



CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF
THE TENNESSEE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
MINISTRY NETWORK

Updated as of
98th Annual Network Council
Madison, Tennessee
May 15-17, 2023

In cooperative fellowship with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc.

TENNESSEE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD MINISTRY NETWORK

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Terry Bailey, Network Superintendent
Randel McCarty, Network Assistant Superintendent
Nick Serban III, Network Executive Secretary

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Terry Bailey, Chair
Randel McCarty, Network Assistant Superintendent
Nick Serban III, Network Executive Secretary
Todd Alexander, General Presbyter
Ed Hawkins, West Tennessee Executive Presbyter
Jason Yarbrough, Middle Tennessee Executive Presbyter
Andrew Templeton, East Tennessee Executive Presbyter

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Greg Temke, Covington	Scott Dobbins, Nashville North
Tommy Hall, Dyersburg	Nathan Kollar, Nashville South
Victor Gomez, Hispanic	Gary Green, Ripley
Ronnie Sanders, Jackson	Tony Thompson, Tri-Cities

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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Constitution and Bylaws
of
The Tennessee District Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc.
A Tennessee Non-profit Corporation
dba
The Tennessee Assemblies of God Ministry Network

PREAMBLE

WE BELIEVE:

That God's Purpose concerning man finds fulfillment in a priority reason-for-being:

1. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world,
2. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God, and
3. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.

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

Therefore, we recognize ourselves to be a cooperative fellowship of Pentecostal, Spirit-baptized saints from local Pentecostal Assemblies of like precious faith in the TNAGMN of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, hereinafter called "General Council", whose purpose is neither to usurp authority over the various local assemblies, nor to deprive them of their scriptural and local rights and privileges, but to recognize and promote work, and business for God so that results of our efforts may be conserved, and assemblies established and developed along the line of our distinctive testimony; and to disapprove unscriptural methods, doctrines, and conduct, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, "till we all come in the unity of the faith, and to the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this body shall be the Tennessee District Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc, DBA Tennessee Assemblies of God Ministry Network (TNAGMN)

ARTICLE II. TERRITORY

The TNAGMN includes the entire state of Tennessee. For efficiency and to expedite the work, the TNAGMN shall be divided into Fellowship sections.

ARTICLE III. NATURE

The TNAGMN is a non-profit religious corporation organized as a cooperative fellowship based on mutual agreement voluntarily entered into by its members.

ARTICLE IV. PREROGATIVES

1. To encourage and promote the evangelization of the world.
2. To encourage and promote the worship of God.
3. To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like precious faith.
4. To supervise all the activities of the Assemblies of God in its prescribed field in accordance with the rights conferred by Article X of the General Council Constitution.
5. To establish and maintain such subdivisions, departments, and institutions as may be necessary for the propagation of the Gospel and the work of the Pentecostal fellowship.
6. To establish churches and provide for their development.
7. To examine candidates for the ministry and to license and ordain as ministers those who shall meet the standards of the Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1-7) (Titus 1:5-9) and the requirements of the TNAGMN and the General Council of the Assemblies of God in matters of doctrine, and the personal conduct of all ministers who are permitted to have TNAGMN endorsement.
8. To approve all scriptural teachings, methods, and conduct, and to disapprove all unscriptural teachings, methods, and conduct.
9. To elect its own officers and committees, to arrange for its own meetings, and to govern itself.
10. Incidental to, or in connection therewith, it shall have the right to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of such property, real or chattel, that may be needed for the prosecution of its work.

ARTICLE V. PRINCIPLES FOR FELLOWSHIP

The TNAGMN shall, as nearly as possible in detail, represent the body of Christ as described in the New Testament Scriptures, recognizing the principles inherent in that body as also inherent in this Fellowship, particularly the principles of unity, fellowship, cooperation, and equality. It recognizes that adherence to those principles will enable it to achieve its priority reason-for-being, and to maintain conditions under which it can, as a Fellowship, demonstrate those principles and their consequent development.

ARTICLE VI. STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

The TNAGMN adopts the Fundamental Truths agreed upon and adopted by the General Council and printed herewith as follows:

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 things, 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 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).

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.: Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16-17).

b) DISTINCTION AND RELATIONSHIP IN THE GODHEAD

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

c) UNITY OF THE ONE BEING OF THE 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; Zechariah 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 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 the 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, 25).
- b) His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).
- c) His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
- d) His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- e) His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4).
- f) His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, 11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1-3).

4. THE FALL OF MAN

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness". However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Genesis 1:26, 27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19).

5. THE SALVATION OF MAN

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

a) CONDITIONS TO SALVATION

Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy 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; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

b) THE EVIDENCES OF SALVATION

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

6. THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

a) BAPTISM IN WATER

The ordinance of Baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as 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 24:29; 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 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 worshipped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, the priority reason for being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is:

- a) To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16).
- b) To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- c) To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12). The Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason-for-being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

This experience:

- i) 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).
- ii) Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12-14)
- iii) 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 12:28; 14:12; Ephesians 4:11-12; Colossians 1:29).

11. THE MINISTRY

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for a threefold purpose of leading the Church in:

- a) Evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20)
- b) Worship of God (John 4:23-24), and

- c) 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; Revelations 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; Psalms 72:3-8; Micah 4:3-4).

15. THE FINAL JUDGEMENT

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

16. THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH

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

ARTICLE VII. RELATIONSHIPS

1. TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND OTHER DISTRICT COUNCILS

The TNAGMN shall recognize itself as an integral part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, whose headquarters are in Springfield, Missouri, and shall recognize and be subject to the said General Council as the parent body.

2. TO THE FELLOWSHIP SECTIONS

The TNAGMN Shall direct its activities through its Network Office and Fellowship Sections.

3. TO LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

The local Assemblies of the TNAGMN, which are in full fellowship with the Network, shall recognize and be subject to the TNAGMN as set forth in Article XI.

ARTICLE VIII. MEMBERSHIP

1. All ministers of the gospel holding accredited fellowship certificates from the General Council and having their permanent residence within the territory of the TNAGMN shall be recognized as members.
2. All Ministers holding accredited fellowship certificates from the TNAGMN shall be considered as members.
3. All members of all affiliated churches of the TNAGMN and General Council within the state of Tennessee shall be considered members, but voting shall be restricted to one delegate for a church with less than 50 members and two delegates for a church with 50 members or more.

ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS

SECTION 1. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

There shall be a Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Executive Secretary who shall serve as Executive Officers of the TNAGMN, and by virtue of office shall serve as trustees of the Network.

SECTION 2. GENERAL PRESBYTERS

The TNAGMN shall be represented on the General Council's General Presbytery by three members, the District Superintendent. The TNAGMN Executive Secretary, and one other who shall be an ordained pastor of a church located in the TNAGMN. The General Presbytery is the official policy making body of the General Council when the General Council is not in session (See Article IX, Section 3a – General Council Constitution).

SECTION 3. EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS

The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Executive Secretary, a General Presbyter, and three Executive Presbyters. The three Executive Presbyters will represent each Grand Division of the State: East (Tri-Cities, Knoxville, Chattanooga), Middle (Nashville North, Nashville South, Columbia, Cookeville), and West Tennessee (Memphis, Covington, Ripley, Dyersburg, Milan, Jackson) and shall be elected for a two year term by the TNAGMN in session.

SECTION 4. SECTIONAL PRESBYTERS

There shall be a Presbyter from each section whose duties shall be to supervise the work of the section.

SECTION 5. THE TNAGMN PRESBYTERY

The TNAGMN Presbytery shall consist of the Executive Presbyters and the Sectional Presbyters.

SECTION 6. HONORARY TNAGMN PRESBYTERY

They are to be chosen by the TNAGMN Presbytery from among those brethren who have served for 20 or more years on the TNAGMN Board and have reached the age of 60 and can no longer assume the burden of the office. These shall not serve as regular voting members of the TNAGMN Board.

ARTICLE X. MEETINGS

1. DISTRICT COUNCIL

- a) Regular sessions of the District Council shall be held annually, the time and place to be left to the discretion of the TNAGMN Board of Presbyters.
- b) Special sessions of the District Council may be arranged if agreed to by the majority of the TNAGMN Board Presbyters.
- c) The Right of initiative in the matter of calling of special sessions of the TNAGMN shall be given to any ordained minister of the TNAGMN when occasion demands. A statement setting forth the reason for the special session of the Council and signed by not less than twelve ordained ministers may be considered sufficient to be filed with the TNAGMN Board of Presbyters who may, if it be deemed advisable, respond to the summons, and issue a call for a special session.

2. SECTIONAL COUNCILS

There shall be a Sectional Council conducted in each section of the TNAGMN each year prior to the annual District Council at which time the sectional presbyters and such other officers as are necessary shall be elected. The District Superintendent shall preside at each of these sectional meetings.

3. VOTING CONSTITUENCY

The voting constituency shall consist of all accredited members present and registered at both District and Sectional Councils. This shall include ordained ministers, licensed ministers, ministers holding Certified Ministers permits and delegates from Assemblies, either temporarily (TNAGMN recognition) or permanently (General Council recognition), in the TNAGMN. Lay delegates shall, at the time of recognition, present certificates signed by the pastor or church secretary showing that they have been duly chosen as delegates. Such forms shall be supplied by the TNAGMN Secretary.

ARTICLE XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

All true Pentecostal believers associating themselves in local bodies as assemblies and accepting their full share of responsibility for the maintaining of scriptural order in the local body, shall have a standard of membership which may be determined either by the local assembly itself, or by agreement with the TNAGMN.

Local Assemblies shall be set in order and cooperate with the TNAGMN. They should support the TNAGMN organization and may send delegates to the TNAGMN.

Each local church with less than fifty members shall be allowed one delegate. Any local church having more than fifty members may send two delegates to the TNAGMN.

We recognize that each local Assembly has the right to self-government under Jesus Christ, its living head, and shall have power to choose its pastor, elect its officers, and transact all other business pertaining to its life as a local Assembly. An Assembly shall not choose a pastor who does not have current credentials with the Assemblies of God without the prior written approval of the TNAGMN Executive Board. It shall have the right to administer discipline to its members according to the Scripture and its Bylaws. It shall own property, either through trustees, or in its corporate name as a self-governing Assembly.

The fact that local Assembly is affiliated with the association of the TNAGMN and the General Council shall in no way destroy its right as above stated or interfere with its sovereignty. The local Assembly shall recognize that the TNAGMN or the General Council has the right to approve Scriptural doctrine and conduct and to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct. When in need of counsel or advice, the local assembly may appeal to the TNAGMN for help. It may appeal a decision by the TNAGMN to the General Council where it may be questioned whether or not there has been proper help from the TNAGMN.

Local Assemblies are expected to have an interest in world missions and to plan for regular contributions to its support.

ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

In the event this TNAGMN shall cease to function for the purposes herein set forth, then all property, real or chattel, and all assets remaining after satisfying debts and obligations, shall revert to the parent body, The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Missouri not-for-profit corporation, with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri. The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall have full authority to sell such property and to use the proceeds derived there from for the extension of the work of the Assemblies of God.

