



# **CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

**Iowa Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God  
10525 Buena Vista Court  
Urbandale Iowa 50322**

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*The following Constitution and Bylaws contain the understood generic gender neutral words “he” and “chairman” for positions of leadership. For purposes of this fellowship, we understand these terms to be interchangeable for men and women serving our District.*

# CONSTITUTION

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**IOWA DISTRICT COUNCIL  
of the  
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

**CONSTITUTION**

**PREAMBLE**

Whereas, It is commonly believed among us that “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life;” and

Whereas, It is ordained that this Gospel should be preached in all the world, among all nations, as a witness unto all people and that through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ all that believe should be saved from wrath to come through Him, and that by virtue of the new birth (John 3:3) a body should be formed which would be known as the Body of Christ, the Church of the living God, whose names are written in heaven; and

Whereas, It is evident to accomplish this purpose God has set in the Body of Christ, Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers for the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry unto the edifying of itself in love, until we all come into a perfect (mature) man in Christ and that through this organism, ordained of God, whose names are written in heaven; and

Whereas, We realize the need of a closer fellowship with those of like precious faith, and a more definite stand for the entire Bible as the holy and inspired Word of God, and to earnestly contend for the faith once for all delivered unto the saints and thus obeying the injunction of the Lord and Master in Luke 19:13 "to occupy 'til I come"; and

Whereas, God's purpose concerning man finds fulfillment in the 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
- (3) to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son
- (4) to be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world; therefore be it,

Resolved, That we constitute ourselves as a body of Spirit-filled believers in a cooperative fellowship, based on the principles of a voluntary unity, whose purpose it shall be to accept the whole Bible as the living life-giving Word of God, to unite our efforts in preaching the Gospel throughout the world and thus fulfill the last command of the Lord as expressed in Matthew 28:19, 20, and be it further

Resolved, That we devote ourselves to this work in harmony and fellowship with The General Council of the Assemblies of God whose headquarters are at Springfield, Missouri, and that we subscribe to all the requirements and articles in the general agreement necessary to constitute as a District Council of the Assemblies of God, and be it further

Resolved, That we incorporate as a District Council under the laws of the State of Iowa with headquarters at Urbandale, Iowa.

To avoid potential confusion, the meanings of terms used in the Bylaws are defined as follows:

- *The General Council of the Assemblies of God* – the full legal title of our national church body.
- *General Council* – commonly used short form of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- *Iowa District Council of the Assemblies of God* – the full legal title of our Iowa organization of churches.

- Iowa District, District Council or District – short forms of Iowa District Council of the Assemblies of God.
- District Presbytery or Presbytery– refers to the entire board of directors, or presbytery, of the Iowa District Council, including both Sectional and Executive Presbyters.
- Sectional Presbyters – refers to those Presbyters residing within a geographical Section and elected by members of that Section.
- Executive Presbyters – refers to the five Presbyters elected at large from the Iowa District.
- Executive Presbytery – refers to the five Executive Presbyters and the District Superintendent.

### **ARTICLE I. NAME**

The name of this Fellowship is The Iowa District Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **ARTICLE II. BOUNDARIES**

The territory of the District shall include all of the state of Iowa.

### **ARTICLE III. NATURE**

The Iowa District Council of the Assemblies of God is a Cooperative Fellowship based on mutual agreements voluntarily entered into by its members.

### **ARTICLE IV. PREROGATIVES**

Section 1. Its purpose is to promulgate the Gospel of Jesus Christ by all Scriptural means, both at home and abroad; to promote Christian fellowship among its members; to establish assemblies for divine worship and to develop them in general according to our distinctive testimony;

Section 2. 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;

Section 3. 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 1:6-9) and the requirements of the District and the General Council as set forth in their Constitutions and Bylaws;

Section 4. To elect its own officers and committees, to arrange for its own meetings and to govern itself as an affiliate District of the General Council amenable thereto in all matters of doctrine and conduct of ministers who have District endorsement;

Section 5. To establish and maintain such departments and institutions for the Fellowship as may be required for the propagation of the Gospel in its borders;

Section 6. Incidental to, or in connection therewith, to have the right to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of such property as may be needed for the prosecution of its work.

