendent, and secretary-treasurer.

Section 2.

Additional officers may be added as required.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

Section 1. Sunday School Sessions

The Sunday School sessions shall convene each Sunday morning for a minimum of one hour. Members will be considered tardy if not present when the Sunday School opens, and absent if not present for at least half of the entire Sunday School session. Every effort shall be made to have all attending Sunday School remain for morning worship.

Section 2. Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of this Sunday School shall be held at least thirty days prior to the end of the Sunday School year.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended in accordance with the requirements of the church Constitution.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. OFFICERS AND TEACHERS

Section 1. General Organization

a. The Sunday School shall have the following officers: a superintendent, assistant superintendent, and secretary-treasurer. These officers, with the pastor, shall constitute the Executive Committee.

b. The minister of Christian Education may also serve on the Executive Committee.

c. The pastor is an ex-officio member of every group or committee by virtue of his office.

d. Where the Sunday School is departmentalized, there shall be a department superintendent for each department and a department secretary with such other workers as the need requires.

e. Each class shall have a teacher and, if possible, an assistant or substitute teacher.

f. Classes from junior high up may be organized with the following officers: president, vice-president, and secretary/treasurer.

g. Age grouping or departmentalization shall be determined by local needs.

Section 2. Selection Of Officers And Teachers

a. The pastor, with the official board, shall appoint the superintendent of the Sunday School from among the members of the church, which appointment shall be submitted for ratification to the church as a whole at least thirty days prior to the end of the Sunday School year. Ratification of the nominations by a majority of the votes cast shall constitute an election. The pastor and the Sunday School superintendent shall have the right to appoint all officers, teachers, and other workers of the Sunday School. Officers shall take office on the first Sunday of the Sunday School year and shall serve for one year or until their successor is appointed.

b. The pastor, with the general superintendent, shall appoint all other officers and teachers for the school. Should the assembly have a director of religious education, that individual may become a third member of this committee.

Section 3. Qualifications For Officers And Teachers

- a. All Sunday School officers and teachers shall be members of an Assemblies of God church.
- b. Those chosen for leadership in the Sunday School shall be Spirit-filled (Acts 2:4).

Section 4. Duties of Officers and Teachers

a. **Pastor.** The pastor of the church shall be recognized as pastor of the Sunday School, which is under their general supervision. This special relationship to the Sunday School shall be in the training of workers and the directing of evangelism.

b. **Superintendent.** The Superintendent shall have the immediate responsibility for the management of the whole school, working largely through the department superintendents, if the school is departmentalized, and not with the teachers and pupils directly. They shall supervise the work of all the general officers, see that everyone is welcomed and that everything is in readiness to start on time, and that teaching conditions are as favorable as possible. During the school session they may well discreetly survey the work that is being done in the departments or classes.

In cooperation with the pastor, the superintendent shall preside at the weekly or the monthly workers conferences and shall assist the pastor in arranging for the regular training classes for workers and prospective workers of the school. With the pastor and superintendent of enrollment, the Superintendent shall annually survey the constituency that the Sunday School serves to determine possibilities for enlargement. The findings of this survey shall be brought to the workers conference for discussion and action. The Superintendent shall keep informed of national and district programs and utilize them.

c. **Assistant Superintendent.** This person shall assume responsibilities of the superintendent's office in case of absence. They shall assist in these areas and upon those occasions as deemed necessary by the pastor or superintendent, and may act as superintendent of enrollment if the need requires.

d. **Superintendent Of Enrollment.** If this office is needed, the office holder shall work in cooperation with the pastor and superintendent and shall have the direction of the absence and prospective member visitation program of the Sunday School. Increasing the school's membership will be the chief assignment.

e. Secretary-Treasurer. This individual shall be responsible to keep all minutes of the Sunday School Executive Committee and the workers conferences. They shall be responsible for the general records and register board of the school; for ordering, checking, and distributing all literature for the needs of the school; for giving notice of the Executive Committee meetings and workers conferences; shall be responsible for all money received in offerings at all sessions and by the Executive Committee. They shall make a monthly report on the finances at the workers conferences and furnish the churches with reports as required; shall make the required reports to the District and National Sunday School Offices. They study the literature and equipment for the coming year then formulate offering goals for the coming year (both regular and missionary); present proposed goals to Executive Committee for adoption and keep them before the school as a challenge to faithfulness in giving. In larger schools, this office may be assigned two people, one to serve as secretary, the other treasurer.

f. Secretary For Enrollment. If one is needed in a large school, this person shall keep the enrollment records, records of absentees and their visitation, records of prospective members and their visitation; shall prepare a monthly report for the workers conference concerning attendance, visitation, and the growth of the school; shall issue absentee and prospect visitation assignments and keep a record of visits; shall tabulate census results and issue new family visitation assignments.

g. Teachers. Teachers of this Sunday School shall regard the suggestions of the Teachers Covenant adopted by the National Sunday School Department as a standard of their work. A teacher who consistently disregards the Covenant, shall be subject to dismissal by the Executive Committee, and the decision of this committee shall be final.

ARTICLE II. MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings

All business meetings shall be conducted in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship and by the accepted rule of parliamentary procedure.

Section 2. Executive Committee

The Sunday School Executive Committee shall meet regularly each month. It shall have the responsibility to initiate and expedite more Sunday School policy. This committee shall work in harmony with the Christian Education Committee if one exists.

Section 3. Workers Conferences

There shall be a workers conference each month. A specific day of

Local Assembly Sunday School Constitution & Bylaws

the month, week, and hour shall be established. The conference should include inspiration, instruction, and consideration of plans, problems, and reports. A record of minutes and workers attendance shall be kept.