In the event of cessation of TNAGMN, its Board of Trustees (or Director) shall transfer all properties and any remaining assets, in accordance with the foregoing provisions, within one year after the date of such cessation. If such transfer is not made within the time prescribed above or if the aforesaid General Council shall be unable or unwilling to accept the aforesaid transfer, then disposition thereof shall be made by the court of the county in which the TNAGMN headquarters office is located, provided that in such case proceeds of the dissolution shall be distributed to organizations having purposes nearest the purposes of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any regular meeting of the TNAGMN, provided the proposed amendments shall have been submitted to the TNAGMN Board of Presbyters first for consideration, and then mailed to each ordained minister of the TNAGMN prior to the TNAGMN meetings. Amendments to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds majority vote of **all** members present and voting for adoption.

BYLAWS
of
The Tennessee Assemblies of God Ministry Network

ARTICLE I. PARLIAMENTARY ORDER

SECTION 1. RULE OF ORDER

The work of this TNAGMN shall be governed by parliamentary procedures as set forth in the current edition of “Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised”, in keeping with the Spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

SECTION 2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The regular order of business of the TNAGMN shall be:

1. Devotional
2. Report of the Superintendent
3. Report of the Assistant Superintendent
4. Report of the Executive Secretary / Finance Director
5. Election of Officers
6. Report of Committees
7. Unfinished Business
8. New Business
9. Adjournment

SECTION 3. RESOLUTIONS

- a) Procedure for presentation of resolutions: A Resolutions Committee shall be appointed by the District Superintendent. All resolutions for the presentation to the TNAGMN, except emergency measures, shall be presented to the Executive Secretary’s office no later than January 15, prior to the TNAGMN session. The Resolutions Committee shall prepare the resolutions in printed form and mail them to the TNAGMN ministers and churches two weeks prior to the TNAGMN, with the understanding that this does not apply to business growing out of TNAGMN Board and Executive Board meetings just prior to the District Council; and that consideration of resolutions of an emergency nature shall be decided by a two-thirds vote of the council.
- b) Sponsorship Policy: All resolutions presented to the Resolutions Committee shall be signed by the author or sponsor. When a resolution is presented for the consideration of the TNAGMN in session, the author, sponsor, or a spokesman therefore shall be expected to be the first speaker on behalf of the resolution.
- c) Appropriateness of Resolutions: The Resolution Committee shall, by a two thirds vote, determine the appropriateness of a proposed resolution, including the following criteria in its decision:
 - i) Possible conflict with the corporate charter, constitution or

- ii) Those proposals which are absurd in substance
- d) Right of Sponsor: If the Resolutions Committee determines that a resolution is inappropriate, it shall so advise the author and shall apprise him of his right to present the proposed resolution to the house for determination as to appropriateness.
- e) Format of Presentation: The Resolutions Committee shall:
 - i) Put resolution in proper form or;
 - ii) Eliminate duplication where similar resolutions relating to a specific subject will be offered in a logical sequence.

ARTICLE II. COMMITTEES

1. STANDING COMMITTEES

Standing Committees shall be appointed as necessity may indicate. They shall be appointed by the District Superintendent in cooperation with the TNAGMN Board of Presbyters and the term of office shall continue from the date of appointment to the adjournment of the next regular meeting of the TNAGMN.

2. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Special Committees may be created at the District Council in session or by the TNAGMN Board of Presbyters between sessions as may be required.

3. COMMITTEE ON MISSION

This committee shall be appointed by the District in cooperation with the TNAGMN Board of Presbyters. The Committee shall consist of at least five pastors representative of our various churches and two laymen who shall be endorsed by their pastor.

This Committee shall be appointed annually at the District Council. It shall be responsible for examining our purpose for being as we are now functioning in the TNAGMN program. This report shall be given at each District Council.

ARTICLE III. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. VOTING CONSTITUENCY

All ministers holding current credentials and official delegates from churches of the TNAGMN constitute the voting constituency. Each local assembly with less than 50 members shall be allowed one delegate. Local churches having more than 50 members may send 2 delegates to the District Council.

SECTION 2. QUORUM

All accredited ministers and delegates of the TNAGMN who are present, registered by the Roster Committee, and voting at a duly called meeting shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 3. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

1. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The Executive Officers shall be: Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Executive Secretary.

2. QUALIFICATIONS

The officers of the TNAGMN shall be elected at one of its regular meetings, according to the manner of election as provided. They shall be men of mature experience and ability, whose lives and ministry are above question, who have held credentials and ministered as ordained ministers for at least three consecutive years in our Assemblies of God Fellowship and shall have been members of the TNAGMN for at least one year prior to their election and who fully cooperate with all its policies. No minister shall be allowed to fill a TNAGMN office who does not cooperate with the financial policy of the TNAGMN.

3. TERMS OF OFFICE

- a) The term of office of the District Superintendent shall be four (4) years beginning thirty days after election.
- b) The term of office of the Executive Secretary shall be for four (4) years beginning thirty days after election.
- c) The term of office of the District Assistant Superintendent shall be for two (2) years, beginning thirty days after election.
- d) The term of office of the General Presbyter and Executive Presbyters shall be for two (2) years beginning thirty days after election.
- e) No minister shall hold more than one (1) Executive position during the same term of office.

4. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- a) All officers, except that of Executive Secretary, shall be nominated by secret ballot. All names thus presented shall be balloted upon until a candidate shall have received a two-thirds majority of all votes cast, which shall constitute an election. If an election is not reached after two electoral ballots, all names shall be removed except the three highest.
- b) The Executive Secretary shall be nominated by the TNAGMN Board of Presbyters with the recommendation of the District Superintendent and ratified by a two-thirds vote of the District Council in session.

SECTION 4. GENERAL PRESBYTERS

The TNAGMN shall be represented in the General Presbytery, the official policy making body of the General Council when it is not in session, by three members, men of mature experience and ability whose lives and ministries are above reproach. They shall represent the Fellowship in all phases of its work and interest in their respective field. The District Superintendent and Executive Secretary shall serve by virtue of their offices, and the other General Presbyter shall be elected as stated in Article III, Section 5.

SECTION 5. TNAGMN EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS

There shall be a General Presbyter representing the TNAGMN on the General Presbytery of the General Council without regard to any Grand Division of the State of Tennessee. The General Presbyter must be a Pastor and shall serve as a TNAGMN Executive Presbyter. In addition, there shall be the election of three Executive Presbyters, one from each Grand Division of the State: West, East, and Middle. The Sectional Boundaries of the Grand Divisions be defined as follows: (West Tennessee shall be Memphis, Covington, Ripley, Dyersburg, Milan, and Jackson; Middle Tennessee shall consist of Nashville North, Nashville South, Columbia, and Cookeville; East Tennessee shall consist of Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Tri-Cities).

SECTION 6. SECTIONAL OFFICERS

There shall be a sectional presbyter from each of the sections of the TNAGMN who shall be elected at the Sectional Council prior to the annual District Council. He shall be a pastor of an Assemblies of God church in the section which elected him to office. Their term of office shall be for two years.

There shall be a Sectional Assistant Presbyter and Secretary for each section who shall be elected at the Sectional Council prior to the annual District Council. They shall be ordained pastors in the section electing them to office. Their term of office shall be for two years. A majority of votes cast shall be required for election.

The election of officers and departmental leaders by each sectional council shall be deemed final with no further ratification necessary. All sectional officers elected or appointed, shall take office by January 1. All sectional leadership terms shall expire December 31.

SECTION 7. NON-RESIDENT EXECUTIVE AND GENERAL PRESBYTER NOMINEES

On General Council years the two non-resident Executive Presbyter nominees shall be nominated by secret ballot at the District Council and chosen by a two-thirds majority of all votes cast. One of the nominees must be an ordained minister other than a full-time TNAGMN official.

Additionally, the TNAGMN will nominate three individuals to the Executive Presbytery (additional representation), one who is an ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election, one ordained female minister (no age requirement), and one ordained African American minister (no age requirement).

For the General Presbytery rotating representation, the TNAGMN will nominate one ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election, one ordained female minister (no age

requirement), and one ordained African American minister (no age requirement) to serve for one year.

SECTION 8. ETHNIC / LANGUAGE FELLOWSHIP PRESBYTER

- a) Each duly authorized ethnic / language fellowship presbyter shall be elected biennially by majority vote at the annual fellowship council. The fellowship presbyter shall be ratified by the TNAGMN Presbytery. They shall take office immediately upon election.

ARTICLE IV. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1. DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

- a) To preside at all meetings of the TNAGMN
- b) To be the head of the TNAGMN Office, and to supervise the work of the TNAGMN during the interim between sessions of the District Council.
- c) To act as president of the Council in all legal matters.
- d) To preside at all meetings of the TNAGMN Presbytery and to receive all communications directed to the body.
- e) To be general supervisor of all the work in the TNAGMN and to devote as much time as shall be necessary and convenient to the interest of the work, in holding meetings and conventions, setting assemblies in order, and giving such other help as may be needed.
- f) To investigate charges of violation of ministerial courtesy, indiscretions in personal conduct, the holding and teaching of false doctrines, and to administer discipline in all cases where charges are found to be true.
- g) The District Superintendent, by virtue of his office, shall be Missions Director.
- h) To perform any other function usual and customary for the presiding officer, or such as may be directed by the TNAGMN Board of Presbyters of the TNAGMN.
- i) The Office of the District Superintendent shall be a full-time position.

SECTION 2. ASSISTANT DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

- a) To assist the District Superintendent.
- b) To preside at meetings of the council and the TNAGMN Board of Presbyters in the absence of the District Superintendent.

- c) To perform any other function under the supervision of the District Superintendent, or such as may be directed by the TNAGMN or by the TNAGMN Board of Presbyters.

SECTION 3. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- a) To compile and preserve true records of the proceedings of the Network and shall communicate the same to each assembly and credentialed minister, as approved and directed by the TNAGMN Board.
- b) To keep record of all ministers and assemblies in the fellowship, handling oversight of all official communication pertaining thereto with appropriate General Council personnel and committees.
- c) To serve as Secretary of the corporation and shall be authorized to sign all official and legal documents and to perform such other functions as are customary or may be requested by the TNAGMN or TNAGMN Board.
- d) To oversee the annual communication to each assembly and credentialed minister of the revised Network constitution and bylaws, the District Council minutes, and the annually revised Network directory of those credentialed. The Executive Secretary shall secure a master insurance policy to insure properties held in the name of the Tennessee District Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc. (dba Tennessee Assemblies of God Ministry Network).
- e) To maintain minutes of all matters considered, all resolutions offered, and motions prevailed during meetings of the Executive Officers, the TNAGMN Board, or the TNAGMN Executive Board. The Executive Secretary shall note the identity of all persons participating in the meeting.
- f) To serve as a member of the TNAGMN Executive Board and official officer of the corporation.
- g) To perform any other function under the supervision of the District Superintendent, or such as may be directed by the TNAGMN or by the TNAGMN Board of Presbyters.
- h) The Executive Secretary office can be held as a part-time position in conjunction with the direction of the District Superintendent.

