

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA & NEVADA
DISTRICT COUNCIL, INC.**



DISTRICT RESOURCE CENTER MISSION STATEMENT

The primary purpose of the Northern California and Nevada District Resource Center is to serve by leading, developing and equipping its credentialed ministers, and resourcing the churches and ministries of our District.

The District Resource Center
PO Box 293510, Sacramento, CA 95829
6051 S Watt Ave, Sacramento, CA 95829

916/379-9600
Fax: 916/379-9652
info@agncn.org
www.agncn.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

POLITY

Constitution P-2
Bylaws P-13
Statement of Fundamental Truths P-61

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the 2020 District Council DC-1

POLITY INDEX..... i-1

CONSTITUTION

AND

BYLAWS

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA & NEVADA

DISTRICT COUNCIL, INC.

The District Resource Center
6051 S Watt Ave, Sacramento, CA 95829 Email: info@agncn.org
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Constitution

Article	Subject	Page
One	Name.....	P-3
Two	Purposes	P-3
Three	Principles	P-4
Four	Authority, Prerogatives and Powers	P-4
Five	Relationship with the General Council of the Assemblies of God	P-5
Six	Tenets of Faith	P-7
Seven	The Statutory Board of Directors: Executive Presbytery	P-7
Eight	District Presbytery	P-7
Nine	Constitutional Officers	P-8
Ten	Membership and Voting Constituency	P-9
Eleven	General Council Representatives: General Presbytery	P-10
Twelve	Non-Resident Executive Presbyter Nominees	P-10
Thirteen	Local Churches	P-11
Fourteen	Dedication and Dissolution	P-12
Fifteen	Amendments to the Constitution	P-12

**CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS
OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD,
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA & NEVADA DISTRICT COUNCIL, INC.
a California Nonprofit Religious Corporation
Approved April 25, 1991
Amended April 19, 2021**

WHEREAS, it is the express purpose of God our Heavenly Father to call out of the world a saved people who shall constitute the Body or Church of our Lord Jesus Christ, built and established upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone; and,

WHEREAS, God having ordained that His Universal Church should find its expression in and through local churches, enjoining them to assemble together for worship, fellowship, counsel and instruction in the Word of God, and for the work of the ministry, and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this corporation is formed exclusively for religious purposes, to propagate the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in accordance with the Holy Bible, in customs and traditions of Evangelical Pentecostal Christianity, as an administrative unit of and a constituent division amenable to The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Missouri Nonprofit Corporation, and, in these premises, the following Constitution and Bylaws are adopted:

CONSTITUTION OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ARTICLE ONE – NAME

The name of this corporation is:

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA & NEVADA DISTRICT COUNCIL, INC. hereinafter referred to simply as “District Council” or “Corporation” though this corporation may by special resolution of its Board of Directors adopt other and fictitious names for the purpose of doing business through its various established divisions, departments and programs, as deemed necessary, convenient or expedient, and in such manner as to be in compliance with law.

ARTICLE TWO – PURPOSES

Section One: Legal Purpose

- A. This organization is a religious corporation and is not organized for the private gain of any person. It is organized under the Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law of California exclusively for religious purposes.
- B. The specific purpose of this corporation is to propagate the Gospel of Jesus Christ, according to the Holy Bible, in customs and traditions of Pentecostal Evangelical Christianity, as a church and a convention of churches, and as an administrative unit of and a constituent division amenable to The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Missouri Nonprofit Corporation.

Section Two: Priority Reason-For-Being

- A. Ministry to the Lord through Worship: It is the purpose and mission of this District Council to establish and maintain places of worship of Almighty God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, through the Holy Spirit, to conduct business as a church and a convention of churches.

- B. Ministry to the Lost through Evangelism: It is the purpose and mission of this District Council through the work of evangelism, under the guidance of the Holy Scriptures to seek and save that which is lost, in both home and foreign fields, in obedience to the command of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in harmony with the teaching and practice of His servants, the Apostles.
- C. Ministry to the Body of Christ through Fellowship: It is the purpose and mission of this District Council to build a body of believers in the image of His Son by promoting fellowship with Almighty God and among believers, individuals, and groups, within our churches, and within our larger church community.
- D. Ministry to the World through Compassion: It is the purpose and mission of this District Council to demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.

ARTICLE THREE – PRINCIPLES

Section One:

- A. It shall be a principle and responsibility of this District Council to maintain standards of scriptural order in all matters affecting its life and ministry within its churches, programs and membership.
- B. It shall be a principle and responsibility of this District Council to promote and maintain standards of doctrine and conduct, and to apply discipline according to the Holy Scriptures and this Constitution and Bylaws and as hereinafter set forth.

Section Two:

This District Council holds that form of corporate government which is a voluntary cooperative fellowship as scriptural and fundamental, the local church being sovereign under our Lord Jesus Christ.

Section Three:

This District Council holds it basic that every born-again Christian should endeavor 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).

Section Four:

This District Council shall keep vigilant watch against any violation of the principles of spiritual unity and cooperative agreements to which the Assemblies of God Fellowship is especially and unalterably dedicated.

ARTICLE FOUR – AUTHORITY, PREROGATIVES AND POWERS

Section One: The Holy Bible as Supreme Authority

This District Council declares that the Holy Bible, the Holy Word of God, is supreme in all matters governing this corporation in keeping with the Spirit of Christ, and does hereby adopt same as the ultimate authority for this organization and the prosecution of its business; and,

Section Two: The General Council Government as Superior Authority

This District Council hereby adopts and acknowledges as superior authority the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, as such is now or may from time to time be amended, hereinafter for simplicity occasionally referred to as "General Council Bylaws," for conduct of all business and administrative regulation, and establishment of standards of doctrine and qualifications for membership, and this corporation is likewise subject to legislation and directives of that parent organization, and upon such superior authority this Constitution and Bylaws following is adopted; and, in event of conflict, inconsistency or incompatibility of the following regulations with the letter or interpretation of same, this District Council shall be guided by such superior authority and legislation or directives of the General Council.

Section Three: Granted Prerogatives of Government

- A. Subject to and by virtue of the foregoing provisions of Sections One and Two of this Article, this District Council is empowered to conduct its own business, and by action of its membership, Executive Presbytery or District Presbytery as hereinafter in this Constitution and Bylaws provided, to elect its officers and directors, to arrange its own meetings and transact all other business pertaining to its status as a District Council provided for and described in the General Council Bylaws, including the establishment and operation of divisions, departments, and institutions as may be deemed necessary for the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and for the work of this organization.
- B. Subject to and by virtue of the superior authority of the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and in accord with its mission, this District Council shall have the following further specific powers:
1. To approve all scriptural teachings, methods, and conduct among the members of this District Council and those within its jurisdiction, and to disapprove unscriptural teachings, methods and conduct, and to provide a forum for review thereof and to impose discipline as shall be appropriate.
 2. To provide for and promote the evangelization of communities within the assigned areas of this District Council, including the establishment of churches and other programs, and to extend the Kingdom of Jesus Christ throughout our country and around the world.
 3. To provide for and promote fellowship among individuals and groups within the membership of this District Council and throughout our church community.
 4. To supervise all activities of the Assemblies of God in the territory within the assigned boundaries and jurisdiction of this District Council.
 5. To examine candidates for ministerial credentials, and issue or make appropriate recommendations for issuance of such credentials.
 6. To establish and define further regulation and policy by which this District Council shall be governed, insofar as it shall not conflict with superior authority.

Section Four: Statutory Powers

This District Council shall have and is empowered to exercise all powers generally allowed to nonprofit corporations by the laws of the State of California and elsewhere that this organization might do business, including but not limited to the right and power to buy, take, receive by gift, lease or otherwise, own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise alienate or dispose of such property, real or personal, or mixed, tangible or intangible, legal or equitable interests, of whatsoever kind or description as may be useful for the prosecution of its work, and to enter into contracts of all description in these premises.

**ARTICLE FIVE – RELATIONSHIP WITH
THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD****Section One:**

This District Council is an administrative unit, an integral part of, and amenable to The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Missouri Nonprofit Corporation, hereinafter referred to simply as “General Council;” and, this District Council shall have supervision over all the activities of the Assemblies of God in its prescribed jurisdiction, except such as are agreed upon by this District Council and the officials of the General Council. The generic term “Assemblies of God” refers to the General Council and its entire constituency, including the various churches, ministries, and institutional constituent parts.

Section Two: Geographical Boundaries

Pursuant to agreements with the General Council, saving and excepting those foreign language Districts and other programs that may be designated or recognized by the General Council to function without specific geographic boundaries, which may overlap into or

coincide with the physical boundaries of this District Council, the geographical territory under supervision and jurisdiction of this District Council shall include the entire State of Nevada, and that part of the State of California lying north of that point where the California-Nevada State Line is intersected by the Mono-Inyo County lines, westward along the County lines of Mono-Inyo, Mono- Fresno, and Madera-Fresno Counties, to a point northwest of the City of Fresno where Dickinson Avenue intersects the San Joaquin River, then following south on Dickinson Avenue to the point where Dickinson Avenue and Central Avenue intersect, then west along Central Avenue along a projected line which intersects the San Benito-Fresno County lines, approximately four miles south of Mercey Hot Springs, continuing along the county lines of San Benito-Fresno, Monterey-Fresno, Monterey- Kings, and Monterey-San Luis Obispo Counties to the Pacific Ocean, all of which physical boundaries within the State of California lie northerly of the territory assigned by the General Council to the Southern California District Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section Three: Jurisdiction

- A. Subject to the authority of the General Council, in addition to administration of its business within the physical boundaries hereinabove described, this District Council shall have jurisdiction over individual persons, ministries and programs conducted by or within the membership of this District Council as same may extend beyond such physical boundaries, including supervision of doctrine and conduct as shall directly or indirectly affect or reflect upon this District Council, and to make inquiry into and impose discipline as necessary in these premises.
- B. Subject to authority of the General Council, in addition to administration of the business assigned to this District Council, it shall have further jurisdiction to make inquiry and investigation into any and all persons and programs within its physical boundaries as may be controlled or conducted or sponsored by credentialed ministers or other programs of the Assemblies of God, and to make appropriate reports and recommendations to the General Council or other District Councils.
- C. Subject to authority of the General Council, as a feature of jurisdiction of this District Council, through directive of the District Superintendent or mandate of the Executive Presbytery, this District Council may govern or restrict, or for good cause, may disallow or terminate ministry or programs conducted within its assigned physical boundaries as may be controlled or conducted or operated or sponsored by any credentialed minister or program of the Assemblies of God.

Section Four: Geographical Divisions and Subdivisions

- A. The geographical territory of this District Council shall be divided into areas to be known as regions, and the geographical regions shall be subdivided into sections as approved by the Executive Presbytery.
- B. Each region shall be assigned a number to facilitate staggered elections so that the election for the Regional Executive Presbyter and each Sectional Presbyter within the region shall be on the same schedule.
- C. The sectional boundaries shall be set to serve and facilitate the governance and ministry needs of the District, its ministers and its churches. Sections should have a reasonable geographic size and a manageable number of churches. Review of the effectiveness of these sectional divisions shall be done periodically.
- D. The Executive Presbytery is authorized to determine and from time to time make variations in the alignment in boundaries of regions and sections within the territory of this District Council, and to establish an official map of the District, which shall be published or otherwise made available to all members of this District Council upon respective request.

Section Five: Intercultural Fellowships and Sections

- A. The Executive Presbytery may recognize Intercultural Fellowships within this district, comprised of intercultural ministers and churches, according to criteria and policies it

- adopts, and to establish various privileges and responsibilities assigned to such groups.
- B. The Executive Presbytery may from time to time authorize individuals to serve as at-large or special representatives to the Executive Presbytery and the District Presbytery.

ARTICLE SIX – TENETS OF FAITH

As Tenets of Faith, this District Council accepts the Holy Bible as the inspired and revealed Will of God, the all sufficient rule of faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopts **The General Council of the Assemblies of God Statement of Fundamental Truths**, as the same is now or from time to time may be revised, and as recited in the true copy thereof which follows as an addendum to this Constitution and Bylaws, by this reference incorporated herein as though set forth in full.

ARTICLE SEVEN – THE STATUTORY BOARD OF DIRECTORS: EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY

Section One: Number and Name

The Statutory Board of Directors of this corporation shall be known as the Executive Presbytery, and shall consist of not less than nine natural persons. This shall include the District Council Executive Officers hereinafter mentioned, the General Presbyter (Pastor) hereinafter mentioned, and any Non-Resident Executive Presbyters of the General Council from the Southwest Region when that person is a resident member of this District Council, as such are nominated and elected to and serving for the terms and having powers and authority as herein set forth.

Section Two: Responsibility of the Executive Presbytery

The activities and affairs of this District Council shall be conducted and all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Executive Presbytery. The Executive Presbytery may delegate the management of the activities of the corporation to any person or persons, divisions, department or committee, within the provisions of this Constitution and Bylaws. The Executive Presbytery shall serve as the Fiduciary Board of the District Council, as the official legislative and policy-making body of this District Council when the membership is not in session, and shall act as the District Credentials Board in all matters relating to the execution of policy for ministerial credentials. They shall also act as a judicial forum for hearing charges and imposing discipline against credentialed ministers and members, giving a complete report to the District Presbytery.

ARTICLE EIGHT – DISTRICT PRESBYTERY

Section One: Composition

There is hereby established the Board of Presbyters of this District Council, to be known as the District Presbytery, which shall in concert consist of the District Executive Officers, all Regional Executive Presbyters, all Executive Presbyters-At-Large, all Sectional Presbyters, all Presbyters-At-Large, and persons serving ex officio as hereinafter set forth.

Section Two: Ex Officio Members of the District Presbytery

All members of the Executive Presbytery of this District Council shall be ex officio members of the District Presbytery, for duration of respective terms.

Section Three: Notice and Participation in Meetings

All regular and ex officio members of the District Presbytery shall be entitled to notice and right of attendance and full participation in all meetings of the District Presbytery.

Section Four: Authority of the District Presbytery

The District Presbytery shall have those certain duties and powers as set forth in this

Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE NINE – CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Section One: District Council Executive Officers, Office and Term

- A. The three Executive Officers of this District Council shall be:
 - 1. A President, with the title District Superintendent;
 - 2. A Vice-President, with the title Assistant District Superintendent;
 - 3. A Secretary-Treasurer, with the title District Secretary-Treasurer.
- B. Without exception, no one person may officially at any one time hold more than one of such District Council Executive offices.
- C. These three designated District Council Executive Officers shall serve as the District Council Executive Committee, having those certain powers and authority set forth in the Bylaws following.
- D. Unless otherwise approved by special resolution of the Executive Presbytery the terms of office of District Council Executive Officers shall commence on July 1 following their election. The terms shall continue for a period of four years or until their successors are elected and qualify, unless sooner terminated by death, resignation, removal, disqualification, other incapacity, or otherwise. The three Executive Officers' terms may be staggered as provided for in these bylaws.

Section Two: Executive Presbyters, Election and Term

- A. Persons serving as Regional Executive Presbyters shall be elected by the membership, one each from each region of this District Council, according to Bylaws, Article Three, Sections 2 and 3.
- B. Unless otherwise approved by special resolution of the Executive Presbytery the terms of office of members of the Executive Presbytery of this District Council shall commence on July 1 following their election, and shall continue for a period of two years or until their successors are elected and qualify, unless sooner terminated by death, resignation, removal, disqualification or other incapacity, or otherwise.

Section Three: Elected Sectional Presbyters, Election and Term

- A. One Sectional Presbyter shall be elected to serve on the District Presbytery from each section of this District Council.
- B. Unless otherwise approved by special resolution of the Executive Presbytery the terms of office of individual Sectional Presbyters of this District Council shall commence immediately upon election, and shall continue for a period of two years or until their successors are elected and qualify, unless sooner terminated by death, resignation, removal, disqualification or other incapacity, or otherwise.

Section Four: At-Large Presbyters

From time to time the Executive Presbytery is authorized to appoint qualified special representatives to serve on either the Executive Presbytery or the District Presbytery as provided for in the Bylaws. These Presbyters shall serve at-large with voice and vote. Their term of office shall be for two years commencing at the time of their appointment unless such is terminated by death, resignation, removal, disqualification or incapacity, or otherwise.

Section Five: Electoral Prerogatives

The membership of this District Council reserves the exclusive right to nominate and elect the District Superintendent, and to elect the Assistant District Superintendent and District Secretary-Treasurer of this corporation as hereinafter provided in the Bylaws, and to elect other members of the Executive Presbytery and other designated officers and representatives, and by action of its sections, to elect Sectional Presbyters as more fully set forth in this Constitution and Bylaws following.

ARTICLE TEN – MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING CONSTITUENCY**Section One: Corporate Membership**

The Membership of this District Council shall be:

- A. All General Council credentialed ministers (Ordained, Licensed and Certified) in good standing who are registered with this District Council.
- B. Churches within the geographical territory of this District Council that have been issued a letter of affiliation from The General Council of the Assemblies of God, having current status as a sovereign Assemblies of God church, or have been issued a letter of affiliation from this District Council as a District affiliated church.

Section Two: Voting Constituency

The voting constituency for all meetings of the District Council in session shall consist of all members and other voters as defined in the Bylaws Article Two, present and registered, and participating in the business being conducted.

Section Three: Annual Meetings of Membership

There shall be an Annual Business Meeting of the membership of this District Council, identified as the District Council Convention, to be convened at a date fixed by the Executive Presbytery, at which time reports shall be given, and elections and other business shall be entertained as in the Bylaws following.

Section Four: Special Business Meetings of Membership

There may be Special Business Meetings of the membership of this District Council, as provided for hereinafter and in the Bylaws, duly called and noticed as there set forth. Special Business Meetings of the membership may be called only upon vote of two-thirds of the Executive Presbytery or the District Presbytery.

Section Five: Conduct Business by Electronic Conference

A District Council Business Meeting may be conducted, in whole or in part, by electronic conference provided that:

- A. The meeting is approved by the Executive Presbytery and duly noticed to all members.
- B. Participants are registered, eligibility is verified, and remote participants are notified of the means by which they may participate.
- C. Remote participants that are registered and participating are considered “present” for all required purposes.
- D. Reasonable efforts are made for remote participants to be able to hear the proceedings concurrently and provision is made for remote participants to obtain the attention and recognition of the chair, and to speak to all members—to make motions, raise questions, and participate in debate.
- E. Unexpected technological problems preventing remote participants from engaging in the meeting will not require the meeting to be suspended or postponed; or after adjournment, be grounds to contest or nullify a decision made under such circumstances.
- F. The Executive Presbytery may publish special rules and procedures for such meetings when necessary for ease of use and to protect the rights of all members.

Section Six: Right of Initiative

- A. The right of initiative in the calling of a Special Meeting of the membership of this District Council shall be afforded to any ordained minister in good standing whose ministerial credentials are registered with this District Council, and as hereinafter set forth.
- B. Initiative in calling of a Special Meeting of the membership of this District Council shall be by petition, presented by any ordained minister in good standing whose ministerial credentials are registered with this District Council, which petition is endorsed by signatures of at least fifty ordained ministers in good standing whose ministerial credentials are registered

with this District Council, in which petition it shall be particularly set forth the reason and justification for such call.

- C. Petition for Initiative requesting a Special Meeting of the membership of this District Council shall be formally filed with the District Secretary, who shall in turn place the matter on agenda to be considered at the next regular meeting of the Executive Presbytery or the District Presbytery. Upon determination of the validity and propriety of such petition by two-thirds affirmative vote, the Executive Presbytery or the District Presbytery shall order the call, entering same into the minutes of the meeting, a true copy of which shall be then given to the District Superintendent, who shall set a time and place for such meeting.
- D. Upon a proper setting of time and place for Special Meeting of the membership of this District Council, the District Secretary shall give proper notice of meeting, as provided in the Bylaws following.

Section Seven: Quorum for Business Meetings

A quorum for conduct of business at any District Council Convention or Special Business Meeting of the membership of this District Council is established by the presence of the accredited members present and registered.

Section Eight: Proxy Voting and Absentee Balloting

Except as specifically allowed by provisions of this Constitution and Bylaws, particularly as it shall relate to affiliated member church representation by delegate, proxy voting and absentee balloting shall not be allowed in conduct of business at any meeting of the membership, nor any sort of representation of absentees for purpose of establishing a quorum. Delegates may only act personally at a meeting or by written ballot and not act by proxy.

Section Nine: Non-voting Members – Associate Membership

Members of language/ethnic Districts who reside within the geographic boundaries of this District Council may be allowed to apply for associate membership in this District. Applications shall be approved by the Executive Committee. Associate members may participate in District ministries, fellowship, and events, but shall have no voice or vote in District business and no tithing obligation to the District Council.

ARTICLE ELEVEN – GENERAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES GENERAL PRESBYTERY

Section One: Authorized by General Council Bylaws

According to provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council, there is created the General Presbytery, composed of representative men of mature experience and ability whose lives and ministry are above reproach, who represent the Assemblies of God Fellowship in all phases of its work and interest in their respective fields. Pursuant to provisions of the General Council Constitution and Bylaws, this District Council shall have privilege of representation on the General Presbytery by three members, identified as General Presbyters.