## ARTICLE V. PRINCIPLES

The District Council shall represent, as nearly as possible, the body of Christ as described in the New Testament recognizing the principles inherent in the Body as inherent in this Fellowship, particularly the principles of unity, cooperation, and equality. It recognizes that these principles will enable it to achieve its priority reason for being as an agency of God for evangelizing the world, as a corporate body in which man may worship God, as a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and to be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.

## ARTICLE VI. FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

The Iowa District Council 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 thing 1 Corinthians 1:10, Acts 2:42). The phraseology employed in this statement is not inspired or contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full Gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all Biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines.

### 1. THE SCRIPTURES INSPIRED

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

### 2. THE ONE TRUE GOD

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

## **THE ADORABLE GODHEAD**

### (a) Terms Defined

The terms *trinity* and *persons* as related to the Godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ, respecting the Being of God as distinguished from 'gods many and lords many'. We therefore may speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is One Lord, as a Trinity or as-one Being of three persons, and still be absolutely scriptural (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 this distinction and relationship, as to its mode, is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).

### (c) Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy 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 that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (2 John 9; John 1:1,2,14,18,29,49; 1 John 2:22,23; 4:1-5; Hebrews 12:2).

(i) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

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

(j) Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son

Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only the express duty of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is an unspeakable joy in the Holy Spirit-to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the godhead, except those which express relationship (see paragraphs b, c, and d), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22, 23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Philipians 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 commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Saviour and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47, 48; Romans 6:4).

##### (b) Holy Communion

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

#### 7. THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY GHOST

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy 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 enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the Baptism in the Holy Spirit comes 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). The 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, to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world, the priority reason for being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is:

- (a) To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).
- (b) To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- (c) To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).
- (d) To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

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

- (a) Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3,4).
- (b) Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12-14).
- (c) Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ and care for the poor and needy of the world (Galatians 5:22-26; Matthew 25:37-40; Galatians 6:10; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

11. THE MINISTRY

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

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

- (c) Building a Body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11, 16).
- (d) Meeting human needs with ministries of love and compassion (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

12. DIVINE HEALING

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

13. THE BLESSED HOPE

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation, together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord, is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:51,52).

14. THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST

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

15. THE FINAL JUDGMENT

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

16. THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH

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

**ARTICLE VII. RELATIONSHIPS**

Section 1. TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND OTHER DISTRICT COUNCILS

The Iowa District Council of the Assemblies of God is an integral part of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a non-profit religious corporation with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri, is subordinate and amenable to the said General Council as prescribed in its Constitution and Bylaws, and has a cooperative working relationship with other District Councils in matters of mutual concern.

Section 2. TO THE FELLOWSHIP SECTIONS

The Iowa District Council of the Assemblies of God shall pursue its activities through its District offices and Sections.

Section 3. TO LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

The local churches of the District, which are in full fellowship with the District, shall recognize and be subject to the District Council as set forth in the Bylaws.

**ARTICLE VIII. MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. ORDAINED MINISTERS

All ordained ministers of the Gospel holding accredited Fellowship Certificates from the General Council and having their credentials registered with the District Secretary shall be recognized as members.

Section 2. LICENSED AND CERTIFIED MINISTERS

All ministers of the Gospel (Licensed and Certified Minister) holding accredited Fellowship Certificates from the General Council and having their credentials registered with the District Secretary shall be recognized as members.

Section 3. CHURCH DELEGATES

General or District Council affiliated churches shall be considered members. Delegates, with proper delegate credentials, (Bylaws Article II, Section 3 & Article IX, Section B. 2. (d)) may represent these churches at District meetings.

**ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS**

Section 1. REGULAR SESSIONS

The regular sessions of the District Council shall convene annually pursuant to a call of the Executive Presbytery.

Section 2. SPECIAL SESSIONS

Special sessions of the Iowa District Council may be called by the Executive Presbytery to meet emergency needs that arise within the District. Notification of special sessions must be mailed to all credentialed ministers and churches at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

Section 3. THE RIGHT OF INITIATIVE

Any minister in good standing may exercise the right of initiative in requesting a special session. The reason for such request shall be made in writing and in detail and placed in the hands of the Executive Presbytery for consideration. If, after examination it deems the emergency of sufficient importance, it shall issue the call for such special session. The request for said call must be signed by at least fifteen ministers of the District Council who are in good standing.