SECTION 4. GENERAL PRESBYTERS

- a) They shall serve as members of the Executive Presbytery and TNAGMN Board of Presbyters.
- b) They shall represent the TNAGMN at all meetings of the General Presbyters.

SECTION 5. EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS

They shall serve as members of the Executive Presbytery and TNAGMN Board of Presbyters.

SECTION 6. SECTIONAL PRESBYTERS

- a) The Presbyter of each section shall be empowered to act on behalf of the TNAGMN in his section. His decisions shall be subject to appeal to the entire TNAGMN Board of Presbyters.
- b) The Sectional Presbyters shall serve as members of the TNAGMN Board.
- c) The Presbyter shall cooperate with sectional directors of departments, providing for regular meetings and for the carrying out of TNAGMN projects.

SECTION 7. GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

- a) Unscriptural Conduct
- b) Doctrinal Departure from Tenets of Faith
- c) Incompetence in office
- d) Any other good and sufficient cause

SECTION 8. TNAGMN BOARDS

- a) Executive Presbytery
The Executive Presbytery shall serve as the Missions Board. (See Article VII Missions, Section 1b)
- b) Executive Presbytery
The Executive Presbytery shall serve as the Finance and Budget Committee. (See Article VIII)
- c) TNAGMN Board
The TNAGMN Board shall act as representatives of this Fellowship while the District Council is not in session and shall act for it in all matters that affect its interest. They shall provide for their own meetings and their decisions shall be final unless reversed by the TNAGMN.
- d) They shall conduct a periodic evaluation of all officers and department heads to see if they are performing their duties as defined in the Constitution and Bylaws. If they are not, this Board is vested with power to act according to Article IV, Section 7.
- e) Ethnic / Language Group representatives – A duly authorized ethnic language group that does not have a sufficient number of churches for an Ethnic / Language Fellowship

Presbyter, may be represented on the TNAGMN presbytery by one of its qualified members. The member shall be a person of mature experience, sound judgement, recognized ability, and Christian character who is an Ordained minister and has served for at least five consecutive years in our Assemblies of God Fellowship and one year residency on the TNAGMN. The representative shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery to sit in TNAGMN Board meetings with voice but no vote.

SECTION 9. VACANCIES

- a) In the event of vacancies in any office of the TNAGMN, it may be filled by the TNAGMN Board of Presbyters, until the next regular District Council. In the event of a vacancy in the office of District Superintendent, it shall be filled by a special called District Council. Any officer may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the TNAGMN Board of Presbyters. Such officers shall have the right to appeal to the TNAGMN.
- b) In the event the office of Sectional Presbyter becomes vacant during the interim between councils, said office will be filled at a called business meeting of the section.

ARTICLE V. FELLOWSHIP SECTIONS

SECTION 1. SECTIONAL BOUNDARIES

The following shall be considered sectional boundary lines of TNAGMN:

- a) MEMPHIS SECTION: The Memphis Section shall consist of the counties of Shelby and Fayette.
- b) COVINGTON SECTION: The Covington Section shall consist of Tipton County and that portion of Shelby County west of the Austin Peay Highway and north of the south fork of the Loosahatchie River.
- c) RIPLEY SECTION: The Ripley Section shall consist of the counties of Lauderdale, Haywood, and Crockett.
- d) DYERSBUR SECTION: The Dyersburg Section shall consist of the counties of Dyer, Lake, Obion, and Weakley.
- e) MILAN SECTION: The Milan Section shall consist of the counties of Gibson, Carroll, Humphreys, Benton, and Henry.
- f) JACKSON SECTION: The Jackson Section shall consist of the counties of Madison, Henderson, Decatur, Chester, Hardeman, McNairy, Perry, and Hardin.
- g) COLUMBIA SECTION: The Columbia Section shall consist of the counties of Wayne, Lawrence, Giles, Lincoln, Franklin, Moore, Coffee, Bedford, Marshall, Maury, Lewis, Hickman, and Cannon.

- h) NASHVILLE NORTH SECTION: The Nashville North Section shall consist of the counties of Stewart, Montgomery, Cheatham, Robertson, Trousdale, Houston, Sumner, and Macon. In addition, the counties of Davidson, Wilson, Williamson, and Dickson north of Interstate 40.
- i) NASHVILLE SOUTH SECTION: The Nashville South Section shall consist of the counties of Wilson, Davidson, Williamson, Dickson south of Interstate 40 and Rutherford.
- j) CHATTANOOGA SECTION: The Chattanooga Section shall consist of the counties of Grundy, Sequatchie, Marion, Hamilton, Bradley, Polk, McMinn, Meigs, Rhea, Bledsoe, and Monroe.
- k) COOKEVILLE SECTION: The Cookeville Section shall consist of the counties of Clay, Pickett, Fentress, Overton, Jackson, Smith, Putnam, Dekalb, White, Cumberland, VanBuren, and Warren.
- l) KNOXVILLE SECTION: The Knoxville Section shall consist of the counties of Scott, Campbell, Roan, Loudon, Blount, Sevier, Cocke, Jefferson, Knox, Hamblen, Claiborne, Anderson, Union, Grainger, and Morgan.
- m) TRI-CITIES SECTION: The Tri-Cities Section shall consist of the counties of Hancock, Hawkins, Greene, Washington, Unicoi, Carter, Johnson, and Sullivan.
- n) ETHNIC / LANGUAGE FELLOWSHIP SECTION: An Ethnic / Language Fellowship Section shall consist of a group of distinct ethnic or language-specific churches from across the TNAGMN, whose members are a majority of that particular group. The number of churches needed to constitute a Fellowship Section shall be eight.

SECTION 2. SECTIONAL OFFICERS

- a) PRESBYTER. Each section shall elect a sectional presbyter biennially at the Sectional Council preceding the District Council. The Presbyter must be an ordained pastor of an Assemblies of God Church in the section and shall have been a member of the TNAGMN for at least one year prior to assuming office. A majority of votes cast shall be required to constitute an election.

The following duties shall be expected of this office:

- i) The Presbyter shall have general oversight of all ministries in the Section.
- ii) To serve as Chairman of the Sectional Committee which shall screen all applicants for credentials, act as the Sectional Church Planting and Development Committee, and serve as the nominating committee for all Sectional departmental leaders.

- iii) Shall arrange for and preside over monthly meetings of the ministers of the section.
 - iv) Shall be under the direction and supervision of the District Superintendent.
 - b) SECRETARY. Each section shall elect a Secretary annually at the Sectional Council preceding the annual District Council. The Secretary shall be an ordained pastor in the section. Exception may be made to the requirement for an ordained minister if ordained ministers are not available to serve. A majority of votes cast shall be required to constitute an election. The following duties shall be expected of this office:
 - i) To serve on the Sectional Committee.
 - ii) To keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the ministers of the section and of the Sectional Committee.
 - iii) To be the custodian of all Sectional funds and give an accurate report of the same on an annual basis or when requested by the Sectional Presbyter of TNAGMN Officers.
 - iv) Shall be under the direction and supervision of the Sectional Presbyter.
 - c) Assistant Presbyter. Each section shall elect an Assistant Presbyter every two years at the Sectional Council preceding the annual District Council. The Assistant Presbyter shall be an ordained pastor in the section. Exceptions may be made to the requirement for an ordained minister if ordained ministers are not available. A majority of votes cast shall be required to constitute an election. The following duties shall be expected of this office:
 - i) To serve on the Sectional Committee.
 - ii) To assist the Sectional Presbyter in providing general oversight of all ministries in the Section.
 - iii) Shall be permitted to attend the District Board meeting in the event the Sectional Presbyter is unable to attend.
 - iv) Shall serve under the direction of the Sectional Presbyter.
 - d) All sectional officers and Directors are amenable to the District Superintendent.

ARTICLE VI. MINISTRY

SECTION 1. MINISTRY DEFINED

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

SECTION 2. QUALIFICATIONS

a) GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- i) An applicant for ministerial recognition must give testimony to having experienced the new birth (John 3:5) and having received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.
- ii) An active member of a local church and in good standing.
- iii) Should attend District Councils unless unavoidably hindered.
- iv) We disapprove of any married ministry of the Assemblies of God holding credentials if either minister or spouse has a former spouse living unless divorce occurred prior to the conversion or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15). All other matters pertaining in this regard shall conform to the established General Council procedures.

b) CERTIFIED MINISTERS

- i) General qualifications as stated above must be met.
- ii) Give evidence of a call to full-time Christian ministry and service.
- iii) Be involved in training preparatory to full-time service and shall have completed the first year of the Berean course or be enrolled in an approved Bible College.
- iv) Candidates shall be required to pass the appropriate examination furnished by the General Secretary's office.
- v) Certified Ministers certificates will be granted a maximum of two years.
- vi) Any minister who has received a Certified Ministers certificate and at the inception of their study for license, shall participate in the Mentor Program as designed or designated by the TNAGMN Board.

c) LICENSE

- i) In addition to meeting the general qualifications, the applicant must show a clear evidence of a divine call and an evident purpose to devote one's time to preaching the gospel and/or engaging in other full-time ministries.

A) **PREACHING MINISTRY** shall be defined as a pulpit ministry in regular or special religious services other than Sunday School.

B) SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES shall be defined as an evident purpose to devote one's time to a specialized ministry such as Christian Education, Youth, Music, or other full-time ministries.

C) FULL TIME shall be defined as a minister who is willing to devote full time to his congregation.

ii) They shall be required to pass the appropriate standard examination furnished by the General Secretary's office. The examination shall be administered by the Sectional Presbyter who shall mail it to the TNAGMN Executive Secretary for grading. A grade of 70 percent is required.

iii) Applicants for License shall have completed the appropriate correspondence studies of their equivalents in Bible College.

d) ORDINATION

i) Ministers applying for ordination must be men and women of mature experience, at least twenty-three years old, and who are qualified and able to undertake the responsibilities of the full-gospel ministry.

ii) They shall have served two full consecutive years as a licensed minister and shall have been a member of the TNAGMN one full year.

iii) Educational Requirements:

A) In accordance with General Council policy, a formal degree shall never be requirement for the granting of credentials with the Assemblies of God. However, we do highly recommend that all candidates graduate from an Assemblies of God Bible College. In lieu of Bible College training, it shall be required that all candidates for Ordination shall have completed the full three-year course of Berean Bible College at the Institute level. Distance education from other institutions or the waiver of any educational requirements can only be approved by the Credentials Committee of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

B) The candidate for Ordination shall be required to pass the standard examination distributed by the General Secretary's Office with a minimum grade of 80 percent.