Section Two: Designation of General Presbyters

This District Council shall provide for General Presbytery representation as follows:

- A. The District Superintendent of this District Council shall by virtue of his office serve as a representative of this District Council in the General Presbytery.
- B. The Assistant District Superintendent and the District Secretary-Treasurer shall alternate serving as General Presbyter, with the Assistant District Superintendent serving in even-numbered years and the District Secretary-Treasurer serving in odd-numbered years.
- C. The District Council membership in session shall elect one additional General Presbyter, an ordained minister in good standing whose ministerial credentials are registered with this District Council who is a senior pastor of a General Council affiliated assembly in this District or other active ministry. The term of office shall commence immediately upon being

elected, and shall continue for two years or until a successor is elected and qualifies, unless sooner terminated by death, resignation, removal, disqualification or other incapacity, or otherwise. In event of such early termination of office, the District Presbytery shall have authority to designate and elect persons to serve in such office for the unexpired term.

- D. The District may elect special representatives to the General Presbytery and nominate representatives to the Executive Presbytery in accordance with the General Council Bylaws.

Section Three: Ex Officio Participation of General Presbyter

Persons so serving as General Presbyter, by virtue of their offices, shall be members of the Executive and District Presbytery, and shall be entitled to notice and right of attendance and full participation in all meetings of the Executive and District Presbytery.

ARTICLE TWELVE – NON-RESIDENT EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER NOMINEES

Section One: Authorized by the General Council Bylaws

- A. According to provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council, there is created a General Council Executive Presbytery, which serves as the Board of Directors of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, consisting of officers and directors of the corporation as are directly elected by the General Council membership in session at its biennial convention including those who are also elected by the General Council membership and identified as Nonresident Executive Presbyters.
- B. According to provisions of the General Council Constitution and Bylaws, this District Council at its annual meeting sufficiently prior to the General Council session shall nominate four ministers from its District, one of whom is not an elected full-time District official, one of whom is an ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election and one of whom is an ordained female (no age requirement) to be presented to the General Council membership in session as nominees from its area to be considered for election as a Nonresident Executive Presbyter.

Section Two: District Council Nominees

- A. Pursuant to authority of the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council, this District Council in session, at its meeting sufficiently prior to the biennial General Council Convention, shall nominate four ordained ministers in good standing whose ministerial credentials are registered with this District, at least one of whom is not an elected full-time District official, one of whom is an ordained pastor under 40 years at the time of election and one of whom is an ordained female (no age requirement) to be presented to the General Council membership in session as nominees from this area for ballot consideration to serve as Nonresident Executive Presbyter.
- B. Nomination and election of persons to be designated, by this District Council, as nominees for election to serve as a Nonresident Executive Presbyter to the General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be by secret ballot, and in accordance with the Bylaws following.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN – LOCAL CHURCHES

Section One: Identity by Name

- A. This District Council recommends that churches in our fellowship shall have words in their official or corporate name that identify with the Assemblies of God, and that such churches use the Assemblies of God emblem.
- B. This District Council recommends that churches in our fellowship, whether sovereign General Council affiliated or District Council affiliated, should not represent themselves or any of their ministerial departments or programs as being independent or nondenominational.

Section Two: General Council Affiliation

- A. This District Council accepts the doctrine that the local church is recognized as being

ordained by God, under the headship of Jesus Christ. It is fundamental with our fellowship that groups of believers associating themselves in local bodies for maintenance of scriptural order, and having a standard of membership in keeping with the scriptural principles and established policies of the Assemblies of God, should be considered as eligible for affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, as a sovereign local Assemblies of God Church.

- B. By entering into voluntary cooperative fellowship and affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, as a sovereign assembly, each local church in this District Council assumes the burdens of and is entitled to the benefits attendant upon such affiliation, by virtue of which each sovereign church unconditionally agrees to be bound by the superior authority of the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and likewise agrees to conform to the Constitution and Bylaws of this District Council, and to comply with and conform to the policies and standards established by this District Council.
- C. The fact that a local Assemblies of God church is affiliated with the General Council shall in nowise destroy its rights as stated or interfere with its sovereignty as set forth in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws.

Section Three: District Council Churches

District Council affiliated churches shall be under the direct supervision of the District Presbytery. District Council affiliated programs may include U.S. Missions projects, established church organizations entering into our fellowship from other affiliation or independent status, former sovereign Assemblies of God church programs that have surrendered their sovereignty temporarily or otherwise that seek District Council protection, and otherwise, as approved by the District Presbytery via special resolution.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN – DEDICATION AND DISSOLUTION

The property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to religious purposes and no part of the net income or assets of this corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer or member thereof or to the benefit of any private person. Upon the dissolution or winding up of this corporation, after paying or otherwise adequately securing or providing for the debts and obligations of this corporation, the remaining assets shall be distributed to **The General Council of the Assemblies of God**, a Missouri Nonprofit Corporation, which organization is formed and operated exclusively for religious purposes, if it is then in existence and exempt under provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or if it is not then in existence and exempt, then to a non-profit fund, foundation or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes, in harmony with the purposes of this corporation, and which has established its tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States of America.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN – AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- A. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any regular or special meeting of the District Council membership, only by vote of the active and registered voting constituency, provided the full text of same shall have been submitted in advance of the meeting for review by the Executive Presbytery, in accordance with procedures set forth in the Bylaws following. Notice of proposed amendments shall be given by the District Secretary to the membership in advance of such meeting, a copy of which shall be sent to each credentialed minister and the secretary of record of each affiliated church in the District at least 15 days prior to the District Council membership meeting. Voting on such amendments shall be by secret ballot, with affirmative vote of two-thirds majority of those present and lawfully voting required for adoption.
- B. The Revisions Committee shall review and edit the District Constitution with the General Council Constitution for conformity. The committee shall be authorized to bring the District

Council Constitution into conformity with the General Council Constitution and such change shall not require a vote of the District Council for implementation. Such change shall be reported to the District Council.

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BYLAWS

Article	Subject	Page
One	Parliamentary Law	P-16
Two	The Voting Constituency	P-16
Three	Qualifications, Nominations, Elections, and Removal of Officers	P-17
Four	Duties and Privileges of Officers, Boards, and Committees	P-21
Five	Establishment of Divisions	P-29
Six	Boards, Committees, and Teams	P-31
Seven	Ministers and Ministry	P-35
Eight	The Local Church	P-46
Nine	Associated Organizations and Ministries	P-53
Ten	Benefits and Benevolences	P-54
Eleven	Finances	P-54
Twelve	Endorsed Publications	P-58
Thirteen	Order of Business	P-58
Fourteen	Resolutions	P-59
Fifteen	Education Departments: Nondiscrimination Policy	P-59
Sixteen	Resolution of Disputes	P-60
Seventeen	Amendments to the Bylaws	P-61

BYLAWS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ARTICLE ONE – PARLIAMENTARY LAW

- A. In order to expedite the work of this District Council and to avoid confusion in its deliberations, all meetings of the Executive Presbytery and District Presbytery, all District Council Conventions and Special Business Meetings of the membership, shall be conducted under and governed by parliamentary authority and provisions of the current version of **Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised**, subject to the foregoing Constitution and in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit of God.
- B. The District Superintendent in consultation with the Executive Presbytery shall appoint a special committee, which shall be known as the Parliamentary Committee, consisting of qualified persons capable to act as parliamentarians for District Council membership meeting sessions. Such appointees shall be notified of respective appointment not less than sixty days prior to the District Council Convention. All members of such Parliamentary Committee shall be expected to attend all business sessions of the District Council Convention.

ARTICLE TWO – THE VOTING CONSTITUENCY

- A. The Voting Constituency shall include the following:
1. Ordained Ministers in good standing holding current ministerial credentials registered with this District Council;
 2. Licensed Ministers in good standing holding current ministerial credentials registered with this District Council;
 3. Certified Ministers in good standing holding current ministerial credentials registered with this District Council;
 4. Churches within the geographical territory of this District Council that have been issued a letter of affiliation from The General Council of the Assemblies of God, having current status as a sovereign Assemblies of God church may be represented by two designated non-credentialed delegates and each District Council affiliated church, may be recognized by one designated non-credentialed delegate.
A participating member church shall be represented by its properly designated delegate, and as follows:
 - a. Delegates may only act personally at a meeting or by written ballot and may not act by proxy, and the delegate may not assign or transfer the delegacy.
 - b. A member church delegate should be chosen annually well in advance of the District Council meeting in a regular or special business session, directly by the membership of the church which they represent, or they may be appointed by the Church Board when authorized by the governing documents or vote of the membership of the particular local church.
 - c. A written report certifying the selection or reappointment of the delegate by a member church should be sent immediately to the District Secretary at the District Office, for the record, and well in advance of the meeting of the membership of the District Council. A lay delegate of a member church shall be at least 21 years of age, and must have written documentation to establish the delegate status, confirmed by the signature of the pastor or corporate secretary of the local member church, certifying the delegate's selection by the church membership or the Church Board. Such documentation establishes the power of the delegate to participate in membership sessions. The written documentation certifying a delegate to represent the member church shall be on forms provided by the District Council and shall not contain conditions or restrictions upon the delegate's authority or right of participation in meetings of membership of this District Council. A delegate certified by a member church shall have no proprietary right or economic interest in the certification or status, and suffers no loss or injury of any kind upon termination or

decertification. A delegate or proposed delegate accepts the appointment subject to these conditions.

5. Other Voters:
 - a. Non-credentialed persons approved by the Executive Committee to serve as senior pastors of General Council affiliated assemblies shall be accorded the privilege of voice and vote in membership sessions of this District Council.
 - b. Non-credentialed persons appointed by the District Churches and District Missions Board to serve as senior pastors of District Council affiliated assemblies, shall be accorded the privilege of voice and vote in membership sessions of this District Council.
 - c. Nationally appointed U.S. missionaries from this District who choose honorary membership in this District according to General Council Bylaws shall be accorded voice and vote while on official furlough.
- B. All persons comprising the voting constituency shall have the right to be recognized by the chair, to bring motions and offer resolutions, to engage in debate and discussion, and to vote on elections and legislation and all other matters properly before the body in all business sessions of the membership of this District Council.
- C. Accredited and registered members may only participate in business of the District Council membership in session as takes place subsequent to their being properly registered.

ARTICLE THREE – QUALIFICATIONS, NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, AND REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

Section One: Qualifications of Officers

A. General Qualifications

To be eligible for nomination to any elected office in this District, a candidate must meet the following criteria in addition to any criteria specific to the office:

1. The candidate must be a person of mature experience and ability, at least 25 years of age;
2. The candidate must have been ordained to the ministry for at least two full years immediately preceding election;
3. The candidate must have been a member of this District Council for at least one full year immediately preceding election;
4. The candidate must have a demonstrable record of active engagement with fellow district ministers and churches, and of attendance and support of district ministries and activities.

B. Additional Qualifications for Executive Officers

Candidates for an Executive Office of this District Council must have been ordained to the ministry by the Assemblies of God for at least five years and a member of this District Council for at least two consecutive years immediately preceding election.

C. Additional Qualifications for Executive Presbyters

Candidates must have been a resident Senior Pastor in the region that they are to represent for at least twelve consecutive months immediately preceding the election and continued ministry as a resident Senior Pastor in that region shall be a condition of continued service as an Executive Presbyter. Candidates to become an Executive Presbyter-At-Large must fulfill the normal qualifications for the office, with the exception that, instead of ministry in a geographic region, they must be a resident Senior Pastor among the larger constituency from which they are nominated.

Candidates to become a Female Executive Presbyter-At-Large must fulfill the normal qualifications for the office, with the exception that, instead of ministry as a Senior Pastor in a geographic region, they must be an active minister within the District.

D. Additional Qualifications for Presbyters

Candidates must have been a resident Senior Pastor in the section that they are to represent for at least twelve consecutive months immediately preceding the election

and continued ministry as a resident Senior Pastor in that section shall be a condition of continued service as a Sectional Presbyterian. Candidates to become a Presbyterian-At-Large must fulfill the normal qualifications for the office, with the exception that, instead of ministry in a geographic section, they must be a resident Senior Pastor among the larger constituency from which they are nominated.

Candidates to become a Female District Presbyterian-At-Large must fulfill the normal qualifications for the office, with the exception that, instead of ministry as a Senior Pastor in a geographic section, they must be an active minister within the District.

In addition, no Sectional Presbyterian or Presbyterian-At-Large may also serve as an Executive Presbyterian or Executive Presbyterian-At-Large. In the event that a Sectional Presbyterian or Presbyterian-At-Large is elected as an Executive Presbyterian or Executive Presbyterian-At-Large, the individual must choose which position to accept; the other becomes vacant.

E. Additional Qualifications for Honorary and Emeritus Officials

1. Emeritus Executive Officers: The candidate must have served as an Executive Officer in this District, served the District Presbytery for 15 or more years, and must be at least 65 years old.
2. Honorary Officials: Honorary Executive Presbyterian, Honorary Sectional Presbyterian: The candidate must have served the District for at least 15 years as an Executive or Sectional Presbyterian and must be at least 65 years old.

Section Two: Nominations of Officers

A. Nomination of District Officials and General Council Presbyters

1. Nomination of District Superintendent

All candidates for District Superintendent shall be nominated by secret ballot of the membership at a meeting of the membership of the District Council in session. The Tellers Committee shall tally the nominations and provide the chairman with a list of all names which received six or more nominations ordered by decreasing number of votes along with the number of nominations received. Other names receiving less than six votes will be reported as *Other Names* along with the total number of votes received.

2. Nomination of Assistant District Superintendent and District Secretary-Treasurer

The District Superintendent and the District Presbytery shall investigate and discuss the qualifications and general fitness of candidates for these offices and shall select by secret ballot one or more names to be presented to the District Council in session for election. The District Presbytery, serving as the nominating committee, shall submit as nominees to the District Council all qualified candidates who have received at least six votes. There shall be no further nominations from the District Council floor.

3. Nomination of General Council Presbyters other than Ex Officio

The District Presbytery shall act as the nominating committee for the offices of General Council Presbyters other than District Officers that serve by virtue of office. The District Presbytery shall by secret ballot select one or more names for each office to be presented to the District Council for election. The District Presbytery shall submit all qualified candidates who have received at least three votes on the nominating ballot. There shall be no further nominations from the District Council floor.

B. Nomination of Executive Presbyters

1. Regional Executive Presbyters

Regions assigned even numbers by the Executive Presbytery nominate an Executive Presbyterian on even years, and regions with odd numbers nominate an Executive Presbyterian on odd years using the following procedure:

At a duly-called sectional meeting, each section in the region shall select a nominee from the region by simple majority vote by secret ballot. If, after the second electoral ballot a majority is not achieved, each candidate receiving more than one-third of the votes shall be submitted to the District Council as nominee. There shall be no further nominations from the District Council floor. The voting constituency of a section shall meet the same criteria as required for registration at a meeting of the membership of

District Council. This selection shall take place at the same meeting at which the section nominates a Sectional Presbyter. The name of the Executive Presbyter nominee shall be reported to the District Secretary and presented for election at the District Council. If each section in the region nominates the same individual the chair may declare an election without further voting by the District Council.

2. Executive Presbyters-At-Large

a. Intercultural Executive Presbyters-At-Large

There shall be one Intercultural Executive Presbyter-At-Large. On odd-numbered years, each intercultural church and recognized fellowship is invited to submit to the District Presbytery nominees for this office. The Superintendent shall appoint a District Presbytery Nominating Committee to review submissions and submit a list of qualified candidates to the District Presbytery, who shall by two-thirds majority vote select a candidate to present to the District Council for election.

b. Female Executive Presbyters-At-Large

There shall be one Female Executive Presbyter-At-Large. On even-numbered years, female credentialed ministers of the District are invited to suggest potential nominees for this office to the District Presbytery. The Superintendent shall appoint a District Presbytery Nominating Committee to review nominees and submit a list of qualified candidates to the District Presbytery, who shall by two-thirds majority vote select a candidate to present to the District Council for election.

C. Nomination and Election of Presbyters

1. Sectional Presbyters

Sections belonging to regions assigned even numbers nominate and elect a Sectional Presbyter on even years, and sections belonging to regions with odd numbers nominate and elect a Sectional Presbyter on odd years using the following procedure:

Candidates for Sectional Presbyter shall be nominated and elected at a duly called Sectional meeting following the procedures described in Article Three, Section Three, Paragraph B. The meeting shall be called by the District Superintendent and held at least 30 days prior to the annual District Council. The meeting shall be chaired by another Constitutional Officer or the District Superintendent's designee. The voting constituency of a section shall meet the same criteria as required for registration at a meeting of the membership of District Council. The name of the elected Sectional Presbyter shall be reported to the District Secretary. The term of office shall commence immediately upon election. In the event none of the ministers in a section meet all the qualifications for the office of Sectional Presbyter, then the District Presbytery shall appoint an acting Sectional Presbyter.

2. Presbyters-At-Large

a. Intercultural District Presbyters-At-Large

There shall be two Intercultural District Presbyters-at-Large. On odd-numbered years, each intercultural church and recognized fellowship is invited to submit to the District Presbytery nominees for this office. The Superintendent shall appoint a District Presbytery Nominating Committee to review submissions and submit a list of qualified candidates to the District Presbytery, who shall by two-thirds majority vote select candidates to present to the District Council for election.

b. Female District Presbyters-At-Large

There shall be two female District Presbyters-at-Large. On even-numbered years, female credentialed ministers of the District are invited to suggest nominees for this office to the District Presbytery. The Superintendent shall appoint a District Presbytery Nominating Committee to review nominees and submit a list of qualified candidates to the District Presbytery, who shall by two-thirds majority vote select candidates to present to the District Council for election.

D. Nomination of Honorary and Emeritus Officers

Candidates for Honorary and Emeritus Officers shall be nominated by a majority vote of the District Presbytery.

Section Three: Election of Officers

- A. Majorities Required
1. A two-thirds majority shall be required for all elections not otherwise specified.
 2. Honorary positions require a simple majority.
 3. Special Representatives to the General Council General Presbytery and General Council Executive Presbytery shall require a simple majority.
- B. Election Procedures
- All names presented to the membership for consideration shall be voted upon by secret ballot until a nominee receives the required majority of all votes cast. If on the nominating ballot a single candidate receives 75% or more of the votes cast, the chairman shall declare the ballot to be an electoral ballot and the candidate thereby elected.
- After each ballot, the Tellers Committee shall make a report listing the candidates and the number of votes each candidate has received ordered by decreasing number of votes.
- If no candidate has received the necessary majority by the second ballot after the nominating ballot the three nominees who have received the highest number of votes in the last round shall be the only nominees to be further voted upon; and all other names shall be removed.
- C. Procedure to Elect Honorary and Emeritus Officials
- Elections of Honorary and Emeritus District Officials may be conducted by voice vote.

Section Four: Vacancies

- A. In the event that all three Executive Officers are lost to the District, the Regional Executive Presbyter with the longest current consecutive tenure shall convene and chair a meeting of the District Presbytery within 14 days of such loss. The District Presbytery shall elect by simple majority an Acting District Superintendent from the Executive Presbytery and an Acting District Secretary from the District Presbytery. The Acting District Superintendent and Acting District Secretary shall be empowered to sign all legal documents. The Acting District Superintendent shall call a special District Council to be held within 45 days of the loss to nominate and elect new officers to fill the unexpired terms according to District Bylaws, Article Three, Section Two, paragraph A, subparagraphs 1 and 2. The Acting District Superintendent and Acting District Secretary shall serve only until new Executive Officers are elected. The newly elected officers shall immediately assume their duties.
- B. In the event a vacancy shall occur in the office of the District Superintendent, the Assistant District Superintendent shall immediately assume the authority and duties and responsibilities of that office in addition to normal duties of Assistant District Superintendent until the next District Council Convention, at which time the membership of the District Council shall elect a successor for the unexpired term of the District Superintendent. Should such vacancy occur six months or more before the next scheduled District Council business meeting, a special called District Council shall be held within 45 days in order to conduct such election.
- C. In the event a vacancy shall occur in the office of Assistant District Superintendent, District Secretary-Treasurer, Executive Presbyter, Executive Presbyter At-Large, Sectional Presbyter, Presbyter At-Large, or General Presbyter, same may be filled by two-thirds majority vote of the District Presbytery by secret ballot, to fill the unexpired term. If for any reason a vacancy in any of these offices is not filled prior to the annual meeting of the membership of the District Council, the District Presbytery shall place in nomination the names of qualified persons to be presented to the membership of District Council for election.
- D. In the event the office or the unexpired term of Assistant District Superintendent and/or District Secretary-Treasurer becomes vacant during a District Council in session, the District Superintendent and District Presbytery, by secret ballot, shall caucus to nominate one or more candidates for the position, according to Bylaws Article Three, Section 2, Paragraph A, Subparagraph 2, for presentation to the District Council for election.
- E. In the event of vacancies on any boards, committees, or teams the District Superintendent shall appoint a replacement with the approval of the Executive Presbytery.