**ARTICLE X. OFFICERS**

Section 1. OFFICERS

The District Superintendent shall serve as the chief executive officer of the Iowa District Council.

Section 2. EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY

The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the District Superintendent and five ordained ministers elected by the Iowa District Council as Executive Presbyters.

Section 3. DISTRICT PRESBYTERY

The District Presbytery shall consist of the District Superintendent, Executive Presbyters and Sectional Presbyters elected by members within each Section.

Section 4. GENERAL PRESBYTERY

The Iowa District Council shall be represented in the General Presbytery, the official policy-making body of The General Council of the Assemblies of God when it is not in session, by three members.

The Iowa District Superintendent shall be, by virtue of his office, a general presbyter of the General Council. Two others shall be elected by the Iowa District Council in session, both of whom shall be ordained Assemblies of God ministers, and at least one of whom shall be a senior pastor of a church or a person involved in other ministry located in the District. They shall take office immediately upon election. (See Article II, Section 2.d.(1), General Council Bylaws)

Additional representation. Two additional ministers, one ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election active in ministry and one ordained female minister active in ministry shall be elected by the Iowa District Council in session on an alphabetical rotation with other districts within our geographical area. The

term of election shall be for one (1) year with term beginning on July 1 after election. (See Article II, Section 2. d. (9), General Council Bylaws).

#### Section 5. NOMINEE FOR GENERAL COUNCIL NONRESIDENT EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY

The Iowa District Council shall nominate three ministers from its District to be presented to the General Council as nominees from its area to serve on the Executive Presbytery of the General Council (see Article II, Section 2. c. 1. a, General Council Bylaws, and Article II, Section 6, District Bylaws).

Additional represent: The Iowa District Council shall nominate three additional ministers from its District, one ordained minister under age 40 at the time of election, one ordained female minister (no age requirement) and one African-American minister (no age requirement), to be presented to the General Council Presbytery as nominees from its area to serve on the Executive Presbytery of the General Council (see Article II, Section 2. c. (2). (c), General Council Bylaws, and Article II, Section 6, District Bylaws);

#### ARTICLE XI. COMMITTEES

The District Superintendent is authorized to appoint any committee deemed necessary.

#### ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

In the event this District Council shall cease to function for the purposes herein set forth, then all property 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 this District Council its Board of Trustees (or Directors) 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 District Council 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. (Preamble to the General Council Constitution)

#### ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any regular or special meeting of the District Council, provided such proposed amendments have been mailed to every member of the District Council for consideration at least 30 days prior to the District Council annual or special meeting. Amendments to the Constitution require a two-thirds vote of all members present and voting.

# BYLAWS

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**IOWA DISTRICT COUNCIL  
of the  
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

**BYLAWS**

**ARTICLE I. SECTIONAL DIVISIONS**

Section 1.

The territory of the Iowa District shall be divided into Sections, and each Section shall have one representative on the District Presbytery.

Section 2.

The Sections of the District shall be as designated on the official map of the District. The map shall be printed in the Bylaws.

Section 3.

The District Presbytery may vary the number and boundaries of the Sectional divisions as it may determine, working in cooperation with the Sections affected.

**ARTICLE II. OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS**

Section 1. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

The executive officers of the Iowa District Council shall be elected at one of its regular annual, or specially called, business sessions. They shall be chosen from the membership of the District; be of sound judgment, mature experience and good report; and who shall have ministered in the District as a member not less than one (1) year prior to election.

(a) District Superintendent

The District Superintendent shall be chosen from the ordained membership of the District. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of all votes cast shall be required to elect. The District Superintendent shall have had experience as a senior pastor of an Assemblies of God church.

(b) Executive Presbyters

Five Executive Presbyters shall be elected from among the ordained ministers of the District. They shall have had experience as a senior pastor of an Assemblies of God church and shall have ministered in the District as a member not less than one (1) year prior to election. They shall be elected by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at the annual District meeting. Two shall be elected on even-numbered years and three on uneven numbered years.

Should a Sectional Presbyter be elected and accept the office of Executive Presbyter, his office as Sectional Presbyter shall be declared vacant. Members of the Section shall then caucus during the District meeting to elect a new Sectional Presbyter.

(c) Department Directors

The Department Directors shall be appointed by the District Superintendent and ratified by the District Presbytery. Their qualifications and duties shall be outlined in a policy manual approved by the District Presbytery.