SECTION 3. PROCEDURES FOR MINISTERIAL RECOGNITION

a) INITIAL

- i) Each applicant for recognition shall obtain from the TNAGMN Office an application form which when completed shall be returned to the Sectional Presbyter. A fee of \$100.00 shall accompany the application for Certified, Licensed, and for Ordained ministers.
- ii) The applicant shall meet the Sectional Credentials Committee at the discretion of the Sectional Presbyter.
- iii) The applicant shall successfully complete the prescribed tests.
- iv) The applicant shall meet the TNAGMN Credentials Committee at a called meeting.

The TNAGMN Credentials Committee, upon approval, recommends the appropriate credentials to be issued by the General Secretary.

b) OFFICIAL RECOGNITION

All applicants approved by the TNAGMN Credentials Committee shall be presented at the next District Council.

SECTION 4. RENEWALS

All Credentials expire annually, and renewals are subject to approval of the Credentials Committee on the following conditions:

a) CERTIFIED MINISTERS

- i) Having met all other conditions a person may renew the Certified Ministers certificate after one year.
- ii) Return the proper renewal form to the TNAGMN Office with a renewal fee of \$10.00.
- iii) Full-time college students may renew their Certified Ministers certificate until schooling is completed, and then may be promoted to License.

b) LICENSED

- i) Maintain “active” ministry as defined in Article VII Section 3, sub section c, (1) General Council Bylaws.
- ii) Must have completed the proper correspondence courses or their equivalents or have formal Bible College training.
- iii) Return the proper renewal form to the TNAGMN Office with a renewal fee of \$10.00.

c) ORDINATION

Maintain “active ministry” in accordance with the General Council Constitution and Bylaws Article VII (Section 3, Sub-section d, (6). Return the proper renewal form to the TNAGMN Office with a renewal fee of \$10.00.

SECTION 5. MINISTERIAL DUES

a) FINANCIAL SUPPORT

i) General Council Support

- A) All ordained ministers shall support the General council with the sum of at least \$25.00 per month.
- B) All licensed ministers shall support the General Council with the sum of \$20.00 per month.
- C) All ministers holding Certified Ministers credentials shall support the General Council with the sum of \$10.00 per month.

Compliance with the above requirements shall be a prerequisite for renewal of credentials of all active ministers. If their contributions are in arrears, they shall be given an opportunity to meet this deficit with their renewal.

ii) TNAGMN SUPPORT

- A) The TNAGMN treasury shall be supported by the ministerial dues which shall be equal to 9 percent of their ministerial income, which shall be defined as salary and housing allowance. The minimum support of all ministers shall be \$60.00 per month. Exemptions to this minimum requirement will be available to full-time ministerial students and credentialed spouses who have no income.
- B) Evangelists from other districts laboring in Tennessee shall be expected to support the TNAGMN treasury with dues equal to 50 percent of the tithe realized from their ministry in our TNAGMN. Tennessee evangelists should reciprocate this courtesy when laboring in other districts.
- C) Ministers who are secularly employed, who are not in full-time ministry, shall support the TNAGMN treasury with at least \$60.00 per month, of monies realized from such secular employment.

- D) When a minister fails to support the TNAGMN according to policy for three (3) consecutive months, he/she is to be contacted by the Executive Secretary's office for the purpose of understanding the reason(s). The minister will be reminded of policy which states that annual renewal will not be possible unless the matter is resolved. The TNAGMN Executive Presbytery can waive this obligation, but only if there is sufficient cause. The Executive Secretary, upon formal request from minister, may appeal to them for their decision. The Executive Secretary may also enlist the local presbyter's assistance in communicating with the minister. The District Superintendent will be kept fully apprised of all actions taken.
- E) No minister shall be allowed to fill a district or sectional position who does not cooperate with the financial policy of the TNAGMN.

b) PROGRAM SUPPORT

- i) Sectional and District
Ministers are expected to attend the scheduled Sectional and District Councils.

SECTION 6. DEFINING MINISTERIAL STATUS "ACTIVE" OR "INACTIVE"

a) ACTIVE MINISTRY

All ministers shall be actively engaged in a viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel.

b) INACTIVE MINISTRY

- i) A minister who does not meet the above requirements for active ministry shall be considered "inactive."
- ii) From the annual renewal from shall be established "inactive" status. The names of inactive ministers shall be carried on an "inactive" list for a period of no more than two years unless inactivity is caused by: ill health, infirmity, superannuation, or other circumstances as deemed acceptable by the TNAGMN Credentials Committee.

Should active ministry be resumed, his status would become "active". Application for reinstatement may be made on forms furnished by the TNAGMN Secretary.

SECTION 7. MINISTERIAL ADVANCEMENT

a) LICENSE

A Certified Minister desiring to become a licensed minister shall be required to work under the supervision of a pastor for not less than one year, complete the forms, and meet the Sectional Committee as defined under Ministerial Recognition. He will also meet all requirements as specified under Qualifications.

b) ORDINATION

A licensed minister shall meet all qualifications as stated under Section 2 (Qualifications) and Section 3 (Recognition).

SECTION 8. TRANSFERS

a) INTO THE TNAGMN

- i) All Credentialed Ministers moving from other districts into the TNAGMN to reside shall be expected to affiliate with the TNAGMN within sixty days, unless there are definite charges pending against him.
- ii) They shall ask that a letter of transfer from their former district be sent to the Secretary of the TNAGMN.
- iii) Ministers transferring into the TNAGMN shall get in touch with the District Superintendent as soon after their arrival in the TNAGMN as possible.
- iv) It shall be required that all ministers transferring into the TNAGMN hold their grade of transfer for the period of one year before being advanced to a higher grade of ministry.

A) OUT OF TNAGMN

When a minister takes up residence in another district, he shall inform the secretary of such removal, giving a forwarding address where he may be reached when necessary and within 60 days, he shall request that a Certificate of Transfer be sent to the secretary of the district where he is residing. Exceptions may be made for ministers moving to serve at General Headquarters, or for those who are retired, or are in the armed forces, or who are serving on the faculties of our schools, or who are under missionary appointment.

b) OTHER DENOMINATIONS

- i) Make application on forms provided by and returned to the TNAGMN Secretary not later than 30 days prior to a Sectional Council. A fee shall accompany this application according to the level of credentials.
- ii) The TNAGMN office shall obtain letters of recommendation for the applicant prior to the interview.
- iii) Those transferring credentials shall be expected to meet all requirements for the ministerial recognition as specified by the TNAGMN Credentials Committee.

SECTION 9. ARBITRATION GUIDELINES

Ministers of the TNAGMN agree to settle all matters against another minister, a local church, the TNAGMN, or the General Council of the Assemblies of God in accordance with the following scriptures: 1 Corinthians 6:1-8, Matthew 18:15-17, Colossians 3:12-14, and Romans 12:10, except for claims involving physical injury to your person or property damage.

SECTION 10. CHANGE OF ADDRESS

All ministers are expected to notify the TNAGMN Office when there is a change of address.

SECTION 11. MINISTERS LEAVING PASTORATES

After having notified the local Board of Deacons of their intent to resign their pastorates, all pastors are directed to notify, immediately, if possible, the Presbyter of their section and the TNAGMN Office of such intent.

SECTION 12. DISCIPLINE OF MINISTERS

The TNAGMN will be guided by Article X of the General Council Constitution and Bylaws for both discipline and rehabilitation of ministers.

SECTION 13. NON-AFFILIATED MINISTERS

A minister who does not have current credentials may not pastor a church in the TNAGMN without the prior written consent of the TNAGMN Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII. MISSIONS

SECTION 1. MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

There shall be a Missions Department to include all missionary activities, both home and foreign.

a) OFFICERS

By virtue of office, the District Superintendent shall serve as Director of the Missions Department and Chairman of the Missions Board.

b) BOARD

The TNAGMN Executive Presbytery shall serve as the Missions Board.

SECTION 2. DUTIES OF THE MISSIONS BOARD

a) The Missions Board shall have general oversight of all work relating to Missions in the TNAGMN, both home and foreign.

b) The Missions Board shall interview all candidates for World and US missions appointment prior to their approval to apply for appointment by the General Council Division of World or U.S. Missions. Candidates must be approved by a majority of the TNAGMN Missions Board before proceeding in the application process.

c) The Missions Board shall encourage each section to conduct annual Missions Conventions under the general supervision of the TNAGMN.

ARTICLE VIII. FINANCES

SECTION 1. FINANCIAL SUPERVISION

- a) The District Board of Presbyters shall supervise the disbursements of all funds with the exception of the Tennessee District Extension Fund and shall designate the salary of the District Superintendent and other personnel of the district. There shall be an annual audit of all district funds by a Certified Public Accountant to be selected by the Executive Officers.
- b) Each time the district officials are called upon to visit an Assembly on business, the Assembly shall be required to receive an offering to defray expenses.

The expenses incurred by the District Superintendent and the General Presbyters attending the General Presbyters meeting shall be paid out of the District General Fund.

SECTION 2. FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

The Budget and Finance Committee shall consist of the Executive Presbytery of the TNAGMN. In addition, the Finance Director shall serve as a resource confined to making recommendations, reporting, and forecasting, and shall serve as an audit member. The Executive Presbytery shall take an appropriate action as deemed necessary.

NOTE (The General Presbytery Language does not need to be codified. It is simply an assignment given by the Superintendent).

Duties of the Committee shall be:

- a) To review the financial structure and program of the district.
- b) To prepare an annual budget.
- c) To encourage the cooperation of all ministers and churches in the financial program.

SECTION 3. MINISTERS BENEFIT ASSOCIATION

- a) Each assembly is encouraged to accept the responsibility to provide a retirement income for their pastor and family and ministerial staff by contributing an amount equal to 5 percent of the pastor's salary (over and above salary) to the MBA church account.
- b) Each minister is encouraged to accept the responsibility to provide a retirement income for himself or herself and family by contributing an amount equal to 5 percent of his / her salary to the minister's account.

ARTICLE IX. TENNESSEE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD MINISTRY NETWORK PROPERTIES

SECTION 1.

The TNAGMN Board shall have the general supervision of all TNAGMN properties and shall appoint a TNAGMN Properties Committee to care for these properties. An annual report shall be presented in writing to the TNAGMN Board based on on-site observation and consultation with TNAGMN personnel.

SECTION 2.

The District Superintendent and the District Secretary of the Tennessee District Council of the Assemblies of God (dba Tennessee Assemblies of God Ministry Network), or their successors in office, shall be and are hereby authorized and empowered as may be directed by the TNAGMN Board of Presbyters to own, hold, lease, mortgage, encumber, or convey said properties or any part thereof as may at any time be necessary to effectuate any matters relative to said properties as may be authorized from time to time by the TNAGMN Board of Presbyters.

SECTION 3.

The TNAGMN Board shall have authorization to purchase property on behalf of the Tennessee Ministry Network with approval of at least 2/3 of the TNAGMN Board voting membership.

ARTICLE X. CAMPS

SECTION 1.