Section Five: Removal for Cause

The District Presbytery may remove an Executive Officer from office prior to the end of a term if, in its judgment, there is clear and convincing evidence of incapacity, inefficiency, incompetence, or other grounds not constituting a basis for formal discipline pursuant to General Council Bylaws, Article X, that renders the officer unfit for office and compromises the mission of the Assemblies of God. Such action to remove must be considered at a special called meeting of the District Presbytery, called for this purpose. Removal of an executive officer shall require a three-quarters vote of the District Presbytery by secret ballot. The vote shall be final unless an appeal is made within ten days to a special called District Council to be held within forty-five days of the District Presbytery's action. In the event of an appeal, the decision of the District Presbytery shall not be effective unless and until it is ratified by the District Council by simple-majority vote by secret ballot.

**ARTICLE FOUR – DUTIES AND PRIVILEGES OF OFFICERS,
BOARDS, AND COMMITTEES****Section One: Duties of the Executive Officers****A. Duties of the District Superintendent**

1. The District Superintendent shall be the president of this District Council. The District Superintendent is Chief Executive Officer and supervisor of all day to day business of this corporation, empowered to sign legal documents and official certificates on behalf of the corporation, and as required to certify the validity of same. The District Superintendent shall do and perform the functions customary for a corporation presiding officer and such as may be directed by the membership or the Executive Presbytery or District Presbytery. The District Superintendent shall devote full time to the duties of this office.
2. The District Superintendent shall be an ex officio member of all boards, committees, and teams established within this District Council.
3. The District Superintendent shall supervise all the work of the District Council, its departments and programs. All departmental officers and directors within this District Council are under the District Superintendent's authority. The District Superintendent shall serve as, or present for appointment, the Director of each Division of this District Council unless otherwise specifically assigned in these Bylaws.
4. The District Superintendent shall be the supervisor of all activities and business at the District Council office.
5. The District Superintendent shall administer discipline among the membership of this District Council, and is empowered to impose restrictions on any minister whose ministerial credentials are registered with this District Council when such person is under serious allegations or charges, pending determination of the Executive Presbytery or eventual disposition by the General Council Credentials Committee or the General Presbytery.
6. The District Superintendent shall preside as chair of all annual District Council Conventions and Special Business Meetings of the membership.
7. The District Superintendent shall preside as chair of meetings of the District Presbytery of this District Council. The District Superintendent may relinquish the chair to the Assistant District Superintendent for matters related to District Missions and District Churches, or as otherwise deemed necessary.
8. The District Superintendent shall preside as chair of the meetings of the Executive Presbytery of this District Council.
9. The District Superintendent shall preside as chair of the meetings of the Ministerial Relations Committee of this District Council.
10. The District Superintendent shall preside as chair of meetings of the Executive Committee of this District Council.

B. Duties of the Assistant District Superintendent

1. The Assistant District Superintendent shall serve as vice-president of this District Council

Corporation. The Assistant District Superintendent shall do and perform the functions customary for a corporation vice-president and such as may be directed by the District Presbytery or Executive Presbytery, and is amenable to the District Superintendent in all matters of work and policy. The Assistant District Superintendent shall devote full-time to the duties of the office.

2. The Assistant District Superintendent shall be an ex officio member of all boards, committees, and teams within this District Council.
 3. In absence of the District Superintendent, the Assistant District Superintendent shall preside as chair at all District Council Conventions and Special Business Meetings of the membership, meetings of the Executive Presbytery, meetings of the District Presbytery, and meetings of the District Executive Committee.
 4. In order to provide for the necessary continuity in the work of this District Council, the Assistant District Superintendent shall sign legal documents and as required certify to their validity when either the District Superintendent or District Secretary is absent, when a written request has been received from the absent executive to so do; or, when there is a vacancy or other incapacity in the office of either the District Superintendent or District Secretary such may be authorized by the Executive Presbytery.
 5. The Assistant District Superintendent shall assist in the operations of the District Council Office, and in supervision of the work on the field within the area served by this District Council, in cooperation with the District Superintendent.
 6. The Assistant District Superintendent shall be the Director of the Division of District Churches and District Missions, to oversee District affiliated churches, District approved ministries, and domestic evangelists; and to make recommendations regarding Assemblies of God US Missionaries and military chaplains, district affiliated ministries, and endorsed ministries.
 7. The Assistant District Superintendent shall be responsible to investigate applications for financial assistance for minister members of this District Council, and may administer funds made available by the District Presbytery for such assistance. The Assistant District Superintendent is empowered, as funds and facility are available, to arrange for financial and material aid to affiliated Assemblies of God churches in event of disaster. The Assistant District Superintendent shall act as liaison in this District Council for the General Council Benevolence Department and administer that part of its activities as directed by the General Council. The Assistant District Superintendent will provide regular reports of all expenditures to the Executive Presbytery.
 8. The Assistant District Superintendent shall serve as the Director of other Divisions of the District Council as requested by the Superintendent and approved by the Executive Presbytery.
- C. Duties of the District Secretary-Treasurer
1. Duties as the District Secretary
 - a. The District Secretary of this District Council shall perform such functions as are customary to the office of a corporate secretary and as may be directed by the membership of the District Council or the District Presbytery or the Executive Presbytery, and is amenable to the District Superintendent in all matters of work and policy. The District Secretary shall devote full-time to the duties of the office of District Secretary-Treasurer.
 - b. The District Secretary shall be the corporate secretary of the District Council Corporation, and as such shall be the custodian of the corporate seal; and, shall sign, seal, and deliver all legal documents as necessary, and when required shall certify the validity of same.
 - c. The District Secretary shall make and keep true record of proceedings of the District Council and publish same as required by this Constitution and Bylaws and as approved and directed by the membership of the District Council, District Presbytery or Executive Presbytery.
 - d. The District Secretary shall act as secretary of meetings of the Executive Presbytery,

- the District Presbytery, the Ministerial Relations Committee, and the Executive Committee, and shall make and keep records of the deliberations of such bodies.
- e. The District Secretary shall be an ex officio member of all boards, committees, and teams within this District Council.
 - f. The District Secretary shall endorse and certify all applications for ministerial credentials approved by the District Credentials Board as authorized by the General Council Credentials Committee. The District Secretary shall keep a record of the assemblies within this District Council, and shall maintain a continuing record of reception, transfer, discipline, dismissal or withdrawal, and demise, of all ministers whose ministerial credentials are or have been or shall in the future be registered with this District Council.
 - g. The District Secretary shall keep all essential records of membership within this District Council, and transactions between the District Council and local churches.
 - h. In the absence of both the District Superintendent and Assistant District Superintendent, the District Secretary shall preside as chair at meetings of the membership and boards and committees in which such absent officers would otherwise preside.
 - i. The District Secretary shall serve as the Director of any Divisions of the District Council at the request of the Superintendent as approved by the Executive Presbytery.
2. Duties as the District Treasurer
- a. The District Treasurer of this District Council shall perform such functions as are customary to the office of a corporate chief financial officer and as may be directed by the membership of the District Council or the District Presbytery or the Executive Presbytery, and is amenable to the District Superintendent in all matters of work and policy. This officer shall devote full-time to the duties of the office of District Secretary-Treasurer.
 - b. The District Treasurer shall be the custodian of all funds of this corporation and shall initially deposit such funds in the corporate name of the District Council in federally insured institutions designated by the Executive Presbytery. When it is appropriate that District funds be invested, the District Treasurer shall invest such funds in investment institutions which are affiliated with the Assemblies of God (CEP, AGFSG, etc.) or loaned to Assemblies of God churches and other affiliated organizations in this District. The deposited funds shall remain in these designated or affiliated institutions until disbursement.
 - c. The District Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements of funds of this District Council and administer the work of the office according to acceptable methods of business procedure.
 - d. The District Treasurer shall be bonded by a good and sufficient employee's fidelity bond in the minimum amount of \$100,000; the cost of the bond to be paid from the general funds of this District Council.
 - e. The District Treasurer shall make reports of the business activity of this District Council to the District Superintendent and to the Executive Presbytery and to the District Presbytery at their regular meetings, and make an annual financial report to the membership at the District Council Convention which shall include a confirming report of a Certified Public Accountant, a copy of which shall be made available to each member and delegate then present.
 - f. The District Treasurer shall supervise the development of comprehensive insurance programs for churches, ministers, affiliated organizations, and employees, of this District Council.

Section Two: Duties of the Executive Presbytery

- A. The Executive Presbytery shall serve as the statutory board of directors of this District Council. They shall supervise and have general oversight over all District ministries and shall execute the will of the Council carrying out the policies established by the Council being

- at all times under the authority of the District Council. They shall exercise the corporate duties of the Council when the Council is not in session, shall control the business affairs of the corporation and shall ratify the appointment of divisional personnel and all boards and committee members who serve the District Council unless stipulated otherwise elsewhere in these Bylaws. The Executive Presbytery is empowered to adopt and establish rules and regulations for conduct of all business of this District Council, particularly to establish fiscal policies for the corporation. Accordingly, the Executive Presbytery is empowered to interpret policy mandates and Bylaws adopted by the membership of the District Council in session. They shall provide regular reports of their actions to the District Presbytery and shall edit and approve the minutes of the meetings of the membership of the District Council for publication.
- B. The Executive Presbytery serves as the finance board of the District and shall approve and monitor both the administrative and divisional budgets, shall approve all personnel and officer's salaries and shall approve all financial reports for the District Council. The Executive Presbytery is empowered to buy, sell, or receive properties for the District valued up to three million dollars.
 - C. The Executive Presbytery shall act as the District Credentials Board in all matters relating to the execution of policy for ministerial credentials.
 1. They shall receive and act upon the credentialing recommendations of the Sectional Leadership Committee, review and act upon applications for life experience and recognition of credentials, and shall evaluate and apply all policies regarding credentials as recommended by the General Council and Executive Presbytery according to Bylaws described below
 2. All applications for ministerial credentials or certifications to be issued through this District Council shall be filed with the District Secretary, on forms approved by the District Presbytery. Procedure for processing such applications for ministerial credentials or certifications, interviewing applicants, and arranging interviewing committees, shall be as elsewhere provided in these Bylaws. The Credentials Committee shall adopt procedural policies in order to maintain a consistent high level of ministerial quality.
 - D. The Ministerial Relations Committee investigates charges brought against members of this District Council.
 1. The Executive Presbytery, functioning as the Ministerial Relations Committee of this District Council shall act as a judicial forum to investigate, hear charges and impose discipline against credentialed ministers and members, giving a complete report to the District Presbytery.
 2. The membership of the committee may from time to time be augmented by the addition of the Sectional Presbyter of the affected section. The District Superintendent is authorized to appoint special committees from the members of the District Presbytery to assist with an investigation when appropriate.
 3. The committee shall investigate all charges brought against any minister of this District Council and shall receive the reports from other duly appointed committees or officers authorized to investigate allegations and complaints against such minister. The Ministerial Relations Committee shall present to the District Presbytery a report regarding any disciplinary actions taken.
 - E. By virtue of their respective offices, the members of the Executive Presbytery of this District Council shall be members of the District Presbytery.
 - F. The Executive Presbytery of this District Council shall meet at least six times each year. Such meetings may take place at any location within or without the boundaries of this District Council, at the discretion of the Board.
 - G. In the event the District Superintendent shall determine that circumstances constitute an emergency, the Executive Presbytery shall be authorized to deliberate by means of mail, electronic communications, conference call, or telephone polling conducted by or under supervision of the District Superintendent or the Assistant District Superintendent. All such discussion, deliberation and action shall be pursuant to the normal rules of parliamentary

- procedure, except that a two-thirds majority vote shall be required to adopt and the quorum and vote shall be recorded by roll call. Such action, and all related documentation shall be reviewed by the Executive Presbytery at its next regular or special meeting, and entered into the minutes of that meeting.
- H. The Executive Presbytery shall serve as a Mediation Board to help in resolution of disputes between individuals, churches, or factions within the fellowship. In the event of failure of mediation then the Mediation Board may act as arbitrators to make finding and binding determination in such matters. Decisions of the Mediation Board may be appealed to the District Presbytery and its decision shall be final.
 - I. The Executive Presbytery shall be responsible to assist the District Treasurer in the coordination of financial programs of all departments of this District Council and in preparation of budgets, including implementation of a program for fulfillment of the budget.
 - J. The Executive Presbytery shall provide preliminary survey and advice on major projects undertaken by this District Council at District or departmental level involving expenditure of funds.
 - K. All proposals for expenditure of funds of this District Council or any of its departments shall be first presented to the Executive Presbytery for review and recommendation.
 - L. The Executive Presbytery of this District Council is authorized to establish the office of controller, having such duties and authority as shall be assigned to that office by the Executive Committee.
 - M. The Executive Presbytery shall be responsible for recommending adequate insurance programs for the District Council and its members, affiliated ministries and churches, including but not limited to fire, liability, property, medical and life insurance policies.
 - N. The Executive Presbytery may constitute sub-committees of Finance and Missions with the appointment of resource persons to serve on these sub-committees. The Executive Presbytery may constitute other sub-committees as need arises to serve specific areas of need regarding District business or policies, and may retain resource people to assist in their areas of expertise.

Section Three: Duties of the District Presbytery

- A. General Duties (Applies to all Presbyters.)
 - 1. The District Presbytery shall serve the District Council to facilitate and support the ministry needs within their respective sections or constituencies.
 - 2. The District Presbytery shall receive reports of action from the Executive Presbytery.
 - 3. The District Presbytery shall also serve as the District Churches District Missions Board, as described in these Bylaws. The District Presbytery is to formally approve the opening and closing of churches, may make recommendations regarding the sale or purchase of property, and review and suggest action to address the needs of churches and ministers.
 - 4. The District Presbytery is to formally approve the opening and closing of churches.
 - 5. The District Presbytery shall meet a minimum of three times a year to conduct its regular business, and should retreat annually to pray, have fellowship, review the previous year's ministry, and to seek direction for the coming year's ministry. Such meetings may take place at any location within or without the boundaries of this District Council, at the discretion of the District Presbytery.
 - 6. In event the District Superintendent shall determine that circumstances constitute an emergency, the District Presbytery shall be authorized to deliberate by means of mail, electronic communications, conference call, or telephone polling conducted by or under supervision of the District Superintendent or Assistant District Superintendent. All discussion, deliberation and action taken in conference telephone meetings shall be pursuant to the normal rules of parliamentary procedure, except a two-thirds majority shall be required to adopt and the quorum and vote shall be recorded by roll call. Such action and all related documentation shall be reviewed by the District Presbytery at its next regular or special meeting, and entered into the minutes of that meeting.
 - 7. The District Presbytery is empowered to endorse or withhold endorsement from local

churches seeking General Council affiliation, and is empowered to request that sovereign churches which are disapproved be removed from the roster of General Council churches.

8. Periodic training shall be provided to assist and improve all Presbyters' abilities to coach and support the ministers and ministries within their sections.
- B. Providing Sectional Pastoral Leadership
1. The individual Sectional Presbyter together with the Sectional Leadership Committee shall be responsible to monitor the conditions, needs, ministries, and ministers residing in their respective sections. They shall provide pastoral oversight of their section or language groups, assist churches with open pastorates, act as the Advisory Committee of District affiliated churches which do not have a qualified Advisory Committee, develop a sectional ministry network to enhance sectional meetings, work with the Church Planting Team to develop church planting strategies for their section and assist in the mentoring, discipline, and restoration programs of ministers within the section.
 2. The individual Sectional Presbyters serving on the District Presbytery of this District Council shall serve in their respective sections as presiding officer of meetings of membership in respective section, and shall be in charge of all fellowship meetings and ministers meetings as shall take place within such section, and shall arrange at least four such meetings each calendar year.
 3. The individual Sectional Presbyters shall preside at business meetings in a local church in their respective sections of this District Council in response to request from the pastor or official board of the church, after first consulting with the District Superintendent.
 4. The individual Sectional Presbyters shall work with the District Churches and District Missions Director to provide oversight of District affiliated churches in their section, and receive annual reports from the pastor of the District affiliated churches. Each Sectional Presbyter or respective designee shall meet with each pastor of the District affiliated churches at least once each calendar year on the premises of that local church to conduct a tour and inspection of the church premises and any District owned parsonage and property, and to discuss the ministerial goals of the pastor and the local church. Written reports of these meetings shall be forwarded to the Director of the Division of District Churches and District Missions.
 5. The individual sectional presbyters together with the Sectional Leadership Committee shall serve as the credential review committee for their section. As such they shall interview and make recommendations regarding prospective candidates within their section and shall establish a mentoring relationship for six months with all first-time credential holders.
- C. Special Duties for At-Large Presbyters (Applies only to Presbyters representing demographic groups.)
1. At-Large Presbyters serve the District by being available to provide counsel and prayer to District ministers from their represented group.
 2. At-Large Presbyters shall be available, by invitation, to participate in and strengthen the activities of the Section, such as meetings and credential interviews.
 3. At-Large Presbyters shall participate in District Council services, such as ordination, communion, and prayer.
 4. At-Large Presbyters may be asked by the Superintendent to assist, counsel, or consult in special cases, such as church matters, ministerial counseling, or ministerial restoration.

Section Four: Composition and Duties of Sectional Leadership Committees

- A. There shall be in each section of this District Council a Sectional Leadership Committee, consisting of not less than three nor more than five members, with the numbers thereof to be determined by the membership of the section from time to time. In addition to such elected members, the Regional Executive Presbyter for the particular section shall be an ex officio member of each such Sectional Leadership Committee within respective region.
- B. The members of the Sectional Leadership Committee shall be elected to serve for a two year period by the membership of the section, at the biennial business meeting of the section

- by secret ballot. The section may adopt a special rule to accept preferential majority in these elections. Vacancies on the Sectional Leadership Committee shall be filled by special resolution of the committee composed of the remaining members
- C. A candidate for election to the Sectional Leadership Committee shall be an ordained minister who shall have been registered in the particular section for at least twelve consecutive months immediately prior to election. In the event a section has too few ministers who meet the criteria for such election, the Executive Committee shall waive certain qualifications and appoint other members in consultation with the Sectional Presbyter.
1. By special resolution of the Sectional Leadership Committee, and as ratified by the Executive Presbytery, one of the elected Sectional Leadership Committee Members (who qualifies according to District Bylaws, Article Three, Section 1.d.) shall be identified as "Assistant Presbyter," and in the absence of the Sectional Presbyter is authorized to represent the section at District Presbytery meetings with voice and vote.
 2. If the section does not elect an Ordained Intercultural, Ordained Female, or Ordained Minister Under-Forty Years Old, the Presbyter shall be empowered to appoint a qualified individual to serve the committee as a resource person.
- D. The Sectional Leadership Committee shall be responsible for implementing, coordinating, supervising and promoting the work of the section, including aiding and assisting churches and ministers in the section with spiritual under girding and promoting cooperative programs.
- E. The individual Sectional Presbyter for the section shall serve as chair of the Sectional Leadership Committee, and be responsible for notifying all elected and appointed and ex officio members of the committee of time and place of meeting, and determine and assign the portfolio of duties to each elected or appointed committee member, as established and set forth in the District Administrative Procedures Manual.
- F. The Sectional Leadership Committee shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery in all matters of policy and procedure, as set forth in the District Administrative Procedures Manual.
- G. The Sectional Leadership Committee shall:
1. Provide the Church Planting Team with a list of potential church plant sites annually;
 2. Promote financial aid and other assistance from the Sectional churches to any new church planted in the Section; and
 3. Promote the District affiliated church tour.
- H. The Sectional Leadership Committee is authorized to raise funds in its section to cover operating expenses as approved by the Executive Presbytery. All such funds shall be deposited in a special fund established with a federally insured financial institution, in the name of the District Council and under the District Council's Federal Identification Number, for the benefit of the section, for which account the District Secretary-Treasurer shall be principal signatory, and other signatories as allowed by written confirmation of the District Secretary-Treasurer.
- I. It shall be the responsibility of the particular Sectional Presbyter, as the chair of such Sectional Leadership Committee, to personally monitor the fiscal activities of the Sectional Leadership Committee, and to provide the District Secretary with an annual report of income and disbursements, accompanied by copies of account statements from the financial institution in which funds are deposited.
- J. The Sectional Leadership Committee shall serve as an interviewing committee to examine certain candidates for ministry within this District Council in the respective section.
- K. The Sectional Leadership Committee may be requested by the Executive Presbytery or the District Presbytery to serve as the acting board of a District Affiliated Church or of a General Council Affiliated Church which has requested District supervision and oversight.

Section Five: Privileges of the Honorary and Emeritus Officers

- A. Persons elected to the office of Emeritus Executive Officers shall be designated with the title "Emeritus" preceding the highest position in which the person had served. Emeritus Executive Officers shall have the privilege of attending meetings of the Executive and District

Presbyteries at their own expense, with voice and no vote.

- B. Persons elected to the office of Honorary Presbyter shall be designated with the title "Honorary" preceding the highest position in which that person served. Honorary Executive Presbyters may have the privilege of attending meetings of the Executive and District Presbytery at their own expense, with voice but no vote. Honorary District Presbyters may have the privilege of attending meetings of the District Presbytery at their own expense, with voice but no vote.