(d) Administrative Staff

The District Superintendent shall be empowered to employ administrative staff, subject to ratification by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the District Presbytery.

(e) Terms of Office

1. The term of office for the District Superintendent shall be four (4) years. The term shall begin three (3) months after the date of an election, except when filling a vacancy during an unexpired term. In this case, the term shall begin as soon as possible.

2. District ministry department directors shall be appointed for an indefinite term.

Section 2. ORDER OF ELECTION

The District Superintendent shall be elected on uneven-numbered years, the exception being when a vacancy occurs during an unexpired term of office.

Section 3. VOTING CONSTITUENCY

(a) The voting constituency shall consist of accredited members present and registered at any District and Section meeting, including Ordained, Licensed, and Certified ministers, and one (1) lay delegate from each General Council church and one (1) lay delegate from each District Council Self-Governing church (District Council Dependent Assemblies, Parent Affiliated Churches, Cooperating Assemblies, Satellite and Multi-Site Assemblies shall have no lay delegate).

(b) Credentialed ministers shall have their voting privilege in the section where their ministry is located.

Section 4. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS FOR DISTRICT AND SECTIONS

(a) Nominating Ballot

Nominees, where other provisions are not made, shall be chosen by secret ballot. A nominating ballot shall constitute an election in the event any candidate receives a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. If an election does not occur, all qualified names, together with the number of votes received, will be listed in alphabetical order.

(b) Elections

The names chosen shall be balloted upon until a candidate has received the required number of votes to elect. If, however, no decision is reached, the two (2) having the highest number of votes on the third ballot shall be selected as nominees to be further balloted upon. If there is no election after the sixth electoral ballot, the candidate receiving the simple majority vote shall be elected on the seventh electoral ballot.

(c) Presbyters

(1) Sectional Presbyters

The Sectional Presbyter shall be elected at the Sectional business meeting in respective Sections. The election of the Sectional Presbyter shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members present and voting. The term of office shall be for two (2) years and begin at the conclusion of the District Council.

(2) Executive Presbyters

Nominations for Executive Presbyters shall be made by members of the District during its annual business meeting. The election of an Executive Presbyter shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members present and voting. The term of office shall be for two (2) years and begin at the conclusion of the District Council.



(3) Requirements for Presbyters

Sectional Presbyters shall be chosen from members of the Section. Executive Presbyters shall be chosen from members of the District. No individual may serve simultaneously as a Sectional and Executive Presbyter. All presbyters shall be ordained ministers; shall possess sound judgment, and be of mature experience and good report; and shall have ministered in the District as a member not less than one (1) year prior to election.

(d) Sectional Representatives

(1) Sectional representatives shall be appointed by the District Superintendent in consultation with the District department head and Sectional Presbyter. Such appointments shall be ratified by the Iowa District Presbytery. Terms of appointment shall be for two years, except for appointments to fill unexpired terms.

(2) Sectional representatives shall be chosen from within the Section. They may be ministers or lay persons.

(e) Sectional Councils

The District Superintendent, or his representatives, shall preside at all Sectional councils.

Section 5. VACANCIES

(a) District Superintendent

1. In the event the office becomes vacant, the Executive Presbytery may call a special District business meeting for the purpose of electing a District Superintendent.
2. If the office becomes vacant within 120 days of a regularly scheduled District business meeting, the election will be postponed until that meeting.
3. In an interim period, the Executive Assistant Superintendent shall assume the duties of the District Superintendent, including chairing the District Presbytery and District committees. In the event the offices of District Superintendent and Assistant District Superintendent both become vacant, the succession to the office of District Superintendent until a special District business meeting called for the purpose of filling the vacancies is convened shall be as follows: first, the Executive Secretary; and second, the Executive Treasurer. Should those offices be vacant, or unable to serve, then the District Presbytery shall meet to appoint a Superintendent from the Executive Presbytery to serve until an election can be held (Bylaws, Article II. Section 5, (a) 1 & 2).
4. If the vacancy in the office of District Superintendent should result in a special election for a term of 15 months or less, the election of the new District Superintendent shall be for the remaining unexpired term plus an additional full term of four (4) years.

(b) Sectional Presbyters

If any of the District Presbyters shall vacate their elected office, a successor shall be elected by the voting constituency of the Section.