All camps shall be under the supervision of the TNAGMN Executive Presbytery, and the Camp Caretaker shall be appointed by this Board.

- a) Kid's Camp shall be under the Managerial Supervision of the District Director of Christian Education.
- b) Youth Camp shall be under the Managerial Supervision of the District Youth Ministries Director.

SECTION 2.

The number of camps shall be at the discretion of the Executive Presbytery on the recommendation of the Managerial Supervisors. An aggressive camp program for children and youth will be conducted each year.

SECTION 3.

The collection, disbursement, and proper accounting of all funds relating to the respective camps shall be the responsibility of the Managerial Supervisors. Full accounting shall be made to the District Finance Director. Funds shall be deposited on a daily basis. A minimal amount of cash as determined by the District Executive Secretary shall be retained at the Camp.

SECTION 4.

A Camp Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the District Superintendent to advise camp Managerial Supervisors and review all camp operations. The committee shall consist of the Director of Youth Ministries, District Director of Christian Education, Women's Ministries Director, Men's Ministries Director, three laymen, and the District Properties Committee. The Executive officers shall serve by virtue of their office. The Committee shall consult at least annually and be on call for council of the Camp Directors. Their report shall be presented by the Camp Directors to the TNAGMN Board at their first meeting following that year's camps.

ARTICLE XI. DEPARTMENTAL MINISTRIES

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION

The departments of the TNAGMN shall be established by the Network Presbytery and identified in an operational manual approved by the Executive Board.

SECTION 2. QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES OF DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORS

The qualifications and duties of departmental directors shall be provided for in an administrative manual approved by the Executive Board.

SECTION 3. SELECTION OF DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORS, STAFF, AND AUXILIARY DIRECTORS

The selection of departmental directors, staff, and auxiliary directors shall be guided by processes defined in an operational manual approved by the Executive Board.

SECTION 4.

Each department shall be authorized to have a working committee. This committee shall be appointed annually by the District Superintendent in consultation with the department Director and approved by the District Board. A member of the Executive Presbytery shall serve on each committee.

SECTION 5.

Each department director shall give a written report and evaluation annually or upon request to the District Superintendent and TNAGMN Board of Presbyters.

SECTION 6.

Each department director shall be given a written report and evaluation annually by the District Superintendent.

ARTICLE XII. GOVERNMENT OF LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

SECTION 1. NAME

All new churches set in order should include "Assembly of God" in their corporate or legal name.

SECTION 2. PASTOR

- a) A local Assembly shall not elect anyone as pastor who does not have current credentials with the Assemblies of God without the prior written consent of the District Executive Board.
- b) Pastoral candidates shall be interviewed in advance by the pulpit committee of local church board. Only one candidate shall be submitted to the congregation for a vote at any particular congregational business meeting.

SECTION 3. DEACONS AND TRUSTEES

- a) No local Assembly shall elect or appoint anyone as trustee or deacon who has received a certificate of Ministerial Recognition.
- b) Men elected as deacons shall give witness to having received the Holy Spirit Baptism and meet the scriptural qualifications for this office (Acts 6:3-15; 1 Timothy 3:8-13).

SECTION 4. LOCAL CONSTITUTION

All local Assemblies shall adopt a local Constitution and Bylaws by which they shall be governed. In the event such has not been adopted, it shall be governed by the suggested Constitution and Bylaws appearing in this Yearbook.

ARTICLE XIII. DISTRICT AFFILIATED CHURCHES AND PARENT AFFILIATED CHURCHES

District Affiliated churches shall be recognized in two distinct categories: District Affiliated and Parent Affiliated.

SECTION 1. CATEGORY

There shall be two categories of District Affiliated Churches: those under the governance of the District, and those satellite or dependent churches under the governance of a sponsoring church, to be designated as District Affiliated and Parent Affiliated.

SECTION 2. LISTING AND RECOGNITION OF ANY TYPE OF DEPENDENT CHURCH SPONSORED BY A PARENT CHURCH FOR RECOGNITION AS PARENT AFFILIATED
A General Council Assembly, when desiring to open any type of dependent church, shall notify the District Leadership of their intent, in accordance with current policy; The church shall be listed on District Council records as a Parent Affiliated Church with the permission of the sponsoring General Council Assembly.

SECTION 3. RECOGNITION OF A PARENT CHURCH'S DEPENDENT CHURCH AS A GENERAL COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

Upon mutual agreement of the sponsoring church, the parent affiliated church, and the TNAGMN, in accordance with TNAGMN and General Council Constitutional and Bylaw procedures, the parent affiliated church sponsored by a parent church may be recognized as a

general Council assembly. At such time of recognition, the governance of the parent affiliated church shall be transferred from the parent church to the newly recognized General Council Assembly.

SECTION 4. DISTRICT AFFILIATED CHURCH

a) DEFINITION

A District Affiliated Church shall be a church with less than twenty members, or a church without qualified personal to serve as deacons, or board members, or insufficient financial resources to conduct its business without outside assistance.

b) PASTOR

The pastor of a District Affiliated Church shall be appointed by the District Superintendent. The Superintendent may receive an advisory secret ballot vote from the active membership prior to the appointment of a pastor, it being understood that said advisory vote shall not be binding upon the District Superintendent.

c) CHURCH SECRETARY-TREASURER

The Church Secretary and Church Treasurer shall be a member of the Board and shall be appointed by the District Superintendent.

d) OFFICIAL BOARD

The Official Board of the District Affiliated Church shall be the Sectional Presbyter, the Executive Presbyter of the region and those approved by the District Superintendent. They shall also serve as Trustees of the church property.

e) POLICY

The "Manual for District Affiliated Churches, Pastors, and Boards" shall be the policy guide for the Assembly.

f) BUSINESS MEETINGS

The Assembly shall be expected to conduct a church business meeting annually.

SECTION 5. ORGANIZATIONAL ASSISTANCE OF GENERAL COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES

a) DEFINITION

District Supervision shall be defined that the District has been asked to be brought in to assume a supervisory role, the church bylaws and the church board remains intact, and there is no legal control of the church or legal liability assumed by the District. District Affiliation status shall be defined that the church can be transferred at the district's initiative if deemed necessary, the District's bylaws supersede the local assembly's and governance of the local assembly comes under the District, and there is legal control of the church and the District assumes legal liability.

b) When it is necessary for the TNAGMN to guarantee a loan for a local Assembly, the church shall remain as a District Affiliated Church at least until the guarantee has been

removed. Trustees of the property shall be the board appointed by the District Superintendent. The church shall function under the requirements for a District Affiliated church. The church will be governed as a District Affiliated church regardless of size.

c) **REQUEST FOR ORGANIZATIONAL ASSISTANCE**

Where misunderstanding arises which cannot be settled peaceably or a need for revitalization occurs, a local Assembly may call the District Executive Board for their organizational assistance. Such call may be issued by the pastor, or a majority of the church board, or by a petition signed by one-third of the active voting members of the Assembly. The request shall be ratified by a majority of the members present and voting in a regular or special business meeting called for that purpose. The business meeting to be presided over by the District Superintendent or a member of the District Board.

d) **DISTRICT ACCEPTANCE**

The approval or disapproval of District Supervision or District Affiliation shall be at the sole discretion of the District Executive Board. If accepted, the District Superintendent shall have full authority to oversee and direct all matters relating to the fiscal and spiritual operation of the Assembly until order shall be restored. If the status is District Supervision, the church shall retain its General Council status and shall be reported under the general label, "District Supervised". If the status is District Affiliation, the church shall lose its General Council status and shall be reported under the general label, "District Affiliated".

e) **GOVERNANCE**

Upon classification as a District Supervised Church, the church and church board will remain intact. There is no legal control of the church or legal liability assumed by the district. Upon classification as a District Affiliated Church, all local offices shall be declared vacant and thereby filled under the direction of the District Superintendent through the approved board. The Trustees shall be the appointed official board of the assembly. The District Bylaws supersede the local assembly and governance of the local assembly. The district assumes legal control and legal liability of the District Affiliated Church.

SECTION 6. TENNESSEE MISSIONS / NEW CHURCH PLANTS

All new church plants and district affiliated churches designated a Tennessee Missions church by the District Executive Board shall be under the direction and supervision of the Church Planting and Church Development Board and Director in consultation with the District Superintendent.

ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made by a majority vote at any of the regular or duly called District Council meetings. All members registered and voting, in any meeting of the District Council shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XV. BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. STANDING COMMITTEE

A Benevolence Committee shall be appointed at each District Council to serve for that Council year. Said committee shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery of the Tennessee District and shall include a chairman and as many members as they may deem necessary.

SECTION 2. DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE

- a) To encourage the support of the National Benevolence projects, such as Aged Ministers Assistance, Assemblies of God child-care agencies, and Assemblies of God retirement homes. This can be done by all ministers and churches in the district by including Benevolences in the monthly budget, and/or, receiving special offerings at the appointed times.
- b) To encourage churches in the district to engage in offering help to the needy of the community.
- c) To help pastors and churches become acquainted with the monthly publication of the Benevolence Department. Carrying copies of this and other publications may be had for the asking.

SECTION 3. OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE

- a) To enlist every church to recognize Aged Ministers Assistance as a primary obligation requiring the payment of one dollar, or more, each month to the Department of Benevolence for this purpose.
- b) To see that adequate provisions are made for each superannuated minister in the district. This is to be done through information concerning all sources of income open to him, including General Council Aged Ministers Assistance.
- c) To foster the idea of cooperation with the Department of Benevolence in the establishment of regional, or district homes for the aged and childcare agencies to be supported by the churches of the district.

ARTICLE XVI. STANDING RESOLUTIONS

1. Be it resolved that the dates and location of the annual District council be set by the TNAGMN Board.
2. Be it resolved that business sessions of the annual Tennessee Ministry Network/District Council may begin at the start of the annual District Council according to the date set by the TNAGMN Board.