Section Six: Duties Involving Oversight of Properties

- A. All real property belonging to this District Council or held by it in trust, or otherwise, shall be deeded to the District Council in its official corporate name.
- B. The Executive Presbytery shall have oversight and management control of all property belonging to or held in trust by this District Council, particularly to safely keep same, acquiring appropriate and adequate insurance against loss, with coverage sufficient to take care of replacement value, or in appropriate situations to cover at least the extent of District Council's financial interest in the property.

Section Seven: Duties in Acquiring or Conveyance of Property

- A. No real property of this District Council shall be purchased, taken by gift or trade, or otherwise acquired, sold, transferred, mortgaged, leased, assigned, conveyed or otherwise alienated, without the same shall have been first authorized by a two-thirds majority vote of the bodies authorized to conclude the transaction at a regular or special meeting called for that purpose as follows:
 - 1. Real property purchase or sale transactions by this District Council or any of its subordinate departments or programs involving sums in excess of Three Million Dollars shall require authorization of the membership of District Council at a regular meeting or special meeting duly called and noticed for that purpose.
 - 2. Real property purchase or sale transactions by this District Council or any of its subordinate departments or programs involving sums of Three Million Dollars or less may be negotiated and concluded by the Executive Presbytery.
- B. Conditional gifts or transactions involving gifts to this District Council of personal property or real property valued in excess of One Hundred Thousand Dollars by will or trust, by unitrust or other means, may be negotiated by the District Executive Committee, but such gift transactions shall not be concluded except by an authorizing special resolution of the Executive Presbytery. If it is the intent of the donor that such real or personal property so gifted is to be sold, or otherwise disposed of at option of District Council and to apply the proceeds to benefit ministries or programs of this District Council, and such intention or option is evidenced in writing signed by the donor, same may be subsequently sold or otherwise disposed of by the Executive Presbytery under such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate for any amount, without consent of the membership.
- C. Conditional gifts or transactions involving gifts to this District Council of personal property or real property valued at less than One Hundred Thousand Dollars, by will or trust, by unitrust or other means, may be negotiated and concluded by acceptance of the District Executive Committee, but the gift or its proceeds may not be disposed of except through action of the Executive Presbytery. However, if it is the intent of the donor that such real or personal property so gifted is to be sold or otherwise disposed of at option of the District Council, and to apply the proceeds to benefit particular ministries or programs of this District Council, and such intention or option is evidenced in writing signed by the donor, same may be subsequently sold or otherwise disposed of by the District Executive Committee under such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate for any amount, without consent of the membership or the Executive Presbytery.
- D. Transactions involving unconditional gifts to this District Council of personal property or real property, by will or trust, by unitrust or other means, for less than Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars may be negotiated and concluded by acceptance of the District Executive

Committee, with gifts of substantial amounts reported at intervals by the District Secretary to the Executive Presbytery. If such gift is a wasting or deteriorable item, and if it is the intent of the donor that such real or personal property so gifted is to be sold or otherwise disposed of at option of District Council and to apply the proceeds to benefit ministries or programs of this District Council, and such intention or option is evidenced in writing signed by the donor, same may be subsequently sold or otherwise disposed of by the District Executive Committee under such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate, without consent of the Executive Presbytery.

- E. Unconditional donations of money to this District Council of any amount shall not require particular acceptance or concluding approval of any board or officer, and same shall be receipted accordingly and the funds placed in the general funds of the District Council.
- F. Gifts to this District Council of personal property of value less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars may be negotiated and concluded by acceptance of the members of the District Executive Committee under terms and conditions they find acceptable, and such property may be then sold or otherwise disposed of by that committee for consideration or terms it deems acceptable, and any funds thereby recovered shall be applied as designated by the donor under original terms of the gift, or if there be no such terms or conditions apparent the proceeds shall be deposited to the general funds of this District Council.
- G. Certification on Real Property Conveyancing: The District Superintendent and the Secretary of this District Council shall certify in all conveyances, leases, mortgages, or other document affecting the real property of this District Council that such action has been authorized by proper vote of the authorizing committee or board, and such certificates shall be conclusive evidence thereof.

ARTICLE FIVE – ESTABLISHMENT OF DIVISIONS

All activities and affairs of this District Council are conducted under the corporate authority and ultimate amenability to the Executive Committee, the Executive Presbytery, the Constitution and Bylaws of the District Council, and the District Council in session. The District Council shall establish the following divisions.

Section One: Division of District Churches and District Missions

A. Purpose

This division exists to oversee District affiliated churches, District approved and recognized ministries, and domestic evangelists, and to make recommendations regarding Assemblies of God US Missionaries, District affiliated and endorsed ministries, and military chaplains who are members of this District.

B. Leadership and Composition

This division shall be led by the Assistant District Superintendent who shall also be known as the Director of this division.

The District Churches and District Missions Board shall be comprised of the District Presbytery. The chairpersons of the intercultural fellowships, and any other special representatives appointed by the Executive Presbytery shall have voice but no vote.

C. Funding

1. The operation of the Division of District Churches and District Missions shall be funded through designated contributions of churches, individuals and endowments. The Executive Presbytery may allocate additional funds from the General Fund.
2. This division shall administer all designated funds set apart for District churches and District missions personnel, programs, and projects, including proceeds from loans approved by the Executive Presbytery, gifts, and specially designated endowments. All receipts, deposits, and disbursements shall be according to policies established in these Bylaws and by the Executive Presbytery and under the custodianship of the District Treasurer.

D. Operations

1. The District Churches and District Missions Board shall approve, re-affirm annually, and provide oversight to all District approved ministries and District appointed missionaries.
2. The District Churches and District Missions Board shall provide oversight to all District affiliated churches by:
 - a. Approving the opening and closing of churches.
 - b. Appointing pastors.
 - c. Making recommendations regarding mortgages, leases, property acquisitions, property sales, budgets, contracts, and other such items identified in the Rules of Order for District Affiliated churches.
 - d. Assisting local churches to implement safe practices for children as required by the Executive Presbytery.
3. The Sectional Presbyter together with the Sectional Leadership Committee shall have the right to make recommendations to the Division of District Churches and District Missions regarding ministries within their sections.
4. Neither this division nor its director shall underwrite or otherwise guarantee or endorse any debt, nor are they authorized to give consent to any person or agency for guaranteeing debt. All matters involving debt shall be referred to the Executive Presbytery.
5. Disbursements of funds of this Division for sums of \$10,000 or less may be authorized by the Director. Disbursements of funds in excess of \$10,000 must be approved by the Executive Committee. All such action shall be reported to the District Presbytery and to the Executive Presbytery and recorded in their respective minutes.
6. This division shall encourage all local Assemblies of God churches to include in their budgets' giving programs, with special consideration for those missionary personnel and projects identified with this District Council.
7. The director of this division shall make recommendations to the District Presbytery regarding District Recognized ministries.
8. This division shall oversee District-appointed missionaries and domestic evangelists and shall maintain an account for each at the District Office where designated contributions, offerings and honorariums may be received and credited to the minister's account and issue the donor World Ministries giving credit. The Division shall review the status of each District-appointed missionary and domestic evangelist annually.
9. The District Presbytery shall oversee U.S. missions endowment funds for the purpose of support and promotion of U.S. missions and missionaries.

Section Two: Division of Leadership Development and Pastoral Care

A. Purpose

This division shall establish a system to encourage professional growth of the District's ministers and to provide for their pastoral care.

B. Leadership and Composition

This division shall be led by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee, as approved by the Executive Presbytery, who shall also be known as the director of this division.

The Leadership Development and Pastoral Care Team shall be comprised of the Executive Committee and any other specially appointed persons. All members are appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

C. Funding

The Division of Leadership Development and Pastoral Care shall be funded through a budget allocation from the General Administration Fund, as established by the Executive Presbytery, and any other designated contributions made to this division. The assistance and ministry of the Division of Leadership Development and Pastoral Care shall be made available without charge to the ministers of the District Council, with the exception of those instances where there is a direct cost incurred for participation such as attendance at seminars, conferences, etc., when products are supplied, or when other professional costs are incurred.

D. Operations

This division shall serve the ministers, churches, and ministries of this District by providing opportunities for personal, professional, and church development. This division may assemble a network of confidential pastoral counselors and approved professional counselors and may also make provision for financial assistance when needed.

Section Three: Division of Church Ministries**A. Purpose**

This division shall assist local churches to develop and implement their ministries.

B. Leadership

This division shall be led by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee, as approved by the Executive Presbytery. All personnel and activities shall at all times be directly amenable to the Superintendent and shall make regular reports to the Executive Presbytery.

C. Organization/Composition/Structure

This division shall be comprised of specially appointed persons who are recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Executive Presbytery to facilitate the ministries of local churches such as youth, women's, men's, children's, music, small group ministries, and/or other needed ministries.

D. Duties/Responsibilities

The Division of Church Ministries shall conduct its ministries according to the Division of Church Ministries Operations Manual published by the Executive Presbytery.

E. Operations

The services of the Division of Church Ministries shall be made available without charge to the ministers and churches of the District Council, with the exception of those instances where there is a direct cost incurred for participation such as attendance at seminars, conferences, etc. when products are supplied, or when other professional costs are incurred.

F. Funding

The operations of the Division of Church Ministries shall be funded through contributions to the Church Ministries Fund which shall be promoted and administered by the Director of the Church Ministries Division. All receipts, deposits, and disbursements shall be according to policies established in these Bylaws and by the Executive Presbytery and, under the custodianship of the District Treasurer. The Director of the Division of Church Ministries shall supervise the budgets of all departments and operations within the Church Ministries Division, under the direction of the District Treasurer.

ARTICLE SIX – BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND TEAMS**Section One: Establishment of Boards, Committees, and Teams**

There shall be boards, committees, and teams established to function within this District Council by action of the membership, or special resolution of the Executive Presbytery, or by appointment of the District Superintendent.

All Boards, Committees, and Teams named in these Bylaws or created by special resolution shall be subject to the following guidelines unless otherwise specified herein.

Section Two: Common Features of Boards, Committees, and Teams**A. Definitions**

1. Boards fulfill governing functions: they are standing groups with specific decision-making authority.
2. Committees fulfill administrative functions: processing information, executing tasks, and reporting findings and recommendations to their appointing power.
3. Teams fulfill specific missions: within the scope of their mission they may make decisions and implement them while remaining amenable to their appointing power.

B. Qualifications

1. In order for a minister to be considered for election or appointment to serve or to continue in service on any board, committee or team of this District Council at sectional, District or General Council level, it is required that such minister be in good standing and have ministerial credentials registered with this District Council, and have manifested a genuine interest in District and sectional activities, and be current in financial responsibilities to both this District Council and the General Council.
 2. In order for a layperson to be considered for election or appointment to serve or to continue in service on any board, team, committee of this District Council at sectional, District or General Council level, it is required that such layperson be in good standing with the local Assemblies of God church.
- C. Ex Officio Board, Committee, and Team Members
1. Ex officio members of boards, committees and teams of this District Council shall serve in addition to the numerical complement comprising the board, committee, or team.
 2. All ex officio members of boards, committees, and teams of this District Council shall have all the rights, and may be assigned responsibilities and duties, as any other member.
- D. Appointment
- The members of the various boards, committees, and teams shall be appointed by the director of their respective division. If the group is not accountable to a specific division then the members shall be appointed by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee. All appointments are subject to ratification by the Executive Presbytery.
- E. Term of Office
- The terms of each member of the various boards, committees, and teams within this District Council shall be three years commencing September 1st unless otherwise noted. The terms of members shall be staggered in such a way that one-third of the complement of the respective group shall be appointed each year.
- F. Rights of Members
- All members of boards, committees, and teams, whether elected, appointed, or serving ex officio, are entitled to notice of meetings and right of participation in all respective sessions.
- G. Quorum
- A quorum for the conduct of business by a board, committee, or team shall consist of a simple majority of the group's current full complement.

Section Three: Committees and Teams Not Described Elsewhere

- A. Finance Committee
1. Purpose: The Finance Committee shall review all financial activities and policies and make recommendations to the Executive Presbytery regarding financial decisions.
 2. Amenability: As a subcommittee of the Executive Presbytery, the Finance Committee shall be amenable to them in all matters.
 3. Leadership: This committee shall be chaired by the District Treasurer.
 4. Organization/Composition/Structure: This committee shall be comprised of selected members of the Executive Presbytery along with any special resource persons recommended by the District Treasurer.
 5. Operations: The Finance Committee has the right to inspect any financial records of this District Council and to make recommendations to the Executive Presbytery regarding all financial decisions.
- B. World Missions Team
1. Purpose: The World Missions Team shall promote and assist appointed Assemblies of God World Missionaries who are members of this District.
 2. Amenability: The World Missions Team shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery in all matters.
 3. Leadership: The World Missions Team shall be led by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee as recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Executive Presbytery.

4. **Organization/Composition/Structure:** This committee shall be comprised of selected ministers along with any special AGWM or other resource persons appointed by the District Superintendent and ratified by the Executive Presbytery.
5. **Operations:** The World Missions Team shall provide coaching and assistance to individual world missionaries in their fundraising and shall also offer advice to local churches in developing a missions program. They shall manage and use the world missions endowments, and they shall approve prospective world missionaries.
6. **Funding:** The World Missions Team shall be funded through designated contributions of churches, individuals and endowments. The Executive Presbytery may allocate additional funds from the General Fund.

Section Four: District Council Convention Committees

A. District Council Roster Committee

1. **Purpose:** The District Council Roster Committee certifies the voting constituency at official meetings of this District Council.
2. **Amenability:** This committee is amenable to the chair of the meeting at which they are serving.
3. **Leadership:** This committee's chair shall be selected by the Executive Presbytery.
4. **Organization/Composition/Structure:** This committee shall consist of at least three capable and mature ordained ministers.
5. **Operations:** This committee shall review the credentials or certification of members and delegates seeking registration or continuing their respective registration at a District Council Convention or other meeting of the membership of this District Council shall report same to the chair of such meeting which shall be made a part of the permanent record of the meeting. Committee members shall be expected to be a part of all of the meetings of the membership.

B. Parliamentary Committee

1. **Purpose:** The Parliamentary Committee advises the chair of the District Council in session on matters of parliamentary procedure.
2. **Amenability:** This committee is amenable to the chair of the meeting at which they are serving.
3. **Leadership:** This committee's chair shall be selected by the Executive Presbytery.
4. **Organization/Composition/Structure:** This committee shall consist of at least three persons who are well-versed in parliamentary procedure.
5. **Operations:** Appointees shall be notified of their appointment not less than sixty days prior to the District Council Convention. All members of the Parliamentary Committee shall be expected to attend all business sessions of the District Council Convention.

C. Resolutions Committee

1. **Purpose:** The Resolutions Committee screens and prepares for voting resolutions presented to this District Council.
2. **Amenability:** This committee is amenable to the chair of the meeting at which they are serving.
3. **Leadership:** This committee's chair shall be selected by the Executive Presbytery.
4. **Organization/Composition/Structure:** This Committee shall consist of seven or more members.
5. **Operations:** The Resolutions Committee is responsible to determine the propriety in content and form of proposed resolutions to be submitted to the membership of the District Council in session at any District Council Convention or special meeting of the membership.

If the Resolutions Committee determines that a proposed resolution is inappropriate or otherwise unacceptable, it shall in writing inform the author of the details of impropriety or other reason explaining why the proposal is not acceptable to the committee, and in such writing inform the author of the right to present the proposal to the voting constituency for determination of propriety, with copies of such writing

provided for the District Secretary.

The Resolutions Committee shall arrange proposed resolutions into a proper design and logical sequence, and in proposals affecting these Constitution and Bylaws, shall indicate which parts of the code are so affected.

Resolutions to be considered by the Resolutions Committee should be in conformity with the regulations set forth hereinafter at Article Fourteen Resolutions.

D. Revisions Committee

1. Purpose: The Revisions Committee reviews and edits these Bylaws for clarity, simplicity, continuity, and for conformity with the General Council Bylaws.
2. Amenability: This committee is amenable to the Executive Presbytery.
3. Leadership: The chair of this committee shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.
4. Organization/Composition/Structure: This committee shall consist of five or more members.
5. Operations: The Revisions Committee shall review and edit the Bylaws of this District Council, for clarity, simplicity and continuity. It shall also edit and review the District Council Bylaws for conformity with the General Council Bylaws. Such conformity changes shall not require a vote of the District Council for implementation. Such change shall be reported to the District Council.

The Revisions Committee has authority to edit and align the entire text for grammatical constructions and consistency on all revisions adopted by the membership in session.

The Revisions Committee shall assist the District Secretary in preparation and publication of the annual yearbook of this District Council.

E. Spiritual Life Committee

1. Purpose: The Spiritual Life Committee evaluates and reports on the spiritual pulse of the constituency.
2. Amenability: This committee is amenable to the District Superintendent.
3. Leadership: The chair of this committee shall be appointed by the District Superintendent and ratified by the Executive Presbytery.
4. Organization/Composition/Structure: This committee shall be composed of at least five members esteemed for their character, wisdom, and faith.
5. Operations: This committee shall prayerfully prepare and deliver a bi-annual report to the District Council offering a provocative call to renewing our focus, call, and passion for ministry.

F. Tellers Committee

1. Purpose: The Tellers Committee processes nominations and prepares and tallies ballots for elections.
2. Amenability: This committee is amenable to the Executive Presbytery.
3. Leadership: The chair of this committee is appointed by the Executive Presbytery.
4. Organization/Composition/Structure: This committee shall consist of at least five members.
5. Operations: The operations of this committee are described in Article Six of these Bylaws.

Section Five: Other Standing Boards, Committees, and Teams

A. Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Team

1. Purpose: The Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Team shall promote viable Christ-centered Pentecostal witness on the college campuses within this District.
2. Amenability: This team is amenable to the District Presbytery.
3. Leadership: The leader of this team shall be selected by the District Presbytery to serve for a term specified by the District Presbytery. This person or this person's designee shall serve as the District Chi Alpha Representative for the purposes of the General Council.
4. Organization/Composition/Structure: This team shall consist of at least six persons.
5. Operations: This team, working in concert with Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S.A., program of the General Council, shall oversee the work of all Chi Alpha and other campus or related programs within this District Council.
6. Funding: The team shall be funded by designated contributions and offerings, by a

percentage of Speed The Light revenues as provided for by General Council policy, and by any additional funds authorized by the Executive Presbytery.

B. Church Planting Team

1. Purpose: The Church Planting Team shall promote and assist all church plants within this District.
2. Leadership: This team shall be chaired by an Executive Officer who may also appoint a Director of Church Planting subject to ratification by the District Presbytery.
3. Organization/Composition/Structure: That Executive Officer shall recommend ministers and laypersons to serve on the Church Planting Team for ratification by the District Presbytery.
4. Operations: The Church Planting Team shall identify, evaluate and promote church planting sites, shall recruit prospective church planters, and shall make recommendations to the District Presbytery. The Church Planting Team shall also offer to assist and coach church planters, create partnerships between established churches and church plants, and serve as a resource network for church planting.
5. Funding: The Church Planting Team shall be funded through designated contributions of churches, individuals, and endowments. The Executive Presbytery may allocate additional funds from the General Fund.

C. Teen Challenge Executive Team

1. Purpose: The Teen Challenge Executive Team administrates and promotes the Teen Challenge programs of this District.
2. Leadership: The leader of this team shall be selected by the team.
3. Amenability: This team shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery.
4. Organization/Composition/Structure: This team shall consist of at least six persons.
5. Operations: This team, working in concert with the national Teen Challenge program of the General Council, shall oversee the work of all Teen Challenge programs in this District.
6. Funding: This team shall be funded by designated contributions and offerings along with any additional funds authorized by the Executive Presbytery.

D. Augmenting and Miscellaneous Boards, Committees, and Teams

As need arises, the Executive Presbytery may authorize additions to standing boards, committees, or teams, and may even establish independent ad hoc groups and determine their purpose, leadership, amenability, composition, operations, funding and any additional policies pertaining to their work.

ARTICLE SEVEN – MINISTERS AND MINISTRY

Section One: Establishment of Ministry

A. Sacerdotal Rites and Ministry

1. This District Council recognizes that a divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord Jesus Christ for the fourfold purpose of leading the Church in evangelization of the world, the worship of Almighty God, the building of a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world. Furthermore, this District Council recognizes the gifts of our Lord Jesus Christ to His Church, including the gifts of ministry of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, exhorters, administrators, leaders and helpers. Three formal classifications of ministry are recognized and transferable by the Assemblies of God: the ordained minister; the licensed minister; and the certified minister, and provisions are made in this Fellowship for issuance of ministerial credentials to those individuals that have demonstrated their qualifications and dedication in these premises.
2. A fourth classification of ministry, a local church credential, may be provided by a local General Council affiliated church under basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines adopted by the District Council. The local church credential shall be non-transferable (limited to the issuing local church) and shall

be limited to 2 years renewable by the local church for an additional 2-year term (up to 4 years total) unless the credential is solely required for active and ongoing local ministry in a prison, hospital or institution. A person holding a local church credential can perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church if authorized in writing by the senior pastor of the local church issuing the credential.