Section 4. Training

A training program for potential or current workers shall be maintained. One feature of this program shall be to conduct a workers training course each year. Each worker shall be encouraged to earn a certificate on the workers handbook for their respective age level. These classes are to be taught by the pastor or qualified individuals chosen by the Executive Committee.

Section 5. Group Visitation

There shall be a regular plan of group visitation of absentees and prospective members by teachers, group leaders, and class members. They shall receive their assignments, make their visits, and return their assignment cards with the results of their visitation.

ARTICLE III. FINANCES

Section 1.

A regular offering shall be received in each class every Sunday morning.

Section 2.

It is recommended that each Sunday School shall tithe its regular offerings to the district department, sending such contributions each month.

Section 3.

Should it not be feasible to tithe Sunday School offerings, it is suggested that regular offerings be sent for the support of the district department at not less than the ratio of two cents per capita per monthly average attendance.

ARTICLE IV. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A Sunday School calendar of activities shall be set up prior to the beginning of each Sunday School year. It shall include items from the District and National Sunday School program.

ARTICLE V. OUTREACH AND FOLLOW-UP PROGRAM

The Sunday School shall maintain a systematic program of contacting prospects, visitors, and absentees. Personal visits, telephone, and correspondence may be used as means of contact.

ARTICLE VI. SUNDAY SCHOOL STANDARD

Provisions of the National Sunday School standard shall be accepted as part of this school's policy.

ARTICLE VII. PROMOTION OF MEMBERS

The Sunday School shall have one promotion day each year, the last Sunday of the Sunday School year.

ARTICLE VIII. CURRICULUM

The Sunday School shall either use literature and curricular materials published by the Gospel Publishing House or other materials approved by the Sunday School Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IX. EXTENSION

The Cradle Roll and Extension Department and extension classes shall be the extension agencies of the Sunday School and shall have their own superintendents and other officers, teachers, and helpers as needed.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended in accordance with the requirements of the Church Bylaws.

SUGGESTED CONSTITUTION
FOR THE
LOCAL ASSEMBLY WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

**Suggested Constitution
For The
Local Assembly Women’s Ministries**

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Women's Ministries Suggested Constitution For Local Groups

WHEREAS, there is a need in each local church for a definite united work of the women of each church, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That we organize a Women's Ministries Group to promote a closer union of the women of the faith, a deeper study of the Bible, a wider knowledge of the missionary work of the Assemblies of God, and an increasing effort in home and foreign missionary activity and that such an organization shall be under the supervision of the pastor.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The organization shall be known as the Women's Ministries Department of the _____

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Women's Ministries Department of the _____

_____ Women's Ministries shall be to stimulate a missionary spirit in the women of the local assembly, and to unify efforts of the women in meeting our assembly's responsibility at home and abroad. It is understood that the Women's Ministries is amenable to the pastor and the official board of the local assembly.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Only those women shall be eligible for membership in the Women's Ministries of the _____ who embrace the teachings and doctrines of the Assemblies of God and are in good standing with the local assembly.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

Section 1.

Only those shall be eligible who are active and faithful members of the local church and who have been baptized with the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.

Section 2.

The officers shall be as follows: President, (it shall be recommended the wife of the pastor be the president), vice president, secretary and treasurer.

ARTICLE V. OFFICER'S DUTIES

Section 1. President

The president shall have an oversight of all the activities of the Women's Ministries; she shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and shall work closely with the pastor in promoting the best interest of the Women's Ministries, the assembly, and the fellowship.

Section 2. Vice President

The vice president shall assist the president in any way that the president may deem best, and shall have oversight over all the activities of the Women's Ministries in the absence of the president.

Section 3. Secretary

The secretary shall keep the membership roll, carry on all correspondence of the Women's Ministries, and shall keep a record of the activities of the Women's Ministries. She shall be prepared to present a report of the Women's Ministries activities when called upon by the Women's Ministries President, the pastor or sectional representative.

Section 4. Treasurer

The treasurer shall have charge of the finances of the Women's Ministries. She shall keep a record of all funds received. She shall make and record all Women's Ministries disbursements. She shall be prepared to present a financial report when called upon by the Women's Ministries President, the pastor, or sectional representative.

ARTICLE VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1.

All elections shall be by secret ballots, and a majority vote shall constitute an election.

Section 2.

Special business meetings shall be called by the Women's Ministries President with approval of the Pastor. The meeting shall be announced two Sunday's in advance or five days by mail.

Section 3.

All Ladies who attend or participate in the Women's Ministries shall be eligible voters.

Section 4.

The term of office shall be for one year.

ARTICLE VII. PROGRAM

The program of the Women's Ministries shall be five-fold consisting of devotions, missions study courses, financial support, personal work and handwork. A high standard of spirituality shall be maintained in all activities. Projects shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership. It shall be the policy to strive for variety.

ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES

Committees shall be appointed as needed. They shall be appointed by the president. The term of service of members of any committee shall not exceed the term of office of elected officers.

ARTICLE IX. FINANCES

It is suggested that each local Women's Ministries group be faithful in paying their tithes into the District Women's Ministries Office; the district office will in turn tithe into the National Women's Ministries Office, thereby supporting the national offices.

ARTICLE X. REPORTS

Section 1. Names And Addresses

Immediately after each election the names and addresses of the officers elected shall be submitted to the District Women's Ministries Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 2. Quarterly Reports

It is required that a quarterly report be sent to the District Women's Ministries Secretary-Treasurer.

ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS

The Constitution of the Women's Ministries may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership. After the Constitution has been adopted, a vote on an amendment to the Constitution shall be taken only after thirty days notice.