3. Be it resolved that we carefully monitor the granting of auxiliary charters (Royal Rangers, Girls Ministry, etc.) to nonaffiliated churches and that the auxiliary chartering of such churches only be approved upon the recommendation of the Sectional Committee and District Board. (1980)
4. The Tennessee District Council, in session February 28 to March 1, 1984, conscious of its responsibility for its ministers, herein adopts this standing resolution and strongly urges its implementation on the local level. It is to be understood that the following guidelines represent the minimum in recommendation for the aforementioned ministers:
 - a) SALARY
It is recommended that the minister's salary be reviewed at least annually (minimum the cost-of-living increase).
 - b) INSURANCE
 - i) Hospitalization – It is recommended that the adequate coverage be provided.
 - ii) Life Insurance – It is recommended that life insurance be provided for the pastor, the minimum being equivalent to that which General Council provides in its group life insurance plan.
 - iii) Income Protection in the Event of Disability – It is recommended that a noncancellable, guaranteed continuable disability income plan be provided for the senior pastor and/or his designated staff. Such a plan should guarantee no less than 66 percent of annual income in the event of disability.
 - c) SOCIAL SECURITY
It is recommended, if applicable, that at least one-half of the minister's social security be paid, using the guidelines of the Internal Revenue Service as to the annual percentage.
 - d) AUTOMOBILE ALLOWANCE
It is recommended that an automobile allowance be provided if a minister does not have access to a church vehicle for business use. Such allowance should be in keeping with the annual minimal recommendations of reimbursement established by the Internal Revenue Service.
 - e) HOUSING
It is recommended that adequate allowances be made for home purchase or rental, or that suitable housing be provided.
 - f) GENERAL AND DISTRICT COUNCIL RELATED ACTIVITIES
It is recommended that the minister, his wife, and/or designated staff be sent to General council and TNAGMN activities, such as General Council, District Council, Minister's Retreats, etc., and that funds be provided to underwrite the expenses of each function.

g) VACATIONS

It is recommended that provision be made for two weeks vacation, with pay, and that this policy be reviewed periodically as relates to minister's years of ministry. Provisions for ministerial staff vacation should be made.

h) MINISTER'S RETIREMENT

It is recommended that a retirement program such as Minister's Benefit Association (MBA) be provided, and a minimum of 5 percent of salary be paid monthly into this fund.

i) DISTRICT AID

It is recommended that local assemblies seek the counsel and assistance of the District Superintendent and/or his designated representatives if additional information is needed for clarification or help in the adoption of these guidelines.

We recommend the TNAGMN appraise each church or church board of the above recommendations and that each church be encouraged to implement said recommendations.

ARTICLE XVII. AFFILIATED MINISTRIES

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION

Ministries that represent a state, national, or global ministry focus working with The Tennessee Assemblies of God Ministry Network but whose boards of directors are not controlled or appointed by the Network Presbytery may be recognized by the Network Presbytery as affiliated ministries.

SECTION 2. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Each affiliated ministry shall have a board of directors that will be responsible for governance and administration of the ministry. The board of directors shall be selected by the ministry itself in the manner prescribed by its bylaws, except that the Network Presbytery shall be authorized to appoint one member of the board of directors.

SECTION 3. GOVERNANCE

Each affiliated ministry shall select and manage its own employees, maintain accounting records, hold title to property, obtain insurance, file tax returns, prepare financial statements, pay salaries and other expenses, raise funds, create and distribute promotional literature, provide charitable contribution receipts to donors, and in all other respects operated as an autonomous legal ministry except as noted in Sections 4, 5, and 6 below.

SECTION 4. RELATIONSHIP

Affiliated ministries shall enter into a covenant relationship with the Tennessee Assemblies of God Ministry Network under such terms and conditions as are established by the Network Executive Presbytery and approved by the Network Presbytery.

The charter or bylaws of each affiliated ministry shall affirm acceptance of the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, including the Statement of

Fundamental Truths. Each affiliated ministry shall be amenable to the Network Executive Presbytery and Network Presbytery with regard to doctrine, compliance, and practices with the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Constitution and Bylaws of The Tennessee Assemblies of God Ministry Network. In all other respects, an affiliated ministry shall be autonomous and self-governed.

SECTION 5. NAME AND LOGO

Affiliated ministries may refer to their status as an affiliated ministry with The Tennessee Assemblies of God Ministry Network but may not use the Assemblies of God name or logo or other indications or marks to convey in any way a formal legal relationship with The Tennessee Assemblies of God Ministry Network, unless an exception has been granted by the Network Executive Presbytery.

SECTION 6. DISSOLUTION

The charter of bylaws of an affiliated ministry shall specify that in the event of dissolution its assets shall be distributed to the Tennessee Assemblies of God Ministry Network.

SUGGESTED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS FOR LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

NOTE: No alterations may be made to Article IV. Tenets of Faith. Article IV is The General council of the Assemblies of God Statement of Faith and must be adopted as is by Assemblies of God churches. The remaining articles may be changed and altered to meet the needs of the local assembly, in compliance with the guidelines of the TNAGMN.

PREFACE

In response to an increasing demand for some practical rules of order to serve as a guide in the development and conducting of affairs of local assemblies, the General Council Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God has prepared this document titled “Recommended Bylaws for Local Assemblies”. These provisions have been thought out carefully and should have full and careful consideration before adoption.

It is desirable that the form of organization for the church be kept as simple as possible. Boards should not be multiplied just to give offices to people.

It may not be desirable to elect any deacons for longer than 1 year. There is, however, a legal reason for the election of trustees for 3 years each: so that some trustees are always carried over each year and at no time do all trustees go out of office together. Their terms should, therefore, be staggered.

It would be well to impress upon the members of the church board at the time of their election that they have been chosen by the assembly to serve, rather than to rule. While they are entrusted with the responsibility of handling the routine business of the church, all major matters affecting the church should be passed on to the congregation as recommendations, permitting the assembly to make its own decisions. This rule is vital for the peace and harmony of the assembly life.

The Pastor is the undershepherd, called of God, to minister to spiritual needs and to direct the activities of the church in accordance with its bylaws. He should be respected as the leader. In the event that he is elected to serve for an indefinite time, he should not presume that indefinite means permanent. The term “indefinite” merely means that the door is left open for unlimited ministry under the blessing of God, which can be terminated by the decision of the pastor or the congregation.

The church board is chosen to assist the pastor. The final decision for all major action rests with the congregation in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ADOPTING CHURCH BYLAWS

Churches shall seek the help of TNAGMN officials when planning for the adoption of new bylaws. Arrangements should be made with the District Superintendent or TNAGMN presbyter to be present at a meeting for the adoption of the bylaws. Announcement of the date and purpose of the meeting should be made in public services on at least two consecutive Sundays prior to the date of the meeting, so that the constituents are notified to be present.

Copies of the Bylaws should be made available to the constituents prior to the date of the meeting so all may be informed of the provisions to be adopted.

The TNAGMN officer shall preside at this meeting and shall guide the church in its decisions, considering and adopting each article, one by one, and then finally adopting the new Bylaws as a whole.

A careful record must be kept of all business meetings, including the election of the first trustees and their successors in office. This is very important, for this record is a legal requirement when church property is involved. (The General Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God)

NOTE: While these recommended bylaws are designed to relate to the principal areas of normal church life and order, it is understood that they must be adapted to local situations.

BYLAWS OF

Adopted this day of _____

PREAMBLE

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

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the assembly shall be _____.

ARTICLE II. PREROGATIVES AND PURPOSES

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

1. TO GOVERN

This assembly shall have the right to govern itself and to conduct its own affairs according to the standard of the New Testament Scriptures and of the TNAGMN and the General Council of the Assemblies of God. This right shall specifically include such matters as the calling of a pastor, the election of the church board, and the discipline of its members and the conducting of its own services and church program.

2. TO ACQUIRE AND DISPOSE

In connection therewith, or incidental thereto, this assembly shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes, and to exercise all other powers conferred upon it by its charter or by the applicable nonprofit corporation law of this state; all in accordance with its Bylaws as the same may be hereafter amended.

3. TO WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, AND PROPAGATE

The purpose of this assembly shall be to establish and maintain a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Spirit may be honored according to our distinctive testimony, and to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands.

4. TO COOPERATE

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

5. TO RECOGNIZE

This assembly shall recognize that the TNAGMN and the General Council have the authority and right to approve scriptural doctrine and conduct; also to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct and to withdraw their certificates of membership if deemed necessary. See Article IX of the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION

While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs as herein set forth, this assembly shall voluntarily enter into full cooperative fellowship with assemblies of like precious faith, associated in the TNAGMN, and The General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri; and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by the affiliation. Officers of the TNAGMN and General Council shall be recognized and respected by the pastor and members of this assembly.

As a member of the General Council, this assembly has the right to request the assistance of both the General Council and the TNAGMN in dealing with any of its problems, upon the request of the pastor, a majority of the church board, or a petition signed by at least twenty percent (20%) of the active voting members of the assembly. Only those members who have regularly attended services of, and supported, this assembly for a period of at least three consecutive months prior to signing the petition shall be counted.

It is understood and agreed that this assembly shall conform its standards of membership, qualifications for deacons, and requirements for a pastor to those standards set by the TNAGMN and the General Council.

By its affiliation, the assembly directors, officers, and members agree that no provision of these Bylaws shall be inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of both the Tennessee Assemblies of God Ministry Network and the General Council of the Assemblies of God as now in effect or hereafter amended.

ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same things, 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 (examples: Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16-17).

b) DISTINCTION

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 distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1: 3-4).

c) UNITY OF THE ONE BEING OF FATHER, SON, AND HOLY 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; Zechariah 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 the Son 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 judgement 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 this honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22-23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelations 5:6-14; Philippians 2:8-9; Revelation 7:9-10; 4:8-11).

3. THE DEITY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

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

- a) His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23, Luke 1:31, 35).
- b) His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).
- c) His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
- d) His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- e) His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4).
- f) His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, 11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1-3).

4. THE FALL OF MAN

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness". However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19).

5. THE SALVATION OF MAN

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

a) CONDITIONS TO SALVATION

Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy 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; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

b) THE EVIDENCES OF SALVATION

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

6. THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

a) BAPTISM IN WATER

The ordinance of Baptism by immersion is commended 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 worshipped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, the priority reason-for-being of the Assemblies of God as part of the church is:

- a) To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16).
- b) To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- c) To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12). The Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason-for-being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

This experience:

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

11. THE MINISTRY

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for a threefold purpose of leading the Church in:

- a) Evangelization of the world (Mark 16: 15-20).
- b) Worship of God (John 4:23, 24), and
- c) 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; Revelations 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; Psalms 72:3-8; Micah 4:3, 4).

15. THE FINAL JUDGEMENT

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

16. THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH

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

ARTICLE V. ORDINANCES

SECTION 1. BAPTISM IN WATER

The ordinance of baptism by immersion in water (Matthew 28:19) shall be administered to all who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls, and who give clear evidence of their salvation (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12).

SECTION 2. HOLY COMMUNION

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

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

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

- a) A testimony to an experience of the “new birth.”
- b) Having been baptized in water by immersion.
- c) Evidence of a consistent Christian life (Romans 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13, 14; Ephesians 4:17-32; 5:1, 2, 15; 1 John 1:6, 7).
- d) An indication of a willingness to contribute regularly to the financial support of the church of which he is to become a member.
- e) Acceptance of the Tenets of Faith as set forth in Article IV of these bylaws.
- f) Having reached at least 16 years of age.
- g) Having regularly attended services of, and supported, this assembly for a period of at least three consecutive months prior to the date of application for membership.
- h) Agreement to being governed by the bylaws of this assembly, and of the Tennessee Assemblies of God Ministry Network, as both may be amended from time to time.