3. A fifth classification of ministry, a Ministry Associate, may be provided by the District Council, under guidelines adopted in these Bylaws and such additional guidelines adopted by the Executive Presbytery. The Ministry Associate Commission is an apprentice commission, the purpose of which is to provide young persons who feel called to ministry the authorization to conduct certain ministry, under the supervision of a Licensed or Ordained Assembly of God Minister, for training and mentoring purposes. The Ministry Associate Commission is not a General Council Credential, and does not authorize the holder to unsupervised performance of sacerdotal functions, to serve as a Senior Pastor of a church, to have voting rights in district business, or to legal benefits afforded to ministers (such as housing allowance).
 4. Ministers holding General Council credentials are authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church subject to such requirements as the State may allow.
 5. This District Council recognizes that the ministry is a calling. Credentialed ministerial status is not a profession, nor is it a trade, nor is it a business for profit, nor is it an occupation in which the minister can have any sort of personal economic or proprietary interest. Ministry involves a personal devotion and commitment to God and the Mission of propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and extending His Kingdom. However, formal Credentialed Ministry within the Assemblies of God fellowship is a revocable privilege and not a right upon which any earthly value can be placed. Therefore, any person who applies for ministerial status through this District Council shall have no legal or inherent right to issuance of ministerial credentials nor any sort of legal or inherent right to continue in ministry or to hold ministerial credentials. Furthermore, those persons who are granted ministerial status and credentials, and those persons involved in other sanctioned ministries within this District Council and its member churches who hold no formal credentials, shall have no proprietary right or economic interest in such ministry or the ministerial status or ministerial credential. A person accepting ministerial status or ministerial credentials or sanctioned service within the institutional church or any program of this District Council, is deemed to have waived all legal claims in these premises, being subject to these continuing conditions.
- B. Classification of Ministerial Credentials

In accordance with the basic requirements of The General Council, recognition of candidates for the ministry in this District Council shall be considered for those men and women who demonstrate a worthy response to an evident call to service and who have been filled with the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4, and according to the following classifications:

1. Local Church Credential: A local church credential shall be administered by the local church pursuant to basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines adopted by the District Council. It shall be non-transferable (limited to the issuing local church only).
2. Certified Ministers: Certified Ministers are those persons who show promise of usefulness in Christian service, who measure up to scriptural standards, and who have met the necessary requirements and have received divine confirmation of their call to actual service and be actively engaged in some aspect of ministry and proclamation of the gospel.
3. Licensed Ministers: Licensed Ministers are those persons who have clear evidence of a divine call, character and preparation suitable for that calling, practical ministry experience and an evident purpose to devote one's life in service to the proclamation of the gospel.

4. **Ordained Ministers:** Ordained Ministers are those persons 23 years of age or older who have met the necessary requirements, have been actively engaged as a licensed minister in some recognized aspect of full time ministry and proclamation of the gospel for at least two full consecutive years just prior to ordination, and who have appeared and proven themselves before the District Credentials Board.
 5. **Ministry Associate:** Associate Ministers are those persons who are at least 16 years of age and not more than 22 years of age, who are preparing to serve in full time ministry.
 - C. **Basic Qualifications Established by District Council**

This District Council adopts the basic qualifications established by the General Council for endorsement of candidates for ministerial credentials, and more particularly as follows:

 1. The candidate shall have testimony of a personal experience of Salvation and testimony to having experienced the new birth in Jesus Christ;
 2. The candidate shall have testimony of a personal experience of Baptism in the Holy Spirit and testimony of having received such baptism with the initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues according to Acts 2:4;
 3. The candidate shall have testimony and clear evidence of a divine calling to the ministry as demonstrated by a personal conviction confirmed by the work of the Spirit, recognized by the local church and the testimony of fellow ministers;
 4. The candidate shall have personally demonstrated evidence of a blameless Christian life and a good report of those who are without;
 5. The candidate shall have demonstrated a thorough understanding of and agreement with the doctrinal position set forth in the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council of the Assemblies of God;
 6. The candidate shall have acknowledged an active loyalty and commitment to our constitutional agreements, with demonstration of working knowledge of the principles and practices and purposes of the Assemblies of God Fellowship by way of a study of the respective Constitution and Bylaws of both the General Council and this District Council, and a cooperative spirit and readiness to seek and receive the counsel of elders and those in positions of authority in this Fellowship;
 7. The candidate shall have demonstrated an adequate knowledge of the scriptures and the great doctrines of the Holy Bible that are held by the Assemblies of God and the ministerial practices of this Fellowship, by completing approved reading courses or other means acceptable to the General Presbytery of the Assemblies of God;
 8. The candidate shall have demonstrated a personal determination to study and live the Word of God, by every means available for improvement and development of the candidate's ministry, including approved courses or Bible College training; and,
 9. The candidate shall demonstrate adequate knowledge of the Bible, Assemblies of God doctrine, and ministerial practices by either having completed the prescribed courses of the Global University of the Assemblies of God as specified by the General Presbytery, or by equivalent training in an approved school, together with such other training as may be required by this District Council in conformity with such provisions as are made for applicants by the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. In rare cases the candidate may be recommended by the District Credentials Committee as having given evidence of qualifying for credentials through self study and ministerial experience. Such candidates shall have a proven and fruitful ministry of substantial duration. Requests from the District for such a candidate shall be presented to the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and may be granted on a case by case basis.
 10. **Special qualifications for candidates for a Ministry Associate Commission:** Ministry Associates need not fulfill the educational requirements and qualifications listed in paragraphs 7, 8, and 9 above. Alternatively, such candidates must be actively involved in a mentoring relationship with a Licensed or Ordained Assemblies of God Minister as a condition of their commission.
- D. **Specific Qualifications: Establishment of Criteria**

1. The Executive Presbytery of this District Council shall adopt and publish specific criteria and qualifications for consideration of candidates for ministerial credentials. All candidates must meet the minimum standards established in these premises, as hereinabove set forth. Such minimum standards shall include requirement for prescribed courses or equivalent of three parts: the first part shall be required of candidates seeking a Certified Ministry Certificate, the first and second parts shall be required of candidates seeking a Ministry License, and the first and second and third parts shall be required of candidates seeking an Ordination Certificate.
 2. A person holding a Certified Ministry Certificate and serving as a senior pastor of an affiliated assembly should seek to qualify for and be granted a Ministry License within two years of first assuming such pastoral role. Failure to do so may disqualify the minister from continuing or serving in a senior pastoral position until granted a Ministry License.
- E. Candidate Application for Ministerial Credentials
1. All candidates for ministerial credentials or certifications to be issued through this District Council and for advancing from one level of credential to the next shall be filed with the District Secretary, on forms approved by the Executive Presbytery.
 2. Except as provided by special resolution of the Executive Presbytery, all such applications shall be fully completed and filed with the District Secretary at least 60 days prior to the meeting of the District Credentials Board, and names of candidates shall be published by the Executive Presbytery, indicating the classification of credential or certification sought by the respective candidate.
 3. Any person whose initial application for issuance of ministerial credentials is pending through this District Council shall in no case apply for a position of senior pastor in any Assemblies of God church in this District until the District Secretary and the candidate have received written confirmation from the General Secretary of the General Council indicating that final approval of the ministerial credential has been granted by the General Council Credentials Committee.
 4. A fee-based clearinghouse is established by the General Council Executive Presbytery where all ministers receiving credentials would have mandatory screening through a designated screening agency.
- F. Credential Application Fees
- The Executive Presbytery of this District Council shall establish reasonable standard fees to be charged for filing applications for ministerial credentials, upon recommendation of the Executive Presbytery. Fee structure may be altered in particular cases by special resolution of the Executive Presbytery.
- G. Procedure to be Adopted and Published
- The Executive Presbytery of this District Council shall by its special resolution adopt procedures for processing such applications for ministerial credentials and advancement of ministerial credentials and certifications, which shall be published and provided for each Sectional Leadership Committee and for informing candidates, setting forth also the procedure for arranging interviews with such committees. Such procedures as may be adopted shall honor the following guidelines:
1. Interview and Examination of First Time Candidates for Credentials

All candidates for first time credentials and all candidates for ordination and recognition of credentials from an independent church or other denomination must present himself or herself in person before the Sectional Leadership Committee, and shall then be prepared for interview and examination, either written or oral, on the General Council of the Assemblies of God Statement of Fundamental Truths, on church history, ministerial relations, and practical ministry.
 2. Interview and Examination of Candidates for Ordination
 - a. The Sectional Leadership Committee shall interview and examine all candidates for ordination, at a time and place determined by the Sectional Presbyter. The Sectional Presbyter, or a designated committee member, shall serve as chair and shall be responsible for receiving the candidate's confidential file from and returning

same to the District Council office, along with a written report of the findings and recommendations of the committee, which shall then be presented by the District Secretary to the District Credentials Board for final determination, and the District Secretary shall transmit the appropriate documentation of approved candidates to the General Council Credentials Committee for issuance of the certificate.

- b. Upon approval of the application by the District Credentials Board, the District Secretary shall send appropriate copies of the candidate's records, together with documentation of recommendation and endorsement of the District Credentials Board for the ordination of the candidate to the General Council Credentials Committee, for further consideration.
 - c. The chair of the Sectional Leadership Committee shall notify candidates of the recommendation of the committee, and shall offer counsel toward resolution of any problems relating to the candidate.
 - d. Upon confirmation of approval from the General Council Credentials Committee that the candidate has been approved for ordination as a minister of this Fellowship and upon receipt of the certificate of ordination issued by the General Council Credentials Committee the District Secretary shall notify the candidate in these premises and ordination shall be conferred on and such certificate issued to approved candidates at the Ordination Service of the District Council Convention with the laying on of hands by the District Presbytery. Only in emergencies or other approvable situations can the ordination and issuance of the certificate take place at another time, place and circumstance approved by the District Credentials Board.
3. Interview and Examination of Candidates for Ministry License
- a. The Sectional Leadership Committee shall interview and examine all candidates for Ministry License at a time and place determined by the Sectional Presbyter. The Sectional Presbyter, or a designated committee member, shall serve as chair and shall be responsible for receiving the candidate's confidential file from and returning same to the District Council office, along with a written report of the findings and recommendation of the committee, which shall then be presented by the District Secretary to the District Credentials Board for final determination, and the District Secretary shall transmit the appropriate documentation of approved candidates to the General Council Credentials Committee for issuance of the certificate.
 - b. Upon approval of the application by the District Credentials Board for issuance to the candidate of a Ministry License, the District Secretary shall send appropriate copies of the candidate's records, together with documentation of such approval, recommendation and endorsement of the District Credentials Board to the General Council Credentials Committee, for issuance of the credentials.
 - c. The chair of the Sectional Leadership Committee shall notify candidates of the recommendation of the committee, and shall offer counsel toward resolution of any problems relating to the rejection of the application.
 - d. Upon confirmation from the General Council Credentials Committee of the issuance of Ministry License, the District Credentials Board shall notify the candidate accordingly and such Ministry License shall be publicly acknowledged at the same occasion as the Ordination Service of the District Council Convention.
4. Interview and Examination of Candidates for Certified Minister Certificate
- Candidates for Certificates of Ministry shall be interviewed by the Sectional Leadership Committee at a time and place determined by the Sectional Presbyter. The Sectional Presbyter shall serve as chair and shall be responsible for receiving the candidate's confidential file from and returning same to the District Council Office, along with a written report of the findings and recommendation of the committee, which shall then be presented by the District Secretary to the District Credentials Board for final determination, and the District Secretary shall transmit the appropriate documentation of approved candidates to the General Council Credentials Committee for issuance of the certificate.

5. Procedure for Filing Applications of Candidates for Ministerial Recognition
 - a. Independent ministers or ministers who hold or have previously held ministerial credentials from other denominations who are candidates to be credentialed through this District Council shall follow the prescribed credentialing procedure established by the Executive Presbytery.
 - b. Such candidate credentialing process shall include a written application on a form approved by the Executive Presbytery, augmented specifically by a complete written recital of all churches and denominations with which the candidate shall have been involved in ministry previously, whether with or without official ministerial credentials and including the name and address of the officer of the former church or denomination who has oversight of such ministerial documentation, which application shall be filed with the District Credentials Board through the office of the District Secretary.
 - c. Such candidate's application shall be accompanied by a written form of consent providing that such former church or other denomination is authorized to release all information contained in such documentation or otherwise available from such source, and particularly waiving all rights of privacy that might be involved, and releasing the custodian of such records from any liability on account of such records or release of information.
 - d. Such candidate shall be required to submit a recommendation from the body with which the minister 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, two of whom shall be with the applicant's former credentialing body. In addition, the candidate shall submit a letter of recommendation from a neighboring Assemblies of God minister and/or the Sectional Presbyter for the applicant's area. The credentialing process shall not continue until all requirements of this clause shall have been wholly satisfied.
 - e. The District Secretary shall conduct a thorough investigation of the candidate's ministerial history and personal and moral character, which shall include confirmation of ministries with other churches and denominations. The District Secretary may inquire of other Assemblies of God ministers that might be acquainted with the candidate, particularly in communities where the candidate may have previously ministered.
 - f. The District Credentials Board may impose such requirements as may be deemed appropriate in each particular case, and is not obligated in any way to accept the candidate's previous ministerial status or relative classification of credential.
6. Interview and Examination of Candidates for Ministry Associate Commission:

Candidates for Ministry Associate Commission shall complete an application provided by the District Secretary, and their application will be forwarded by the District Secretary to the Sectional Presbyter to be interviewed with their supervising minister. The Presbyter or a member of the Sectional Leadership Committee shall conduct the interview and shall be responsible for receiving the candidate's confidential file from and returning same to the District Council Office, along with a written report of the findings and recommendation of the committee, which shall then be presented by the District Secretary to the District Credentials Board for final determination. The Executive Presbytery may establish a small application fee and an annual renewal fee, at its discretion.
- H. Credentials and Certificates

The General Council Credentials Committee is authorized to issue certificates of Ordination, Ministry Licenses and Certified Ministry Certificates, together with the accompanying annual Fellowship card to all properly qualified and approved candidates.
- I. Renewal of Credentials and Certifications
 1. All Ministerial Credentials and Certifications shall be renewed annually.
 2. All applications for renewal of ministerial credentials or certifications to be issued

through this District Council Shall be filed with the office of the District Secretary, on forms approved and provided by the General Council by December 31, annually.

3. The application for renewal of ministerial credentials or certification must be fully completed, particularly to confirm that the minister is willing to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of both the General Council and this District Council, and to further confirm that the minister still agrees with and subscribes to The General Council of the Assemblies of God Statement of Fundamental Truths.
 4. All applications for renewal of ministerial credentials shall be accompanied by a renewal fee established by the Executive Presbytery.
 5. Waiver of renewal fees shall be made for Senior Ministers as described following, and likewise waived for each minister who has been regular and faithful in payment of ministers' tithes and is current in same at the end of each December.
- J. Termination of Ministerial Credentials

Authority of a credentialed minister to serve the Assemblies of God Fellowship in sacerdotal function shall cease upon termination of credentials. Ministerial credentials may be terminated in the following situations:

1. Termination on Initiative of the Minister
 - a. Ministerial credentials registered with this District Council may be declared lapsed upon failure or neglect by the minister to renew the credential, and as hereinafter set forth, whereupon the minister's credential shall be reported as having lapsed, providing there is no cause for investigation of alleged reports or complaints of violations of Assemblies of God principles. Failure to complete the renewal application forms shall not be acceptable in situations where there is cause for investigation as hereinbefore stated.
 - b. Ministerial credentials registered with this District Council may be declared terminated upon the resignation of the minister from the Assemblies of God Fellowship, initiated by a formal written resignation filed with the District Secretary, which resignation shall be approved providing there is no evidence for investigation of alleged reports or complaints of violations of Assemblies of God principles against the minister, whereupon the minister's credential shall be reported as having been terminated by resignation. The simple act of resignation shall not be acceptable in situations where there is cause for investigation as hereinbefore stated.
 - c. Termination of credentials by lapse or resignation shall not be effective until confirmed in writing by the General Council Credentials Committee.
2. Termination of Credentials on Initiative of District Council
 - a. Ministerial credentials registered with this District Council may be declared inactive, when a minister is inactive for a period of time, and as hereinafter set forth, and the minister shall be reported as having become inactive.
 - b. Ministerial credentials registered with this District Council may be terminated for reason of their not having been renewed by the credentialing authority for causes not requiring disciplinary action in which case the minister's credential shall be reported as being not renewed.
 - c. Ministerial credentials registered with this District Council shall be terminated in event the minister shall become credentialed with any other denomination or religious order granting ministerial credentials. An investigation shall be conducted to determine the proper category of termination, and he shall be reported accordingly.
 - d. Ministerial credentials registered with this District Council may be terminated as a feature of discipline involving dismissal of the minister, and as hereinafter set forth.
3. Surrender of Terminated Credentials

In all cases of termination of credentials, the minister shall surrender the actual physical ministerial credentials and current fellowship card to and upon request of the District Superintendent. Refusal to surrender the physical credentials and fellowship card shall be considered insubordination and may result in placing a charge against the minister.

K. Reinstatement of Lapsed Ministerial Credentials

Ministerial Credentials that are not renewed by the minister in timely fashion may be subject to lapse. Ministerial Credentials registered with this District Council are subject to the provisions of the General Council Bylaws regarding lapsed credentials and such procedures and penalties as may apply because of such authority, and as such regulations may from time to time be amended. Reinstatement in this regard may be accomplished by filing the necessary documentation on forms approved by the General Council Credentials Committee provided by the District Secretary, and payment of any fees and penalties.

L. Reinstatement of Ministerial Credentials that have been Terminated for Reasons Other Than Lapse

1. Persons who have had their ministerial credentials terminated for reasons other than lapse, are subject to all provisions of the General Council Bylaws in regard to reinstatement, and such a person may not seek reinstatement through this District Council without first having conformed to such authority, and in no event may application for reinstatement be entertained by this District Council until the prescribed period of time for reinstatement fixed by the General Council Bylaws shall have expired.
2. Application for reinstatement of ministerial credentials that have been terminated by action of this District Council or by resignation of the minister, rather than lapse, shall be made in writing on forms approved by the District Presbytery, filed with the District Secretary. The District Credentials Board may require special conditions for each particular application, as it deems appropriate, and reinstatements are further subject to specific regulation hereinafter following.
3. Reinstatement of credentials terminated through another District Council shall be arranged through the District Officiary of such other District, unless it be by directive from the General Council Credentials Committee.

M. Senior Retired Ministers

1. In respect and honor to those ministers who have given years of service to the Fellowship, the term *senior-retired* shall be used for those who are 65 years of age or older and who have ceased to engage in any regular appointed ministry .
2. Application: Ministers of this District Council who have attained the age of 65 years may apply for "Senior Retired" status by requesting the same in writing, and such request shall be granted upon demonstration that the applicant meets the criteria set forth above.
3. Guidelines for Reporting: "Senior Retired Ministers" credentialed with this District Council shall file an abbreviated annual report on forms provided by the General Council containing current address for mail and insurance and other purposes.
4. Senior Ministers returning to active ministry may request that their names be restored to the list of active ministers, upon application to and order of the District Credentials Board

N. Inactive Ministers

1. Credentialed Ministers of this District Council who shall have withdrawn from active ministry or cease to be engaged in pastoral, evangelistic, or other full time ministry shall notify the District Secretary accordingly, and the District Credentials Board may consider them for transfer to the list of inactive ministers.
2. All ministers who have not been actively engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel over a period of one year may be transferred to the list of inactive ministers by action of the District Credentials Board.
3. The District Credentials Board may eliminate from the list of ministers those names of persons on the inactive list on determining that those persons have been inactive in the ministry for two full years, and those persons shall be reported as having been removed from ministry for inactivity.
4. The District Credentials Board may consider that inactivity caused by ill health, advanced years, or unusual circumstances, are exceptions to the rules regarding inactivity of the minister.
5. The District Credentials Board shall consider other dimensions of ministry that may be

undertaken by a credentialed minister, as exceptions to such rules regarding inactivity of the minister, particularly where such ministry is involved in the administrative work of this District Council or the General Council, education, ministry of music, ministry to youth, ministry in Christian education, and other worthy occupations that help directly in advancing the purposes and mission of this District Council and propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

6. The District Credentials Board shall consider other features relating to the ministry of a credentialed minister of this District Council, particularly considering those ministers that are sixty years of age and have had fifteen years or more of approved ministry with the Assemblies of God, and those ministers that have had twenty-five years of ministry with the Assemblies of God regardless of respective age, as exceptions to such rules regarding inactivity of the minister.

Section Two: Ministerial Relations

A. Amenability

All certified, licensed, and ordained ministers with this District Council shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery on all matters of doctrine and conduct. All local church credential holders shall be amenable to their local church under guidelines established by the General Presbytery and this District Council in matters of doctrine and conduct.