SECTION 2. PROCEDURE FOR MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION

Those individuals eligible for membership who shall desire to become members of this church shall make written application to the pastor or church board. The church board shall have the right and authority to determine the eligibility and acceptability of all applicants for membership by majority vote. Those approved for membership by the church board shall be received into the church membership roll. No applicant for membership shall be accepted as a member within 30 days before an annual business meeting or within 10 days before a special business meeting.

SECTION 3. PASTOR AND SPOUSE

By virtue of office the pastor shall be considered an active voting member of the church during his tenure. The pastor’s spouse shall become an active voting member simultaneously with the pastor, subject to section 9 of this Article VI.

SECTION 4. TRANSFER MEMBERS

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

SECTION 5. JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

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

SECTION 6. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The church board, at any regular or special meeting, may approve associate members by a majority vote. Eligibility for associate membership is available to any person who is a member in good standing of an Assemblies of God church in another community, who is in this community on a temporary basis, and who intends to return to his or her home church. Associate members shall be entitled to all the privileges of regular members, except that they shall not be eligible to vote and shall not be eligible for any of the offices described in Article VII of these bylaws.

SECTION 7. HONORARY MEMBERS

The church board, at any regular or special meeting, may approve honorary members by a unanimous vote of the members present. Honorary membership is available to any member who has left the church indefinitely. Honorary membership recognition shall continue as long as the member maintains a consistent Christian life, remains sound in doctrine, and maintains a cooperative attitude toward the home assembly.

SECTION 8. INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Active voting members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of the assembly for a period of 3 consecutive months or more, or who cease to contribute of their means to its support for a period of 3 consecutive months, may be declared inactive members by a majority vote of the church board, and thereupon shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to the fellowship, their standing to be settled by the action of the assembly through its church board.

SECTION 9. DISCIPLINE

a) GROUNDS

Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible (Matthew 16:19; 18:15-20; Luke 17:3; John 20:23; Acts 16:4; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 5:20; 2 Timothy 4:2; Hebrews 13:17). The purpose of discipline is to promote repentance and restoration through exposing sinful behavior. It is to be redemptive in nature as well as corrective. Any member of the assembly is subject to discipline on the basis of unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the Tenets of Faith of this assembly, as determined in the sole discretion of the church board. The discipline of ministers who hold credentials with the Assemblies of God is administered by the TNAGMN and General Council of the Assemblies of God.

b) PROCEDURE

The assembly will follow the disciplinary procedure set forth in Matthew 18:15-20. This procedure consists generally of the following steps: (1) The pastor or a designated member of the church board discusses the charges with the member in an effort to resolve the matter privately; (2) if the first step does not resolve the matter, then the member shall meet with the pastor and church board or with a designated committee of the church board in an effort to resolve the matter privately; (3) if the first or second steps do not resolve the matter, then the member or the church board may submit the matter to the membership of the assembly in a special business meeting called for that purpose. Only active voting members of the church shall be permitted to attend such a special business

meeting. The decision of a majority of the voting members present at such a meeting shall be final. A member found guilty may be dismissed from membership in the church (Matthew 18:17). However, lesser disciplinary sanctions may be imposed as appropriate, depending on the circumstances of each case.

c) **RESIGNATIONS**

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

ARTICLE VII. GOVERNMENT

SECTION 1. THE CHURCH BOARD

a) **IN GENERAL**

The government of this assembly shall be vested in the church board which shall consist of the pastor and at least three deacons, to the extent that such authority is not limited by TNAGMN supervision as provided for under the bylaws of the TNAGMN.

b) **QUALIFICATIONS OF CHURCH BOARD MEMBERS**

See qualifications for pastors and deacons below.

c) **DUTIES OF CHURCH BOARD**

- i) The church board shall have general charge and management of the affairs, funds, and property of the assembly. The church board shall have the authority to carry out the purposes of the assembly according to its charter and these bylaws.
- ii) The church board shall act in the examination of applications former membership and in the administration of discipline.
- iii) For so long as the church is temporarily without a pastor, the remaining members of church board shall be empowered to select a temporary chairman of the church board.
- iv) The church board shall elect a secretary from among its members.
- v) The church board shall elect a treasurer from among the active voting members who meet the qualifications for such office.

SECTION 2. OFFICERS

a) **IN GENERAL**

There shall be a president, secretary, and treasurer. The pastor, by virtue of office, shall be the president and chairman of the church board. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be held simultaneously by the same individual.

b) QUALIFICATIONS

i) PASTOR

The pastor shall be in good standing with both The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the TNAGMN, holding a current fellowship card.

ii) SECRETARY

The secretary shall be an active voting member of this assembly for at least 1 year immediately preceding election to office and shall be a member of the church board.

iii) TREASURER

The treasurer shall be an active voting member of this assembly for at least 1 year immediately preceding the election to the office, and shall currently support the church with tithes, and shall have a cooperative spirit, and shall be faithful in attendance at church services.

c) DUTIES OF OFFICERS

i) Shall be the spiritual overseer of the assembly and shall direct its activities.

ii) Shall be recognized as a member of the church board, president of the assembly, and shall act as chairman of all the business meetings of the assembly and of the church board.

iii) Shall provide for all services of the assembly and shall specifically arrange for all special meetings, conventions, and revival campaigns. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the assembly without his approval.

iv) Shall, as a chairman of the church board, be chairman of the nominating committee for the selection of deacon nominees. The pastor shall privately interview those nominated, ascertaining their eligibility and availability to serve as deacons.

v) Should conduct a training class at least once a year on the responsibilities of the church board, deacons, trustees, secretary, treasurer, and other church leaders. Such a training course shall be based upon the scriptural directives for church leadership and the church bylaws.

vi) Shall be an ex officio member of all committees.

d) DUTIES OF SECRETARY

- i) Shall keep the minutes of the official meetings of the board and of the annual and special business meetings of the assembly.
- ii) Shall keep a record of the membership of the assembly and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of his duties.
- iii) Shall be the custodian of all legal documents.
- iv) Shall file such annual corporation reports with the secretary of state as may be required by state law.

e) DUTIES OF TREASURER

- i) Shall be entrusted with all the finances of the assembly, subject to the supervision of the church board, and shall deposit all funds in federally insured accounts in the name of the assembly. All checks issued on behalf of the church must be signed by the treasurer and one additional officer authorized by the church board.
- ii) Shall keep an itemized account of receipts and disbursements, shall present a report for each regular meeting of the church board, and shall present an annual report to the assembly in its annual business meeting.
- iii) Shall assist the assembly in acquiring and maintaining available tax exemptions under state and local law.
- iv) Shall provide a record of all identified giving to each donor at least annually.
- v) Shall be the custodian of all the financial records of the church.

SECTION 3. DEACONS

The deacons shall be persons of mature Christian experience and knowledge, who shall be expected to meet the requirements set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Acts 6. Deacons shall be at least 23 years old and shall have been members of the assembly for at least one year. They shall currently support the church with their tithes and offerings, have a cooperative spirit, and regularly attend church services. They shall not hold ministerial credentials.

SECTION 4. TRUSTEES

Three trustees (who may be deacons or officers) shall be elected for the holding of church property, if required by law. Trustees must be active voting members of the assembly.

SECTION 5. FIDUCIARY DUTIES

The law imposes several fiduciary duties on officers, deacons, and trustees, including the duties of due care and diligence, loyalty, avoidance of self-dealing, expending designated contributions for the purpose specified, and not commingling personal and corporate funds.

SECTION 6. TEMPORARY CHURCH BOARD

Should irreconcilable differences arise between the pastor and other members of the church board, destroying the unity and the successful ministry of the local assembly, the TNAGMN Executive Presbytery along with the sectional presbyter (the investigating committee), upon request from the pastor or a majority of the church board members, shall investigate such differences. Upon a two-thirds majority vote of the investigating committee they may declare the church under TNAGMN supervision. The term "District Supervision" means that the investigating committee has the authority to (1) suspend the constitution and bylaws of the church, (2) suspend the church board, (3) reclassify the church as a District Council affiliated church, and (4) appoint and establish a temporary church board invested with the authority to manage both the secular and ecclesiastical affairs of the church until the strife shall cease. If the pastor is also the section presbyter, the assistant sectional presbyter shall be a member of the investigating committee in his place.

ARTICLE VIII. ELECTIONS, VACANCIES, AND REMOVALS

SECTION 1. ELECTIONS

a) PASTOR

- i) The pastor shall be nominated by the church board. Recommendations may be made to the church board by any member of the assembly.
- ii) The pastor shall be elected to serve for 1 or more years or for an indefinite period of time as may be determined at time of election.
- iii) Election shall be by secret ballot at the annual business meeting of the assembly or at a special business meeting called for that purpose. Only one candidate shall be considered at a time.
- iv) A two-thirds majority vote of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election. Where a pastor succeeds himself, only a majority vote is necessary.
- v) In the event either the pastor or any other member or members of the assembly shall challenge the validity of an election, the validity of the election shall be arbitrated by the TNAGMN Executive Presbytery, or any three persons of its choice, and its decision shall be final.

b) SECRETARY

The secretary shall be elected by the church board from among its members. The term of office shall be one year, and the secretary may serve consecutive terms without limitation.

c) TREASURER

The treasurer shall be elected by the church board from among the active voting members of the assembly. The term of office shall be 1 year, and the treasurer may serve consecutive terms without limitation.

d) DEACONS

Deacons shall be nominated by a nominating committee appointed by the church board (see Article VII, section 2C, paragraph iv), and they shall be elected by a majority vote of those active voting members present at an annual business meeting of the assembly at which an election is to be conducted. Active voting members may recommend nominees to the nominating committee; however, nominations for deacon shall not be accepted from the floor during any business meeting without prior proof that the nominee meets the qualifications for a deacon. Deacons shall be elected for a 3-year term, and shall hold office until the annual business meeting at which their successor is elected. Deacons may not serve more than two consecutive 3-year terms. The terms of deacons shall be staggered appropriately.

e) TRUSTEES

Trustees shall be nominated by a nominating committee appointed by the church board, and they shall be elected by a majority vote of those active voting members present at an annual business meeting of the assembly at which an election is to be conducted. Trustees shall be elected for a 3-year term and shall hold office until the annual business meeting at which their successor is elected. Trustees may serve consecutive terms without limitation.

SECTION 2. VACANCIES AND REMOVALS

a) PASTOR

When a vacancy in the office of the pastor shall occur, a temporary replacement shall be arranged for by the church board until a pastor shall be chosen as prescribed in Article VIII, section 1a. The counsel of the District Superintendent will be sought. When a pastor's credentials are withdrawn by the TNAGMN or General Council, the pastor's term of office shall be automatically terminated. In the event a special business meeting is called by petition as provided in Article IX, Section 3, for the purpose of considering the status of the pastor, a majority vote of all voting members present and voting shall be required to remove a pastor from office before his term expires. Severance pay shall be governed by Article XI, Section 3c.

b) SECRETARY AND TREASURER

The offices of secretary and treasurer shall be vacant upon the expiration of the term of office, or upon the termination of the officer's active membership, whichever shall occur first.

c) DEACONS

The office of deacon shall be vacant upon the expiration of the term of office, or upon the termination of a deacon's active membership, whichever shall occur first.

d) IN GENERAL

Any office or position of leadership in the church (other than that of the pastor) may be terminated by a majority vote of the active members present and voting at a special business meeting called for the limited purpose of removal of such member from office or position of leadership which he holds.

e) FILLING VACANCIES

Any office or position of leadership in the church (other than that of pastor) may be filled by appointment of the church board for the unexpired term.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

SECTION 1. MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under direction of the pastor or the church board if there is no pastor.