B. Perceived Conflict of Pastoral Ministry

This District Council is opposed to any credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God serving in a ministerial capacity as a senior pastor or staff member of any Assemblies of God church in this District moving from one church to another church in the same general area without that minister having first obtained the approval of the Sectional Leadership Committee after that committee has consulted with the churches involved. Unless such approval is obtained, it is the policy of this District Council to impose discipline on such ministers who continue their efforts to establish a pastoral or staff ministry in that area where they have formerly ministered in an Assemblies of God church, including discipline in which their respective ministerial credentials may be revoked.

C. Notice of Current Address

1. Ministers whose credentials are registered with this District Council shall provide a current notice of all home and business addresses to the District Secretary, providing both listed and unlisted residence and business telephone numbers, including residence and business addresses and telephone numbers that might be outside the geographical boundaries of this District Council.
2. All credentialed ministers of the Assemblies of God who maintain a personal place of residence or continuing ministry within the geographical boundaries of this District Council shall provide a current notice of address to the District Secretary, listing all such residence and ministry addresses, and telephone numbers. Continuing ministry refers to programs in which the minister takes an active part as a preacher, teacher or administrator, of a religious program having a business address located within the area served by this District Council, or where the minister serves on the board of directors of a religious nonprofit corporation. Simple disclosure to District Council of such information shall not be deemed to be endorsement or control of such activities.
3. Simple reference to the book of Official List of Ministers of the Assemblies of God will not be deemed to be in compliance with these requirements.

D. Transfer of Credentials

1. Ministers Moving Into This District

A Credentialed Assemblies of God minister moving to reside within the geographical boundaries of this District Council is required to request a certificate of transfer from the District in which his ministerial credentials are most recently registered. The minister shall be required to affiliate with this District Council unless an exception is provided for as follows:

- a. Ministers moving to serve at general headquarters;

- b. Those who have attained the age of 60 and are no longer engaged in active ministry and those who have attained the age of 65 and are not pastoring a church;
 - c. Those who are in the Armed Forces currently on active duty;
 - d. Those who are serving on the staffs of schools affiliated with the General Council and District Council or nonaffiliated schools acceptable to the General Council and the District Council in which the school is located;
 - e. Those who are appointed U.S. Missionaries or World Missionaries who are on furlough or on temporary assignment in the United States and reside in a District other than their home District;
 - f. Ministers having membership in one District and a mailing address only in another District;
 - g. Students in schools outside their home Districts;
 - h. Those who are serving in a non-Assemblies of God institution providing:
 - 1) They have a regular scope of ministry which reaches beyond District boundaries;
 - 2) Both Districts agree to the exception;
 - 3) The institution is acceptable to both Districts.
2. Transfers from Assemblies of God World Fellowship
- A minister holding ordination (or equivalent) with a member group of the Assemblies of God World Fellowship, may transfer his or her ordination to The General Council of the Assemblies of God if the following criteria are met:
- a. A letter of recommendation from the executive committee of the national church or equivalent letter of recommendation.
 - b. Acceptable equivalency between our governing bodies.
 - c. A course on history and polity of U.S. church.
 - d. Application completed in the same form as U.S. applicants in the language of the applicant, if possible, at the discretion of the General Secretary.
3. Ministers Moving out of this District
- Upon moving out of this District to permanently reside elsewhere, the minister whose ministerial credentials are registered with this District Council is expected to immediately file a notice of change of address with the District Secretary, and to obtain and file a transfer form which must be expeditiously filed with the District Secretary. Unless there be some applicable exception, the letter of transfer shall issue from the office of the District Secretary within sixty days.
4. Interim Responsibilities
- Until transfer procedure between Districts is completed, the minister shall remain a member of this District, and shall be expected to fulfill all responsibilities associated therewith.
- E. Notice of Pastoral Resignation
- A minister intending to leave the pastorate of any local church in this District Council is expected to give timely notice of such intention to the local church board, the District Superintendent, and their Sectional Presbyter so that the District Superintendent and the Sectional Presbyter may cooperate with that local church to provide for continuing pastoral care.
- F. Non-Ministerial Service on Church Boards
- In order to provide for the development of lay people to the fullest extent possible, the District Council discourages all ministers credentialed with the Assemblies of God or any other ministerial organization from serving on governing boards of local assemblies except in cases where they serve in executive capacities as pastors. Exceptions must be approved by the Executive Presbytery for a specified period of time, not to exceed 3 years.
- G. Programs in Calendar Conflict
- Pastors and credentialed ministers in administrative capacities with the local church should refrain from planning or promoting special meetings or programs that conflict with scheduled District Council or sectional programs, particularly during times announced for District Council Conventions.

H. Ministry in Churches of other Denominations

1. A credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God desiring to serve in a ministerial position in a church or religious program which is not affiliated with this Fellowship, including Institutional Chaplaincy, is required to obtain the consent of the District Superintendent of the District where that church or program is located before accepting such position.
2. In all situations where a credentialed minister whose credentials are registered with this District Council proposes to take a ministerial position with a non-Assemblies of God church or program, whether located within or outside this District, that minister shall obtain written clearance through the office of the District Superintendent, prior to making such arrangements. The District Superintendent shall consult with the Sectional Presbyter in making this determination.
3. In all situations where a credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God from another District proposes to take a ministerial position with a non-Assemblies of God church or program that is located in this District, that minister shall obtain written clearance through the office of the District Superintendent of this District, prior to making arrangements. The District Superintendent shall consult with the Sectional Presbyter in making this determination.
4. The minister shall present a letter of request addressed to the District Superintendent from the official ruling body of the local church or religious organization, asking that this District Council consent to or acquiesce in that minister's taking a ministerial part in such church or religious organization. Such letter of request shall also particularly state that the official ruling body is aware of the doctrinal position of the Assemblies of God, and that said minister shall not be expected to compromise the doctrinal position of the Assemblies of God. Such consent or acquiescence granted in the foregoing premises may for cause be withdrawn by the District Superintendent.
5. Such credentialed minister shall not accept ministry with such church or religious program without having first obtained written approval of the District Superintendent. Such approval should be based on a recommendation of the Sectional Presbyter in consultation with the Sectional Leadership Committee and pastors of churches in the immediate area of such church or religious organization.
6. It is expected of credentialed Assemblies of God ministers that they cooperate and participate in programs and fellowship of the General Council and this District Council, and such ministers serving in ministerial capacity with non-Assemblies of God churches or organizations are still encouraged to continue to take part in such fellowship. In this regard, such ministers are invited to prayerfully consider all ministry as an opportunity to make a positive investment in the Kingdom of God, to seek fellowship of other Assemblies of God ministers and avail themselves of the counsel of the District Superintendent.
7. Such credentialed ministers of the Assemblies of God shall not be in attendance or ministry at a church or religious organization that has been disapproved by the General Council or this District Council, or whose pastoral or ministerial leadership is a person that has been dismissed for cause from this Fellowship. Furthermore, such credentialed minister shall not continue in such attendance or ministry with any church or organization where to do so would tend to nullify or set at naught the solemn verdict of the brethren in this regard.
8. A credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God intending to be in regular attendance in a non-Assemblies of God church should contact the District Superintendent for counsel regarding the effect of that action on Assemblies of God churches in the immediate area.

I. Ministerial Courtesy

1. This District Council disapproves of all discourteous conduct, and all ministers are advised against interfering with pastors in charge of the local Assemblies of God church or program, whether it be by going in upon their work without consent or by communications that might adversely affect the work of the pastor.
2. All correspondence which concerns the local Assemblies of God church as a whole shall be addressed to the one in charge, and not to individual members. Where there is no

- pastor, letters concerning the work should be addressed to the Church Board.
3. It is considered improper and unethical for ministers or missionaries to solicit funds within the local church, by letter or otherwise, for anything or any reason whatsoever without proper authority by the pastor or where there is no pastor, the official board.
- J. Discipline of Ministers
1. Ministers whose credentials are registered with the District Council are subject to discipline by the Executive Presbytery when charged with unscriptural polity or doctrines, or the violation of Assemblies of God principles or policies.
 2. The discipline of ministers shall be in accordance with General Council Bylaws, Article X. DISCIPLINE, Sections 1-7.
 3. It shall require a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting to dismiss any minister member from fellowship in this District Council.
 4. All ministers should honor the final rulings of the General Council authorities in matters of discipline taken against a minister. All who hold ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God shall refrain from taking any attitude toward offenders that would tend to nullify or set at naught the solemn verdicts of the brethren entrusted with this responsibility. In event of violation of this agreement, the violator shall be subject to reprimand or such other discipline as shall be agreed upon by the Executive Presbytery.
- K. Restoration of Disciplined Ministers
- The District Presbytery is authorized to design and implement procedures for the restoration of disciplined ministers in all categories of credentials, whether ordained, licensed or certified minister, as provided in the General Council Bylaws, Article X. DISCIPLINE, Sections 8-12.
- L. Right of Appeal
1. If a disciplined minister desires to appeal from a disciplinary decision that has been rendered, such request shall be filed with the office of the General Superintendent within 30 days of notification. A copy of the appeal must be sent to the Superintendent and copies filed with other Districts involved (if any).
 2. All remedies available to the minister shall be in accordance with the General Council Bylaws, Article X.

ARTICLE EIGHT – THE LOCAL CHURCH

Section One: The Sovereignty of the Local Church

This District Council accepts it as doctrinal that the local church is recognized as being ordained by God, under the headship of Jesus Christ. It is fundamental with our fellowship that groups of believers associating themselves in local bodies for maintenance of scriptural order, and having a standard of membership in keeping with the scriptural principles and established policies of the Assemblies of God, should be considered as eligible for affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, as a sovereign local Assemblies of God Church.

Section Two: The Sovereign Assemblies of God Church

- A. A General Council affiliated church is one that has applied for and received a Certificate of Affiliation from The General Council of the Assemblies of God, commonly and herein referred to as a sovereign church.
- B. The sovereign local Assemblies of God church within this District Council shall have the right of self-government under our Lord Jesus Christ, the right to choose or call its Pastor, and, by action of its membership or Church Board as in its own Bylaws provided, to elect its officers and directors, administer discipline to its members, and transact all other business pertaining to its life and ministry as a local church, including the right to own and dispose of its property.
- C. The sovereign local Assemblies of God church shall be separately incorporated, with its own Federal Employers Identification number and, for Federal Tax Exemption under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3), may use and be reported under the group exemption granted by

- the federal government to The General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- D. It is the responsibility of the District Presbytery of this District Council to determine when a local church has reached a state of growth, stability, and maturity qualifying it for affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God as a sovereign local church.

Section Three: General Council Affiliation

- A. The General Council has established standards for affiliation of the sovereign Assemblies of God local church, which are endorsed and adopted by this District Council as standards for local sovereign churches within the territory of this District Council, by virtue of which each sovereign church and each church that seeks to become sovereign must abide by the following requirements:
1. The sovereign church must accept and endorse the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God Fellowship, as such are set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of both The General Council of the Assemblies of God and this District Council, which Tenets of Faith are commonly known as The General Council of the Assemblies of God Statement of Truths.
 2. The sovereign church must adopt a standard of membership which is compatible with the standards and policies of this District Council.
 3. The sovereign church must have and maintain an active voting membership of at least twenty persons, at least eighteen years of age or older, each of whom shall accept their fair share of responsibility for the maintenance of scriptural order in the local church body.
 4. The sovereign church must have a Constitution and Bylaws in form compatible with those recommended by this District Council.
 5. The sovereign church must have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of that local church as called for in its Constitution and Bylaws, and must be regular and sound in its fiscal responsibilities as supported by financial statements for the two previous years.
 6. The sovereign church must have a senior pastor who is a credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God in good standing whose credentials are registered with this District Council.
 7. The sovereign church must have at least three functioning church departments, one of which shall be a Christian Education Department.
 8. It is recommended that the sovereign church shall have words in its official or corporate name that identifies with the Assemblies of God, and it is recommended that such churches use the Assemblies of God emblem.
- B. The fact that a local Assemblies of God church is affiliated with the General Council shall in nowise destroy its rights above stated or interfere with its sovereignty as set forth in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws.

Section Four: Responsibilities of the Sovereign Affiliation

- A. By entering into voluntary cooperative fellowship with The General Council of the Assemblies of God each sovereign local church within this District Council has agreed to abide by and be in cooperation with the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, as such is now or may from time to time be amended, hereinafter for simplicity occasionally referred to as "General Council Bylaws", for establishment of standards of doctrine and conduct and related regulation as a sovereign local church. In the event of conflict, inconsistency or incompatibility of the local sovereign church's Constitution and Bylaws with the letter or interpretation of the General Council Bylaws, the General Council Bylaws shall prevail.
- B. By entering into voluntary cooperative fellowship and affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, as a sovereign Assemblies of God church it becomes a member of this District Council, and so assumes the responsibilities of and is entitled to the benefits attendant upon such membership including the right to be represented through its duly appointed delegates at the General Council and the District Council membership meetings,

through its delegates who have been selected by the membership of such church or its Church Board. Each such member church agrees to abide by provisions of this Constitution and Bylaws and to comply with and conform to the policies and standards established by this District Council.

Section Five: District Council Assistance

- A. The District Council is available to assist the sovereign local churches in need. If at any time the business of the sovereign church cannot be adequately undertaken and performed by its administrators through the Church Board, or when a proper Church Board is not available or functioning, the District Council should provide assistance, whereby the Executive Presbytery or the Sectional Leadership Committee shall temporarily serve as the Church Board, to so serve until such time as the Executive Presbytery and the membership of that church agree the membership should again resume full administrative control of its affairs. In this regard, neither the District Council nor the Executive Presbytery of the District Council assumes any personal or corporate financial responsibility or legal liability for debt or other obligations of the church in taking such action as may be necessary in these premises.
- B. It is required that the sovereign local church have at least twenty active members at least eighteen years of age. If the active membership of the sovereign local Assemblies of God church falls below twenty in number, it shall seek the assistance of the District Council for help in maintaining the minimal requirement for General Council affiliation. If the minimal number of twenty active members is not sustained, that church shall automatically revert to the status of a District Council affiliated church. That church shall remain in a District Council affiliated status until it again meets the standard for affiliation as a General Council affiliated church, having demonstrated its ability to assume full responsibility for restoration to that status as a viable sovereign church. Unless otherwise arranged, there shall be no financial liability or other affirmative obligation assumed by the District Council in these premises.
- C. The sovereign local church may revert to District Council affiliation. When this occurs, the church corporation is deemed to have surrendered its sovereignty, its Constitution and Bylaws is suspended or set aside. The Executive Presbytery may choose to transfer its property to the District Council to be held in trust. The District Superintendent becomes the president of the church corporation under authority of the Division of District Churches and District Missions which becomes the Church Board for all business purposes, and the District Executive Officers become the statutory officers of the corporation under regulation of the District Council Constitution and Bylaws.

Section Six: Pulpit Ministry

- A. In view of the affiliation of the sovereign Assemblies of God church with the General Council and this District Council, and in the interest of maintaining general unity and harmony, the Senior Pastor of such sovereign church must have and maintain current proper ministerial credentials issued by the Assemblies of God.
- B. It is recommended that the sovereign Assemblies of God church adopt provisions that Associate or Assistant Pastors and other personnel of the Ministerial Staff of the sovereign church should have and maintain current proper ministerial credentials issued by the Assemblies of God, as a condition of continued association with that church.

Section Seven: Sovereign Church - District Cooperation

- A. It is expected that each sovereign Assemblies of God church within this District Council shall file two copies of its Constitution and Bylaws with the District Secretary, and shall likewise file two copies each of all amended Constitution and Bylaws within ninety days of amendment.
- B. It is expected that the local sovereign Assemblies of God church within this District shall cooperate in the programs of the District. Each local church is expected and encouraged to develop and promote good stewardship within the local assembly and in support of the

General Council and this District Council, including participation in District Ministries, U.S. and World Missions, and other projects in which this District is engaged.

Section Eight: Right of Appeal of the Sovereign Local Church

- A. When in need of counsel and advice in administrative or other matters, the local sovereign church may appeal to the District officary.
- B. When there is a question concerning the appropriate response or lack of attention to requests by the local sovereign church for District officary assistance, that local church may appeal to the General Council Executive Presbytery.
- C. When exceptions are taken by the local sovereign church to the decision of the General Council Executive Presbytery, that sovereign church may appeal to the General Presbytery of the General Council.

Section Nine: 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 and/or the board shall invite the District officary to participate in a specially called business meeting where such matters will be discussed and voted upon for the express purpose of giving the District officary the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation. Final disposition of the matter may then proceed in accordance with the constitution and bylaws of the local church. A decision to disaffiliate shall require a two-thirds vote of the membership, or a more restrictive rule prescribed by the governing documents of the church or district.

Section Ten: District Council Churches

- A. Affiliation with the District Council
 1. District sponsored local churches shall be recognized as District Council affiliated churches, under supervision of the Division of District Churches and District Missions in accordance with the District Council Bylaws. The statutory bylaws of all District affiliated churches shall be the most recent version of the "Constitution and Bylaws for District Affiliated Churches" as approved by the District Presbytery.
 2. District Council affiliated churches may include U.S. Missions projects, District church plants, established church organizations entering into our fellowship from other affiliations or independent status, former sovereign Assemblies of God churches that have surrendered their sovereignty temporarily or otherwise that seek District Council assistance.
 3. District Council affiliated churches must comply with and fulfill all policies, standards, and practices as adopted by the Executive Presbytery. It is the specific directive of this District Council that all District Council affiliated churches comply with policies and procedures adopted by the Executive Presbytery regarding safe practices for the care and protection of minors.
- B. Establishment of New Churches
 1. The District Council shall support and encourage the establishment of new churches and the development of a church planting program under the direction of the Church Planting Team.
 2. Prior to commencement of a new program in this District to be identified as an Assemblies of God church, including the establishment of parent affiliated churches of an established sovereign church, the individual credentialed minister or group of persons desiring to establish such church or the sponsoring local sovereign church must first inform the Church Planting Team of this District Council of their intentions and submit their plans for approval. Such plans should be submitted in writing, identifying the proposed location of the church and demographics relating to need and potential for success of the program.
 3. Approval for all new churches including the establishment of parent affiliated churches of an established sovereign church is the responsibility of the District Presbytery upon

the recommendation of the Church Planting Team.

4. If approval is denied for the church plant, the applicant may appeal the decision. The District Superintendent shall appoint an Appeals Committee consisting of an Executive Presbyter, a Sectional Presbyter, a member of the Church Planting Team, and two pastors to consider the appeal and provide a written report of its recommendation to the Executive Presbytery, with copies to the respective principal parties.
 5. The final determination of the Executive Presbytery may be appealed to the General Council Executive Presbytery. The determination of the General Council Executive Presbytery shall be final and binding on all parties.
- C. Independent or Other Churches Seeking Affiliation
- Independent churches or established congregations that have been affiliated with other denominations may make application for recognition by and affiliation with this District Council. Such applications shall be considered for approval in the same manner and applying the same criteria as that of new church programs seeking approval. Additionally, the following requirements shall be applied:
1. The applicant church must accept and endorse the Tenets of Faith of the Assemblies of God Fellowship, as such are set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of both The General Council of the Assemblies of God and this District Council, which Tenets of Faith are commonly known as The General Council of the Assemblies of God Statement of Fundamental Truths.
 2. The applicant church must adopt a standard of membership which is compatible with the standards and policies of this District Council.
 3. The applicant church must have a pastor who is a credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God in good standing whose credentials are registered with this District Council.
 4. If the applicant church is incorporated and seeks General Council affiliation, it must have special resolutions of both its Church Board and its membership, in accord with its Constitution and Bylaws, approving the affiliation, and upon such affiliation being granted, the Articles of Incorporation shall be amended, its Constitution and Bylaws shall be amended to conform to the format recommended by this District Council after which a letter of affiliation is issued by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.
 5. If the applicant church is incorporated, and seeks District Council affiliation it must have special resolutions of both its Church Board and its membership, in accord with its Constitution and Bylaws, approving the affiliation. Upon such affiliation being granted, the Articles of Incorporation shall be amended, its sovereignty shall be surrendered, its Constitution and Bylaws suspended, and it shall operate under regulation of the District Council Constitution and Bylaws.
 6. This District Council requires that churches entering into this Fellowship shall have words in their official or corporate name that identify with the Assemblies of God, and recommend that such churches use the Assemblies of God emblem.
- D. New Church Programs Resulting from a Division
1. Disputes between factions within the local church should be resolved by mediation. Negotiations in this regard may be entertained by the Executive Presbytery sitting as a Mediation Board.
 2. Groups within the local church or identified with factions of that church, upon refusing mediation of their disputes, or rejecting the recommendations of the Executive Presbytery, jeopardize their status of affiliation with the Assemblies of God.
 3. When efforts to maintain unity and harmony in an assembly have failed, and a division results in a new congregation being formed, the District should exercise strong and wise leadership in ascertaining the facts and seek to preserve Assemblies of God adherents for the Fellowship. Within the bounds of ethical principles, sound doctrine, and District policy, this District should seek to retain any meritorious group within the Assemblies of God.
 4. Circumstances of the occasion would determine whether the minister should be disciplined or denied ministry in either the original church or the dissident group, or even

residency in the area where the division occurred. If a minister is guilty of wrong conduct and wrong attitudes resulting in a split, the Executive Presbytery shall deal appropriately with the minister as provided in Article X, Section 3., of the General Council Bylaws. In situations where there has been a division within the church, the Executive Presbytery may determine that under unique circumstances this rule may be waived.