SECTION 2. ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

There shall be an annual business meeting of the assembly, at which time the election of officers shall take place and the report of all officers shall be presented. This meeting shall be held on the _____ of each year. The time and place shall be announced by the pastor. Notice of the date, time, and place of each annual business meeting shall be announced from the pulpit during morning worship services on each of the two Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting.

SECTION 3. SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETINGS

Special business meetings of the assembly may be called by the pastor, or by a majority of the church board, or by a petition signed by not less than twenty percent (20%) of the active voting members of the assembly. Only those active voting members who have regularly attended services of, and supported, this assembly for a period of at least 3 consecutive months prior to signing the petition shall be counted. Petitions pertaining to the business affairs of the church shall be submitted to the pastor or the secretary of the church board.

A petition pertaining to the status of the pastor shall be directed to the District Superintendent, who shall arrange for a special business meeting of the assembly. No more than one petition on a given subject shall be recognized in any 12-month period. Notice of the date, time, place, and purpose of each special business meeting shall be announced from the pulpit during morning worship services on each of the two Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting. No business other than that specified in the notice of meeting shall be transacted at any special meeting of the assembly.

SECTION 4. PARLIAMENTARY ORDER

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

SECTION 5. VOTING CONSTITUENCY

a) **QUALIFYING OF VOTERS**

The voting constituency at all business meetings of the assembly shall consist of all active voting members who are present and who are 16 years of age or older (Article VI, Section 1).

b) **TRANSFER MEMBERS**

Transfer members shall have voting privileges after 30 days of transfer of membership (Article VI, Section 4)

c) **MEMBERS UNDER PROCESS OF DISCIPLINE**

No member under the process of discipline shall be entitled to a vote until the process is completed (Article VI, Section 9).

SECTION 6. QUORUM

A quorum shall consist of all members present at any duly called business meeting.

SECTION 7. ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

- a) Devotional
- b) Reading of previous minutes
- c) Report of treasurer
- d) Report of committees
- e) Unfinished business
- f) Election of officers
- g) New business
- h) Adjournment

SECTION 8. THE CHURCH BOARD

The church board shall meet monthly or at the call of the pastor for the transaction of business for the assembly, time and place to be announced by the pastor. A majority of the board members present shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 9. MEMBERSHIP ROLL

The church board shall review the list of active voting members at least annually, at the regularly scheduled meeting of the board immediately preceding the annual business meeting and compile a current list of active voting members.

ARTICLE X. DEPARTMENTS

SECTION 1. IN GENERAL

This assembly shall create and maintain such departments and sub-organizations as may be necessary and advisable for the extension of its work including those mentioned in this Article. All such departments and organizations shall be subordinate to the assembly and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the

pastor and church board, and the pastor shall be an ex officio member of all committees or departments.

SECTION 2. SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School shall be considered as that department of the church which particularly provides for the teaching ministry of the church and the spiritual care of the young of the flock. The church board shall appoint the Superintendent of the Sunday School from among the members of the church, which appointment shall be submitted for ratification to the church as a whole. The pastor and the Superintendent of the Sunday School shall have the right to appoint all officers, teachers, and other workers of the Sunday School and, in consultation with the workers of the school, determine all policies and programs of the school.

SECTION 3. YOUTH MINISTRIES

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

SECTION 4. MEN'S AND WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

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

ARTICLE XI. FINANCE

SECTION 1. IN GENERAL

All funds for the maintenance of the assembly shall be provided by the voluntary contributions, tithes, and offerings of the members and friends of the organization. Offerings shall be accepted by the assembly at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the church board and shall be administered by the treasurer under their direction (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

SECTION 2. HANDLING OF OFFERINGS

All offerings shall be counted by at least two authorized persons before the funds are removed from the church building. An offering receipts form shall be signed in duplicate by those counting the offering, with one copy going to the treasurer and the other to the pastor. A record shall be kept of all receipts and disbursements of the local assembly and of all individual giving.

SECTION 3. PASTORAL REMUNERATION

a) REGULAR REMUNERATION

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

b) REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES

The pastor shall be given consideration by the church board for expenses incurred by his attendance at District Councils, General Councils, and other TNAGMN functions by

reimbursement of such expenses, or by an offering to help defray such expenses, according to the ability of the church as determined by the church board.

c) SEVERANCE PAY

In the event a pastor is removed from office by a vote of the active voting membership of the church or shall fail to be sustained by a vote of the active voting membership at the end of a term, he shall be given a minimum of two months regular or average remuneration as severance pay, except in the case of moral turpitude.

ARTICLE XII. PROPERTY

SECTION 1. TITLE

All property of the assembly shall be deeded to the assembly and held in its name or if required by law, to trustees acting on behalf of the assembly and their successors in office. Should the assembly choose to do so, it may request the Tennessee Assemblies of God Ministry Network to act as its trustee to hold title.

SECTION 2. PURCHASES AND SALES OF PROPERTY

All purchase of furnishings, equipment, and other items of tangible personal property exceeding \$10,000 in cost, and all purchases and sales of real property shall be authorized by a vote of at least two-thirds of the voting membership who are in attendance at a regular or special meeting of the assembly.

SECTION 3. DISCONTINUATION OF CHURCH SERVICES

Should this assembly cease to maintain a weekly worship service for a period of three months under the direction of a leader duly authorized by and in good standing with the TNAGMN, it shall be dissolved, and its properties disposed of according to Article XII, section 4, of these Bylaws.

SECTION 4. DISAFFILIATION

Title to all real property now owned or hereafter acquired by the assembly shall be held in trust as a place of divine worship in full cooperative fellowship and affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, Springfield, Missouri, and the Tennessee Assemblies of God Ministry Network. In the event that the assembly shall be divided over doctrinal or any other issues or shall vote to disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God, all property or the assembly shall remain with those members, whatever their number, desiring continued affiliation with the Assemblies of God and adhering to its Statement of Fundamental Truths. The determination of which group of members desires continued affiliation with the Assemblies of God and adheres to its Statement of Fundamental Truths shall be arbitrated by the TNAGMN Presbytery of the Tennessee Assemblies of God Ministry Network, and its decision shall be final and binding. If all of the members of the assembly shall vote to disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God for doctrinal or any other reasons, then all of the property of such assembly shall revert to said District Council and shall be used by the TNAGMN as an Assemblies of God church if possible, and if not possible, the TNAGMN may sell the property and apply the proceeds in any manner consistent with its stated purposes.

SECTION 5. DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the assembly, none of its funds or assets shall be distributed to any officer, deacon, trustee, or any other individual. The church board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the assembly, dispose of all of the funds and assets of the assembly by conveying the same to the TNAGMN, for the purposes of the assembly, and provided that said District Council at the time qualifies as an exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law). Any such funds or assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Circuit Court of the count in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, to such organization as said Court shall determine, which is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes.

ARTICLE XIII. ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES

Inasmuch as the Scriptures require Christians to take their disputes to the saints and not to the civil courts (1 Corinthians 6:1-8), all disputes which may arise (1) between any member of this church and the church itself, or (2) between any member of this church and any pastor, officer, director, employee, volunteer, or other worker of this church, shall be resolved by binding arbitration if efforts to mediate or conciliate the dispute have failed. Either party to dispute may initiate the arbitration process by filing with the other party a written request for arbitration within a reasonable time after the dispute has arisen and efforts to mediate or conciliate have failed. In such a case, the member and the church shall each name an arbitrator, and the two so selected shall name a third. All arbitrators must be born-again, Spirit-filled believers who are members of an Assemblies of God church. The third arbitrator chosen by the other two shall disclose, before accepting the appointment, any financial or personal interest in the outcome of the arbitration, and any existing or past financial, professional, family, or social relationships which are likely to affect impartiality, or which might reasonably create an appearance of impartiality or bias. Either of the parties to the arbitration, on the basis of such disclosures, may disqualify such a candidate from serving as the third arbitrator. A third arbitrator who serves without objection from either party has a continuing duty to disclose relationships or interests which may impair his impartiality. Either party, regardless of the stage of the arbitration proves, may on the basis of such disclosures disqualify such a person from further participation. The arbitration process shall not proceed until the third arbitrator is selected.

The arbitrators shall appoint the time and place for the hearing and cause notification to the parties to be served personally or by registered mail not less than 30 days before the hearing. Appearance at the hearing waives such notice. The arbitrators may adjourn the hearing from time to time as necessary and, on request of a party and for good cause or upon their own motion, may postpone the hearing to a later date. The arbitrators may hear and determine the controversy upon the evidence produced notwithstanding the failure of a party duly notified to appear. The parties are entitled to be heard, to present evidence material to the controversy, and to cross-examine witnesses appearing at the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by all the arbitrators, but a majority of them may determine any question and render a final award. If during the course of the hearing an arbitrator for any reason ceases to act, he shall be replaced in the same manner in which he was originally selected. The arbitrators may in their absolute discretion admit as evidence any affidavit or declaration concerning the matters in dispute, a copy thereof having been given at least 5 days previously to the party against whom the same is offered, but the

person whose evidence is so taken shall be subject to cross-examination by such party. The arbitrators shall have the power to order and direct what they shall deem necessary to be done by either of the parties relating to the matters in dispute. Cost of the arbitration shall be determined and assessed by the arbitrators. Any submission of a dispute to arbitration shall not be revoked by the death of any party to the dispute, and any award will be binding upon such person's heirs and successors.

The decision of the arbitrators shall be binding on both parties, and both parties submit themselves to the personal jurisdiction of the civil courts in this state (including federal courts), as well as the courts of any other state which may have jurisdiction over any dispute contemplated by this Article, for the entry of a judgment confirming the arbitrators' award. The arbitration process is not a substitute for any disciplinary process set forth in the constitution or bylaws of the church and shall in no way affect the authority of the church to investigate reports of misconduct, conduct hearings, or administer discipline.

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

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

ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS

The bylaws may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the assembly by a majority vote of the membership present, except as otherwise indicated herein. Articles III, XII, and XIV of these bylaws may be amended only by the affirmative vote of 100 percent (100%) of the active voting members present at any annual or special business meeting called for the purpose of amending these bylaws. Article IV of these bylaws is not subject to amendment, except to conform to any amendments made to the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God. All amendments must be consistent with the constitution and bylaws of TNAGMN.



DIRECTORY OF CHURCHES

of

**THE TENNESSEE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
MINISTRY NETWORK**

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