E. Establishing Sovereignty of the Local District Affiliated Church

District affiliated local churches may become affiliated with the General Council as sovereign operations, upon approval by the District Presbytery and issuance of a Certificate of Affiliation by the General Council. Procedure and policy for establishing General Council affiliation status is the province of the District Presbytery, and this District Council has adopted standards in this regard, as follows:

1. The local applicant church shall submit to the District Presbytery a written application for sovereignty on approved forms provided by the District Secretary, after having shown that it has met the requirements for affiliation as a sovereign Assemblies of God church in this District, including the following:
 - a. The applicant church must accept and endorse the Tenets of Faith of the Assemblies of God Fellowship, as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of both The General Council of the Assemblies of God and this District Council, which Tenets of Faith are commonly known as The General Council of the Assemblies of God Statement of Fundamental Truths.
 - b. The applicant church must adopt a standard of membership which is compatible with the standards and policies of this District Council.
 - c. The applicant church must have and maintain an active voting membership of at least twenty persons, at least eighteen years of age, each of whom shall accept their fair share of responsibility for the maintenance of scriptural order in the local church body.
 - d. The applicant church must have a Constitution and Bylaws in form compatible with that design recommended by this District Council.
 - e. The applicant church must have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of that local church as called for in its Constitution and Bylaws, and must be regular and sound in its fiscal responsibilities.
 - f. The applicant church must have a senior pastor who is a credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God in good standing whose credentials are registered with this District Council.
 - g. The applicant church must have at least three functioning church departments, one of which shall be a Christian Education Department.
 - h. The applicant church must demonstrate a willingness to contribute to Assemblies of God missions.
 - i. This District Council requires that such churches shall have words in their official or corporate name that identify with the Assemblies of God, and recommend that such churches use the Assemblies of God emblem.
2. There shall be a business meeting of the congregation of the local church presided over by a constitutional officer or designee of this District Council, at which time the local church shall be set in order.
3. It is the policy of this District Council that the sovereign local church shall be incorporated, and shall not conduct its business as an unincorporated association. Upon approval for sovereignty by the District Presbytery, if the local applicant church is not already legally incorporated as a California or Nevada Nonprofit Religious Corporation, it shall be incorporated, and shall as appropriate acquire tax exempt status from state administrative agencies, and shall undertake whatever other detail tasks as might be related to the incorporation effort. The District may make arrangements for incorporation, but the local church shall pay all the related legal fees, costs, and expenses incurred.
4. Upon completion of the incorporation and tax exempt qualification, the District Secretary shall transmit the documentation relating to approval for sovereignty for further action

by the General Secretary of the General Council. Sovereign status as a General Council affiliated assembly shall not be regarded as complete until receipt by the local church of an official Certificate of Affiliation issued by the General Secretary.

5. When the District Council affiliated local church becomes sovereign, where real and personal property are held by District for that church, it is generally the policy of this District Council to convey and/or sell to the sovereign church corporation the land and improvements acquired and developed through the mutual endeavor of the congregation and other programs within the District Division of District Churches and District Missions. However, it is generally required that there be specific conditions of such conveyance, providing as follows:
 - a. It is required that there be specific conditions contained in legal documents stating that the property of the sovereign church corporation is irrevocably dedicated to religious purposes and no part of the net income or assets of the corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer or member thereof or to the benefit of any private person, and in event that church shall cease to exist and upon the dissolution or winding up of that corporation, after paying or otherwise adequately securing or providing for the debts and obligations of that corporation, the remaining assets shall be distributed to this District Council; and,
 - b. Further providing the condition that all equity in the property by this District Council or any of its departments or ministries shall be wholly recovered, and in this regard:
 - 1) The newly sovereign church shall cause to be duly executed proper forms of promissory notes and trust deeds securing purchase price, each having priority subordinate only to prior encumbrances of record at the time of conveyance, and as follows.
 - 2) The primary promissory note and trust deed shall be a demand note containing a conditional acceleration clause, plainly stating that in event such church shall cease to be affiliated with the General Council or this District Council, then at the demand of the holder thereof the whole amount of balance due on same shall become immediately due and payable. The principal amount of such demand note shall be for the full reasonable fair market value of the property including improvements, at the time of conveyance, less any prior encumbrances due to third parties, with interest at the rate of ten percent per annum compounded annually from the date of execution of such promissory note. In no event shall the amount charged for interest in this regard exceed the maximum rate allowed by law. The fair market value shall be established in the amount of the insured value of the building and contents established by the District's insurance broker based on 100% replacement cost plus the current year's fair market value of the land established by the county tax assessor.

Section Eleven: Parent Affiliated Churches

In addition to General Council affiliated and District Council affiliated churches, the District Council may also list in the District Directory a third category of churches: Parent Affiliated Churches. Parent affiliated churches shall be sponsored and supervised by the sovereign church, and may not be existing General Council affiliated or District Council affiliated churches.

A parent affiliated location sponsored by a sovereign church may be listed in the District Directory as being a parent affiliated church, under supervision of the sovereign sponsoring church, according to the following provisions: The sovereign church assumes all oversight of the parent affiliated church; the pastor and board of the sovereign church are the legal pastor and board of the parent affiliated church; the sovereign church is the owner of the parent affiliated church's property; and the sovereign church is responsible to provide administration and oversight to the parent affiliated church's finances, ministries, personnel, and activities. In this respect, the parent affiliated church is considered a department of the sovereign church and is not under the direct oversight of the District Council and shall not have privileges accorded to a District Council affiliated church or right to appoint a delegate to the District Council. The

sovereign church is encouraged to notify the District Council in order to have the work listed in the District Directory as a parent affiliated church.

ARTICLE NINE - ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS AND MINISTRIES

Section One: Incorporated Ministries

A. Organizations Affiliated with the Assemblies of God

1. The District Presbytery may publish in the annual yearbook a list of ministries that are legally affiliated with the General Council and the District Council, which are formed for purposes which are consistent with the purpose and mission of this District Council, such as, educational institutions, special-needs ministries, international ministries, etc.
2. Criteria for Affiliation
 - a. Such shall be legally incorporated under the laws of the State of California or the State of Nevada, as appropriate, or shall be lawfully created under laws of another state of the United States and have a current certificate of authority to do business in the State of California or the State of Nevada, and that their corporateness and authority to do business be continued and maintained current and in good standing.
 - b. Such legal Articles of Incorporation shall reference affiliation with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and/or the Assemblies of God, Northern California & Nevada District Council, Inc.
 - c. Presbytery review and approval of the ministry's doctrine, mission, leadership, insurance coverage, and financial status.
3. Criteria for Ongoing Affiliation

The ministry shall provide, annually, to the Presbytery the following:

 - a. Current Statement of Officers and corporate standing.
 - b. Annual financial statement.
 - c. Annual report of ministry activities.
 - d. Evidence of insurance coverage.
 - e. Re-affirmation of agreement with the Statement of Fundamental Truths.
 - f. Re-affirmation of agreement to abide by the policies of the General Council and the District Council.
4. Benefits Afforded Affiliated Ministries
 - a. Such Affiliated Ministries may solicit funds from member churches.
 - b. The District Council may receive and remit donations to these ministries according to policies established by the Executive Presbytery, and report such donations for World Missions Giving credit.
 - c. This District Council assumes no liability or continuing responsibility for the operations, financial or otherwise, of any such affiliated organizations.

Section Two: Appointed Ministries and Domestic Evangelists

- A. The District Presbytery may appoint as a District Appointed Ministry or District Appointed Domestic Evangelist those individuals who are engaged in itinerant or para-church ministries when such ministries are not legally incorporated, but are undertaken by ministers who are credentialed with this District Council, and when such ministries are consistent with the purposes of this District Council, and operated under the supervision and approval of the Presbytery.
- B. Criteria for Appointment

The Presbytery shall review and approve the ministry's mission and financial status. Ministries and Evangelists that conduct para-church events for minors shall not be appointed.
- C. Criteria for Ongoing Appointment

The ministry shall provide, annually, to the Presbytery the following:

 1. Annual financial statement.
 2. Annual report of ministry activities.
 3. Re-affirmation of agreement to abide by the policies of the District Council and the District

Presbytery.

D. Benefits Afforded Appointed Ministries

1. Such Appointed Ministries may advertise that they are endorsed by the Assemblies of God, Northern California & Nevada District Council, Inc. However, they may not solicit member churches for support without expressed approval by the Executive Officers.
2. The District Council may receive and remit donations to these ministries according to policies established by the Executive Presbytery, and report such donations for World Missions Giving credit.
3. The District Council may remit reimbursements for ministry expenses, and/or remit support funds (reporting on Form 1099) according to policies established by the Executive Presbytery. The Executive Presbytery approve Housing Allowance designations.
4. The Appointed Ministry does not retain the authority to act as an agent of this District Council, to obligate the District Council to any liability or continuing responsibility for the operations, financial or otherwise, of any such Appointed Ministry.

ARTICLE TEN – BENEFITS AND BENEVOLENCES

This District Council has established common benefits and benevolences for the ministers holding current credentials registered with this District Council, and otherwise, including the following:

Section One: Common Benefits

A. Insurance

1. This District Council may cooperate in life insurance programs when provided through the General Council, including life insurance and other casualty or indemnity programs.
2. Such insurance programs so provided shall be made generally available to all ministers in good standing whose credentials are registered with this District Council, subject to such exceptions or restrictions as are generally applied by the carrier or carriers of such programs.

B. Complimentary Benefits

The District Council yearbook
 District publications
 Minister’s Memorial Fund (death benevolence)
 Complimentary registration at Ministers Retreat

Section Two: Institutional Benefits

The District Council may establish and maintain homes for children, for the superannuated, for retired ministers and missionaries. Such benefits as are made available to ministers of this District and their families shall be made available without prejudice.

ARTICLE ELEVEN – FINANCES

Section One: Contributions of Ministers

- A. It is essential that the ministers holding credentials and registered with this District Council shall support its various ministries, divisions, departments, programs, and mission.
- B. The means by which each minister shall support this District Council shall be by voluntary contributions of offerings, by payment of tithes or a portion of tithes, and by payment of minimum amounts to be from their tithes and as a tithe which payment is for clarity hereinafter referred to as the Minister’s Tithe.
- C. The payment of the Minister’s Tithe to this District Council and as herein provided shall be a condition of continuing recognition of ministerial status of the minister. Unless there be an applicable exception, failure of payment of those minimum amounts hereinafter set forth to the General Council and this District Council, the minister’s ministerial credentials are subject to termination, and may not be reinstated except upon satisfaction of the conditions

set forth in General Council Bylaws and the policies of this District Council.

- D. The Executive Presbytery by its special resolution at annual intervals, prior to each District Council Convention, shall establish the minimum amount to be contributed by each credentialed minister toward the Minister’s Tithe, according to the classification of ministerial credential such minister holds.
- E. The established amount to be so contributed as Minister’s Tithe shall be according to the scale established common to all classifications of ministerial credential, particularly applicable to the following classification of credentials:

Credential Type	Minimum Amt per Month
* Active Ordained Ministers	a minimum of \$248 per month
* Active Licensed Ministers	a minimum of \$248 per month
* Active Certified Ministers	a minimum of \$138 per month
** Senior Retired Credential Holders	a minimum of \$60 per month (as able)
All Inactive Credential Holders	a minimum of \$60 per month
Nationally Appointed US Missionaries, World Missionaries residing in the U.S. or on the field per family, and District approved Chi Alpha Directors	a minimum of \$95 per month
Chaplains Nationally Endorsed	a minimum of 10% of their tithe
Students, full-time	a minimum of \$90 per month
*** Spouse as second credential holder	a minimum of \$35 per month
* This tithe rate includes \$7 for home missions pastors’ benevolence, \$5 for Leadership Development and Pastoral Care, and \$25 for debt reduction on the Resource Center.	
** Half of this amount shall be designated toward ministerial training of those under the age of 25.	
*** This tithe rate is revised every 3 years (Resolution #8, 1996 D.C.).	

- F. Schedule review and adjustments. All dollar amounts in the schedule above shall be increased or decreased annually as deemed necessary by applying the increase or decrease in the California cost of living index to the fixed amounts rounding off to the nearest dollar as determined by the Executive Presbytery. All amounts established by the Executive Presbytery to be by ministers so contributed for Minister’s Tithe, shall be presented to the membership at the District Council Convention, as a resolution pursuant to these Bylaws Article Fourteen, and must be ratified by majority vote of the voting constituency in such sessions. Minister’s Tithes so established shall be published in the District yearbook.
- G. The Executive Presbytery is authorized to establish criteria for and make adjustments to the established amount of the contribution of Minister’s Tithe on written request of the credentialed minister, considering hardship and personal catastrophe of the individual minister or his family, which criteria shall be applied uniformly to all ministers applying for dispensation or adjustment in this regard. All such adjustments granted shall be reviewed annually and shall expire at the time of the annual review or at such earlier time as the circumstances may require.
- H. The Executive Presbytery is authorized to establish criteria for and make adjustments to the established amount of contribution of Minister’s Tithe on written request of the local church, considering hardship to the local church or program and its impact on the fiscal condition of such church or program, which criteria shall be applied uniformly to all ministers and churches applying for adjustment in this regard. Written requests for adjustment in this regard from District Affiliated churches shall be first approved by the Executive Committee. Such written requests from sovereign churches may be presented directly to the Executive Committee. All such adjustments granted shall be reviewed annually and shall expire at the time of the annual review or at such earlier time as the circumstances may require.
- I. In addition to the Minister’s Tithe contribution to the District, the minister is required to cooperate in support of the General Council, in the minimum annual amount set forth in

General Council Bylaws, as a condition of annual renewal of ministerial credentials.

Section Two: Support Provided by the Local Church

A. The Assemblies of God is a voluntary cooperative fellowship. Shared financial participation in missions and ministries is a central and indispensable component of such affiliation. Therefore, it is essential that the local churches within this fellowship shall support this District Council and its various ministries, divisions, departments, programs, and mission. Every local assembly is expected to contribute a minimum of one percent of their General Income (undesignated tithes and offerings) each month for District Ministries. It is the responsibility of each local assembly to calculate and remit this amount monthly.

B. District Ministries Support

Local church contributions for District Ministries shall be used solely to support the operations and ministries of the Church Ministries Division as allocated by the Executive Presbytery except that the Executive Presbytery may assess a small percentage to reimburse the General Administration Budget for support services rendered.

Section Three: Forwarding Funds

Ministers' tithes and offerings, contributions from individuals, offerings from local assemblies, and all other funds intended for the work and ministries of the District shall be forwarded to the District Treasurer's Office for official receipting.

Section Four: Deposit and Disbursement of Funds

A. The Executive Presbytery is empowered to adopt and establish rules and regulation for conduct of all business of this corporation, particularly to fix fiscal policies for this corporation.

B. Initial Deposits to Primary Accounts

1. All funds of this District Council and its divisions, departments and programs shall be initially deposited in primary accounts established with federally insured financial institutions approved by the Executive Presbytery, which accounts must be established in the official corporate name of this District Council and with designation of its Federal Employer Identification Number, in which accounts all signatories must be first approved by special resolution of the Executive Presbytery. All such accounts must be accessible by the District Treasurer, and he must be signatory to all such accounts.
2. Such primary accounts shall be restricted for purposes of disbursements. Only the persons who are designated by the Executive Presbytery may be signatory to any such accounts. Approved persons in this regard shall include each person serving on the District Executive Committee.
3. The Executive Presbytery of this District Council may by its special resolution establish the position of Controller, having such authority and responsibility as shall be fixed in such special resolution and may authorize the controller to be a signatory of such primary accounts. The Controller shall be adequately bonded.
4. All disbursements by draft or check or other means from such accounts for amounts less than \$10,000 shall require only one signature of the Controller or any one member of the District Executive Committee. All other drafts or checks or withdrawal orders shall require at least two signatures, at least one of which must be a member of the District Executive Committee.

C. Secondary and Operating Accounts

Funds of this District Council and its divisions, departments, and programs may be deposited in secondary general accounts or restricted divisional or departmental accounts established with federally insured financial institutions approved by the Executive Presbytery, which accounts must be established in the official corporate name of this District Council and with designation of its Federal Employer Identification Number, and may show that each such account is a divisional or departmental account, a trust account for a section or region or otherwise, or other special designation for such an account, in which accounts

all signatories must be first approved by special resolution of the Executive Presbytery. All such accounts must be accessible by the District Treasurer, and he must be signatory to all such accounts.

1. The District Executive Committee of this District Council may by its special resolution authorize the controller to be a signatory for such secondary accounts.
 2. All disbursements by draft or check or other means from such secondary accounts for amounts less than \$10,000 shall require only one signature or the controller or any one member of the District Executive Committee. All other drafts or checks or withdrawal orders from such secondary accounts shall require at least two signatures, at least one of which must be a member of the District Executive Committee.
- D. Designated Funds and Trust Accounts
- All designated funds of this District Council and its divisions, departments, and programs, shall be deposited in a single separate account with a federally insured financial institution, and all funds held on conditions of trust shall be deposited in appropriate separate federally insured Trust Accounts or accounts affiliated with the Assemblies of God, subject to disbursement by the District Treasurer, on approval of the Executive Committee. The persons serving on the District Executive Committee and the Controller of the District Council shall be signatory to such accounts, the accounting for which shall be the primary responsibility of the District Secretary-Treasurer. In the event that it becomes impractical or impossible for the corporation to devote the property to the specific purpose for which it was contributed, or that the directors or members of the corporation in good faith expressly conclude and record in writing that the stated purpose for which the property was contributed is no longer in accord with the policies or best interests of the corporation, the directors or members of the corporation may, in good faith, approve or ratify the use of the property for the general purposes of the corporation rather than for the specific purpose for which it was contributed. (CA Corp Code 9143)
- E. The Executive Presbytery shall have authority to make or authorize issuance of drafts and checks and other disbursements of funds of this District Council in any amount as necessary to maintain the proper administration of business of this District Council.
- F. The Executive Presbytery shall have authority to fix and pay all salaries and wages of District Council administrative staff, officials, and employees, including related benefits and earned vacations, in amounts and at times as it deems appropriate and as shall be in keeping with Biblical stewardship and the law.
- G. Offerings and receipts of money generated in sectional meetings or meetings sponsored by the section shall be initially deposited in a District Council account as authorized by special resolution of the Executive Presbytery established in the particular section or by ledger account identified for that section, to be first applied to finance all expenditures relating to the meeting or program in which the funds were generated, and then to cover expense of operation of the Sectional Leadership Committee, then to be applied and paid toward programs approved for World Ministries Credit with General Council or as authorized by special resolution of the Executive Presbytery.
- H. The Executive Presbytery is authorized to arrange travel expenses to enable the executive officers and General Presbyters to attend General Presbytery meetings and the General Council sessions. It is further authorized to provide for reimbursements for mileage and incidental expenses for the executive officers, presbyters, and others employed on District work assignments.

Section Five: Audits

A. Regular Audits

1. The financial records of this District Council shall be audited by a certified public accountant at the close of every fiscal year evenly divisible by three, with the accountant's report to be submitted at a date just prior to District Council Convention. The auditor shall provide a certificate of audit, in duplicate, with one copy to be retained by the District Treasurer and the other to be placed and retained in the book of records of this District Council. On the other two years a financial review by a certified public

accountant shall be substituted for the full audit.

2. The year following a full financial audit, the District shall employ a law firm to perform a legal audit, investigating whether the District is in compliance with all relevant laws and with standard practices.
 3. The year following a legal audit, the District shall employ a law firm to perform a liability audit, investigating whether the District has sufficient coverage and whether any District policies or practices expose the District to needless risk.
- B. Special Audits
- In event of a change of Treasurer, the Executive Presbytery may choose to request a full financial audit.

ARTICLE TWELVE – ENDORSED PUBLICATIONS

Section One: General Council Publications

- A. The General Council of the Assemblies of God publishes and distributes its authorized publications through the Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, Missouri, and materials published or distributed under the name Gospel Publishing House are authorized and endorsed publications of this District Council.
- B. The General Council of the Assemblies of God prepares and distributes various materials of a confidential nature, including such things as the Official List of Ministers and Missionaries of the Assemblies of God, and Ministerial List Changes from time to time. These items are not for general dissemination or presentation to the media. Furthermore, such official and confidential publications that might not be so sensitive, such as the Church Directory of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, are yet deemed to be restricted for distribution, so that commercial sources might not use them to solicit funds or other things from our constituency.

Section Two: District Council Publications

- A. This District Council shall publish and distribute materials for use among its credentialed ministers, ministries and member churches.
- B. The District Council shall prepare and publish the annual yearbook of the Northern California & Nevada District Council on its webpage. This publication shall consist of the current Constitution and Bylaws, minutes of the preceding District Council Convention, roster of affiliated churches with location and contact information, and roster of credentialed ministers (without personal contact information). The roster with personal contact information is available on the restricted area of the General Council website and the District Council website. The District Council will provide without charge, a printed version of the full yearbook upon request of any minister whose credentials are registered with this District Council.
- C. The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to provide for suitable resources, publications and other means of information distribution that contribute to the effectiveness of ministers, ministries, and churches of this District Council.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN - ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section One: Commencement of Business

In keeping with our purpose and mission, honoring the source, foundation and cornerstone of all our reason and authority for conduct of the Business of this District Council, at any District Council Convention or special meeting of the membership of this District Council, all meetings of boards or subordinate committees, the chair shall determine a quorum and call the meeting to order, and the first order of business shall be prayer to call upon our Lord, seeking His divine attendance, blessing and influence upon all such business, deliberations and resulting elections or legislation.

Section Two: Regular Order of Business

At the annual District Council Convention the Chairman shall present an agenda which includes the following items:

- A. Announcement and Confirmation of Committee Appointments
- B. Report of the District Superintendent
- C. Report of the Assistant District Superintendent
- D. Report of the Secretary-Treasurer
- E. Report of Committees
- F. Report of the Roster Committee
- G. Unfinished Business
- H. Election of Officers
- I. New Business
- J. Final Reports of the Resolutions Committee
- K. Adjournment

ARTICLE FOURTEEN – RESOLUTIONS**Section One: Presentation of Resolution**

- A. Any member of this District Council shall have the privilege of presenting a proposed resolution to the Resolutions Committee for consideration by the voting constituency at District Council Convention.
- B. Proposed resolutions shall be in written form, filed with the District Secretary with sufficient time allowed so that such shall be in the hands of the Resolutions Committee at least ninety days prior to the District Council Convention. The Resolutions Committee shall provide the District Secretary with copies of the approved proposed resolutions at least twenty days before the meeting, and the District Secretary shall be responsible for distribution of copies thereof to the membership of District Council at least fifteen days prior to the District Council Convention. All proposed resolutions that are to be entertained by the membership at any special meeting shall be set forth in writing as part of the notice of time and place of such meeting.
- C. Criteria to be used by the Resolutions Committee in determining the propriety of proposed resolutions shall include determinations of whether or not the proposed resolution is in conflict with the statutes and other laws of the State of California or the State of Nevada, whether the proposed resolution is compatible with the Constitution and Bylaws or other directives of the General Council, whether the proposed resolution is incompatible with the Constitution and Bylaws and policies of this District Council, and whether such proposals are for other reasons unacceptable.
- D. Notwithstanding the foregoing rules, Emergency Resolutions may be presented in writing to be considered by the Resolutions Committee for presentation to and at the pleasure of the voting constituency by its simple majority vote.

Section Two: Author Subscription

The author of any resolution submitted for adoption by the membership at any District Council Convention shall personally sign the resolution and is expected to open discussion of same on the convention floor.

**ARTICLE FIFTEEN – EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS:
NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY**

There may be Educational departments or programs established within or under supervision of this District Council, by special resolutions of and under direct administration or supervision of the District Superintendent or his or her designees, having name or names assigned to such departments or programs, and officers and subordinate administrators for the conduct of their respective business, as the Executive Presbyters shall authorize by such special resolutions,

for the operation of pre-school, grammar school and high school, college or other educational programs; and, there shall be a policy of nondiscrimination within these departments, admitting students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the schools. This organization shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship or loan programs, or athletic and other school-administered programs.

ARTICLE SIXTEEN – RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

It is the policy and standard of this District Council to avoid conflicts involving lawyers, courts and judges, and to resolve disputes in the way provided by the Scriptures, and in the manner following:

Section One: Disputes between Individuals, and Local Churches

- A. Grievances or disputes between individuals within our Assemblies of God fellowship, or involving a member or attendee of a local church, should be first negotiated between the disputants in good faith and Christian deportment. For failure of satisfactory negotiation between them, the matter should be then submitted to the Pastor of that local assembly for mediation. Domestic relations problems or other disputes within a family, if they cannot be resolved by pastoral mediation, should not be further entertained in the ecclesiastical forum, but might be referred to a qualified Christian Counselor. Disputes that cannot be resolved by Pastoral mediation should be referred for further mediation by the Sectional Presbyter for the section in which the dispute arises, for mediation or decision. If the Sectional Presbyter is unable to mediate a satisfactory disposition, the disputants or either or any of them may make written request for further mediation of their disputes by the District Superintendent of this District Council or the District Superintendent's designee. Copies of such written request shall be provided to such Sectional Presbyter and each of the other disputants, and such written request shall contain a succinct and brief recital of the nature of the dispute and the extent and nature of any ensuing harm. Should the District Superintendent or the District Superintendent's designee be unable to resolve the matter by such mediation, either or any of the disputants may request binding arbitration. The formal written request for binding arbitration shall be addressed to the District Superintendent in care of the District Council office, and if the District Superintendent approves the request, he shall refer the matter to the District Council Executive Committee for arbitration. Such arbitration shall be conducted by a panel of spiritually qualified persons chosen by the Executive Committee of the District Council to serve as the Arbitration Panel. The written request for arbitration of the dispute should contain a succinct but brief recital of the nature of the dispute and the extent and nature of any ensuing harm, and at the election of the District Superintendent copies may be sent to the Sectional Presbyter and each of the other parties.
- B. In event the matter is taken to arbitration, the Panel of Arbitrators shall fix such reasonable rules and regulations, and a convenient time and place, for the conduct of arbitration of the dispute, as the Arbitration Panel deems just and proper for the parties to present their respective positions before the Panel, so that good manners, propriety and prudence be preserved. In no event will either party be allowed to have an attorney represent the individuals in the matter or speak on the individual's behalf, though each party should be allowed to have the assistance of a minister or layperson from a local Assemblies of God church in this District to assist in presentation of respective positions. In matters resolved by the Sectional Presbyter or District Superintendent or the Arbitration Panel without further action, same shall be treated as privileged, and any record of mediation or arbitration proceedings shall be sealed and not available to any third party or otherwise except upon written mutual consent of the disputants. There shall be no other remedy between the parties beyond those herein provided, and by presenting their matter to the Arbitration

Panel for consideration the individuals involved shall be deemed to have made an election and agreement for binding arbitration and to abide by the provisions of this paragraph. It is intended that these provisions will resolve misunderstandings and help to quiet personal grievances, so to promote peace and harmony within the churches in this District Council. It is not contemplated that these procedures apply to legitimate claims for physical injuries or physical damage to real or personal property, or in lieu of civil remedies arising out of accidents.

- C. There shall be no legal liability of any kind by any party or faction against the District Council or any of its officers or agents, nor against the Arbitration Panel or any of its members, arising from mediation or arbitration of such disputes. By having elected to join in the arbitration each party shall be deemed to have waived any legal claims in these premises.

Section Two: Disputes Involving a Church or Church Board

- A. Disputes involving individuals or factions within or against a local church or the entire membership of a church, or the church corporation or its officers, shall be resolved by binding arbitration.
- B. The forum for arbitration of disputes concerned in this Section is the District Council; and, the arbitration panel shall be comprised of three persons, who shall be appointed by the District Superintendent from among the District Presbytery.
- C. The arbitration panel shall set a time and place for hearing of the dispute between the parties, with proper notice and opportunity for each to be heard and present their respective positions, and shall fix reasonable guidelines, rules and regulations, and a convenient time and place, for presentations by the parties, as the panel deems just, proper and fair. The arbitration panel may require each faction to present written recitals outlining their grievances, which writings should be addressed only to the arbitration panel, and shall not be provided for opponents or third parties to see, unless the arbitration panel requires as part of its guidelines that copies be so provided. In no event shall the writings or any written or other decision be published by the parties or the arbitration panel.
- D. In no event shall any party to the arbitration be allowed to be represented by an attorney or to have any lawyer speak on their behalf, though each party should be allowed to have a credentialed Assemblies of God minister or layperson from an Assemblies of God church in the District to aid in preparation and presentation of respective positions.
- E. The determination and award, or other disposition made by the panel of arbitrators, shall be final and conclusive, and binding upon the parties, from which there shall be no appeal.
- F. There shall be no legal liability of any kind against the District Council or any of its officers or agents, nor against the Arbitration Panel or any of its members, arising from mediation or arbitration of such disputes.

Section Three: Disputes between Persons or Factions and the District Council

Disputes and grievances by the individual minister members of this District Council or any member church or other person within the District Council against or adversely affecting the District Council shall be resolved by binding arbitration, by submitting same to the General Secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, Springfield, Missouri, for resolution according to such rules and regulations as are set, and in accordance with the Bylaws of the General Council, as such Bylaws are now or from time to time may be amended. The determination made by the General Secretary or designees shall be final and binding between the parties, from which there shall be no appeal.

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN – AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Amendments to these Bylaws may be made at any regular or special meeting of the District Council membership, only by vote of the active and registered voting members, provided the full text of same shall have been submitted in advance of the meeting for review by the District Presbytery, in accordance with procedures set forth in the Bylaws, with affirmative vote of two-thirds majority.

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ADDENDUM

The General Council of the Assemblies of God

STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

General Council Constitution, Article V.

Revised 2009

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 Spirit (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 (ex., Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 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 Spirit, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Cor. 1:24; Matt. 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).

(c) Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

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

(d) Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit 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 Spirit 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 Spirit. 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 Spirit 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 Spirit 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 (1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- e. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matt. 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Cor. 15:4).
- f. His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9,11; 2:33; Phil. 2:9-11; Heb. 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 Spirit, 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; Eph. 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 Savior 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 Spirit

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; 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 Spirit 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 Spirit

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit 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 Spirit 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, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world, 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).
- d. To be a people who demonstrate God’s love and compassion for all the world (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

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).



Absentee Balloting	P-10
Addendum, Statement of Fundamental Truths.....	P-61–P-66
Address Change.....	P-41
Affiliated Organizations	P-51
Amendments	
Bylaws	P-59
Constitution	P-12
Appeal, Right of	
Church Plant.....	P-48
Credential.....	P-44
Local Church (Sovereign).....	P-47
Appointed Ministries.....	P-51–P-52
Arbitration	P-58–P-60
Associated Ministries and Organizations	
Affiliated Ministries.....	P-51
Appointed Ministries	P-51–P-52
Domestic Evangelist	P-51–P-52
Associate Membership	P-10
At-Large Presbyters	P-8, P-24
Female	P-17
Intercultural	P-17
Vacancies	P-18
Audits, NorCal/Nev.....	P-55
Authority, Prerogatives and Powers, Constitution.....	P-4–P-5
Benefits and Benevolences	P-52
Boards, Committees, and Teams	P-18–P-19, P-29–P-33
Bylaws, NorCal/Nev District Council, Inc.	P-14–P-60
Amendments	P-59
Associated Organizations and Ministries	P-51–P-52
Benefits and Benevolences	P-52
Boards, Committees, and Teams.....	P-29–P-33
Church Boards, Non-Ministerial Service	P-42
Credential Classifications	P-34–P-35
Divisions, Establishment of	P-27–P-29
Education Departments	P-57
Executive Officers, Qualifications, Nominations and Elections of.....	P-15–P-19
Finances	P-52–P-55
Local Church, The.....	P-44–P-51
Ministers and Ministry	P-33–P-44
Nondiscrimination Policy	P-57
Officers, Boards, & Committees, Duties of.....	P-15–P-23
Order of Business.....	P-56
Parliamentary Law	P-14
Publications, Endorsed.....	P-52–P-53
Resolution of Disputes	P-58–P-60
Resolutions	P-57–P-58
Sacerdotal Rites	P-33–P-34
Statement of Fundamental Truths	P-61–P-66
Voting Constituency.....	P-14–P-15
Calendar Conflict	P-43
Certificate of Ministry.	<i>See Certified Ministers</i>
Certified Ministers.....	P-14, P-33, P-34, P-37–P-38, P-44, P-53

Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Team	P-32–P-33, P-53
Church Affiliation	
District Council	P-12, P-47–P-50
General Council Affiliation	P-11, P-45–P-46
General Council (Sovereign).....	P-44–P-47
Parent Affiliated Churches	P-50–P-51
Church Assistance / Sovereign Church	P-46
Church Boards, Non-Ministerial Service.....	P-42
Churches, New	P-28, P-47–P-48
Church Ministries, Division of.....	P-29
Church Ministries Fund	P-29
Church Planting Team.....	P-24–P-25, P-33, P-47
Committees, Boards and Teams	P-19–P-27, P-29–P-33
Constitutional Officers.	<i>See</i> Executive Officers, Executive Presbyters/Presbytery, District Presbyters/Presbytery
Constitution, NorCal/Nev District Council, Inc	
Amendments	P-12
Associate Membership	P-10
At-Large Presbyters	P-8
Constitutional Officers	P-8
Dedication and Dissolution	P-12
District Presbytery	P-7
Election and Term.....	P-8
Executive Presbytery.....	P-7
Election and Term.....	P-8
General Council Representatives	P-10–P-11
General Presbytery	P-10
Geographical Divisions.....	P-6
Intercultural Fellowships.....	P-6–P-7
Jurisdiction	P-6
Local Churches	P-11–P-12
Membership.....	P-9
Membership Meetings.....	P-9
Nonresident Executive Presbyter Nominees.....	P-10–P-11
Relationship with the General Council.....	P-5–P-7
Sections.....	P-6
Statutory Board of Directors	P-7
Tenets of Faith.....	P-7
Voting Constituency	P-9
Convention Committees	P-31–P-32
Credentials	P-22, P-38–P-49
Application	P-36
Board, Credentials.....	P-7, P-22, P-36–P-41
Certified Ministers	P-9, P-14, P-34
Classification of, Bylaws	P-34–P-35
Credentials Board.....	P-7, P-22, P-35, P-36–P-41
Fees	P-36
Initiative	P-39, P-40–P-41
Interview and Exam	P-36–P-38
Licensed Ministers	P-9, P-14, P-35, P-53
Life Experience.....	P-22
Local Church Credential	P-34
Ministry Associate.....	P-35
Ordained Ministers	P-9, P-14, P-35, P-53

Qualifications	P-35–P-36
Recognition	P-22, P-36, P-38
Reinstatement	P-40
Renewal	P-39, P-54
Screening	P-36
Senior Ministers	P-40
Termination	P-39–P-40
Transfer of	P-41
Transfers from AG World Fellowship	P-42
Credentials Board	P-35
Dedication and Dissolution	P-12
Delegates	P-10, P-14, P-31, P-46
Departmental Ministers	<i>See Church Ministries Division</i>
Discipline of Ministers	P-44
Disputes	P-23, P-48–P-49, P-58–P-60
District Affiliated Churches	P-12, P-20, P-24–P-27, P-28, P-47–P-48
District Churches District Missions, Division of	P-20, P-27–P-28
District Council	
Business Meeting	P-9–P-10, P-14, P-20
Convention Committees	P-31–P-32
Order of Business	P-57
District Council Officers	<i>See Executive Officers</i>
District Council Publications	P-56
District Ministries	P-15, P-21–P-22, P-47, P-54
District Presbyters/Presbytery	
At-Large	P-8, P-15–P-19, P-24
Duties	P-23–P-24
Election of	P-8, P-17
Ex Officio Members	P-7
Honorary	P-16, P-18
Nominations	P-17
Qualifications	P-15–P-16
Vacancies	P-18–P-19
Divisions	
Church Ministries	P-29
District Churches and District Missions	P-27–P-28
Leadership Development and Pastoral Care	P-28–P-29
Domestic Evangelist	P-20, P-27, P-28, P-51–P-52
Duties of Officers, Boards and Committees, Bylaws	P-19–P-27
Emeritus Executive Officers	P-16–P-18, P-18
Endorsed Publications	P-56–P-57
Executive Committee	P-8
Executive Officers	P-8, P-15–P-21
Duties	P-19–P-21
Election of	P-18
Emeritus	P-16–P-18, P-18
Nominations	P-16
Qualifications	P-15
Term of Office	P-8
Vacancies	P-18–P-19
Executive Presbyters/Presbytery	
At-Large	P-8, P-18–P-22

Duties.....	P-21–P-23
Election of.....	P-8, P-18
Ex Officio Members.....	P-7
Honorary.....	P-16–P-18, P-26
Nominations.....	P-16–P-17
Qualifications.....	P-15
Vacancies.....	P-18
Executive Presbytery, serve as Official Church Board.....	P-46
Female At-Large Presbyters.....	P-15–P-19
Finance Board.....	P-22
Finance Committee.....	P-30
Financial Review.....	P-55
General Council Affiliated Churches.....	P-11, P-44–P-47
General Council Publications.....	P-56
General Council Representatives.....	P-10–P-11
General Presbyters/General Presbytery.....	P-10
Geographical Divisions.....	P-6
Honorary District Officials.....	P-16–P-18
Honorary Membership.....	P-15
Insurance.....	P-21, P-23, P-26, P-40, P-52
Intercultural At-Large Presbyters.....	P-15–P-19
Intercultural Fellowships.....	P-6–P-7, P-27
Leadership Development and Pastoral Care, Division of.....	P-28–P-29
Legal Audit.....	P-56
Liability Audit.....	P-56
Licensed Ministers.....	P-9, P-14, P-33, P-35, P-53
Local Church Credential.....	P-34, P-41
Local Churches	
Bylaws.....	P-44–P-51
Constitution.....	P-11
Mediation.....	P-23, P-48–P-49, P-58–P-60
Mediation Board.....	P-23, P-48
Membership and Voting Constituency	
Bylaws.....	P-14–P-15
Membership Meetings.....	P-9
Ministerial Courtesy.....	P-44
Ministerial Relations.....	P-36, P-44
Ministerial Relations Committee.....	P-19, P-21–P-22
Ministers and Ministry.....	P-33–P-44
Minister’s Memorial Fund.....	P-52
Ministers Retreat.....	P-52
Ministers Serving on Church Boards.....	P-42
Ministers Tithes.....	P-52–P-53
Ministry Associate.....	P-35, P-38
Ministry Described and Qualifications	
Conflict of Pastoral Ministry.....	P-41
Non-Assemblies of God Churches.....	P-43
Pastoral Resignation.....	P-42

Qualifications	P-35–P-36
Sacerdotal Rites	P-33–P-34
Service on Church Boards	P-42
Missionaries	
District Appointed	P-28
Nationally Appointed U.S.	P-15, P-42, P-53
Nationally Appointed World	P-15, P-30–P-31, P-42, P-53
Missions Team, World	P-30–P-31
Name, Constitution	P-3
Non-Assemblies of God Churches, Ministry	P-43–P-44
Nondiscrimination Policy	P-57
Nonresident Executive Presbyterian Nominees	P-10–P-11
Officers, Duties and Privileges of	P-19–P-21
Ordained Ministers	P-9, P-14, P-35, P-53
Order of Business	P-57
Parent Affiliated Churches	P-50–P-51
Parliamentary Committee	P-14, P-31
Parliamentary Law, Bylaws	P-14
Pastoral Resignation	P-42
Perceived Conflict	P-41
Preamble, Constitution	P-3
Preservation of Affiliation	P-47
Property	
Acquiring or Conveyance	P-26–P-27
Oversight	P-26
Proxy Voting	P-10
Publications, Endorsed	P-56
Pulpit Ministry	P-46
Quorum	
Boards, Committees and Teams	P-30
Constitution	P-9
District Council	P-56
Presbytery	P-23
Regions	P-6, P-16–P-17
Relationship with the General Council, Constitution	P-5–P-7
Resolution of Disputes	P-23, P-48, P-58–P-60
Resolutions, Bylaws	P-57–P-58
Resolutions Committee	P-31–P-32, P-57
Restoration of Disciplined Ministers	P-44
Revisions Committee	P-12, P-32
Roster Committee	P-31
Sacerdotal Rites and Ministry	P-33–P-34
Sectional Leadership Committee	P-22, P-24–P-25, P-28, P-36–P-38, P-41, P-43, P-46, P-55
Sectional Presbyters	<i>See District Presbyters</i>
Sections	P-6, P-17, P-23–P-25, P-28
Senior Ministers	P-40
Special Committees	P-14, P-22
Spiritual Life Committee	P-32

Standing Boards/Committees.....	P-32–P-33
Statement of Fundamental Truths.....	P-7, P-61–P-66
Statutory Board	P-7, P-21
Teams, Boards and Committees	P-19–P-27, P-29–P-33
Teen Challenge Executive Team.....	P-33
Tellers Committee.....	P-16, P-32
Tenets of Faith	P-7, P-61–P-66
Tithes, Minister’s	P-52–P-53
Transfer of Credential	P-41
Transfers from AG World Fellowship	P-42
Vacancies	P-18–P-19
Voting Constituency	
Bylaws	P-14–P-15
Constitution	P-9
World Missions Team	P-30–P-31
Yearbook.....	P-32, P-51–P-53, P-56

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