(c) Sectional Representatives

If any of the Sectional representatives shall vacate their appointed office, a successor shall be appointed by the District Superintendent. The procedure for appointment shall be the

same as for biennial appointments.

(d) Other Vacancies

All other vacancies of officials in the District shall be filled by appointment of the Executive Presbytery.

Section 6. GENERAL COUNCIL NONRESIDENT EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

- (a) Two (2) ministers shall be presented from the Iowa District as nominees for election as Non-Resident Executive Presbyter. The District Superintendent shall be presented as one nominee. The other nominee shall be selected by two-thirds (2/3) vote at the District Council prior to General Council. The nominee must be ordained minister other than a full-time District official, of mature experience and ability, whose life and ministry is above question.
- (b) In addition to the above (paragraph (a)), the District Council shall nominate an ordained woman (no age requirement), an ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election and an ordained African-American (no age requirement) to be submitted to the General Council General Presbytery as our nominees. The Iowa District Executive Presbytery shall compile a list of all persons meeting the qualifications of each category as outlined in the General Council Bylaws. This list shall be presented to the District Council in session and shall serve as the nominating ballot.
- (c) In the event that an Iowa District minister, other than the District Superintendent, is elected as a General Council Executive Presbyter, the minister shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Iowa District Presbytery.

Section 7. GENERAL COUNCIL GENERAL PRESBYTERS

The Iowa District Council shall be represented in the General Presbytery, the official policy-making body of The General Council of the Assemblies of God when it is not in session, by three members.

The Iowa District Superintendent shall be, by virtue of his office, a general presbyter of The General Council. Two others shall be elected by the Iowa District Council in session selected by two-thirds (2/3) vote. Both General Presbyters shall be ordained Assemblies of God ministers, at least one of whom shall be a senior pastor of a church or a person involved in other ministry located in the District. They shall take office immediately upon election. The Iowa District Council shall elect General Presbyters for The General Council on the even years, and the term of election shall be for two (2) years.

Additional representation. Two additional ministers, one ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election active in ministry and one ordained female minister active in ministry, shall be elected by the Iowa District Council in session on an alphabetical rotation with other districts within our geographical area. The term of election shall be for one (1) year with term beginning on July 1 after election. (See Article II, Section 2. d. (9), General Council Bylaws).

**ARTICLE III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

Section 1. DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

- (a) To preside at all meetings of the District Council.
- (b) To recommend to the District Presbytery nominees for all department directors and administrative assistants, for ratification by their two-thirds (2/3) vote.
- (c) To lead and administrate the District Office, to supervise all the work of that office in the interim between sessions of the District Council and to act as President of the District corporation in all legal matters.
- (d) To preside at all meetings of the Credentials Committee and to sign all necessary papers in relation to the General Council.

- (e) To preside at all sessions of the Executive and District Presbytery and to receive all communications directed to those bodies.
- (f) To supervise all the work of the District Council throughout its territory, to stimulate a progressive spirit of evangelism, to arrange for the opening of new churches, and to seek to promote a continued spirit of harmony among all pastors and churches of the District.
- (g) To arrange for and supervise special meetings of a spiritual character and to encourage involvement in world ministries.
- (h) To administer appropriate discipline to any credentialed minister of the District Council as well as affiliated churches. Such discipline must be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the General Council Bylaws, Article X.
- (i) To perform any other duty or service customary and usual as a presiding officer to whom responsibility shall have been committed by the District Council.
- (j) To be an alternate signer for District checks.

## Section 2. DISTRICT EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY

### (a) General Supervision

The District Executive Presbytery shall act as the Trustees of the District Council and shall have the oversight of the activities and departments of same during the interim between District Council sessions, unless other provisions are made by the District Council. It shall be authorized to act for the District Council in all matters that affect its interest while the District Council is not in session and shall make a report to the District Council of its activities in behalf of the District Council. It shall provide for its own meetings, and its decisions shall be final unless reversed by the District Council.

### (b) Portfolios

Portfolios shall be assigned to the Executive Presbyters by the District Superintendent and shall be ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the District Presbytery. These shall include Executive Assistant Superintendent, Executive District Secretary, Executive District Treasurer, and others as deemed necessary.

### (c) Executive Assistant Superintendent

This person shall perform whatever duties are assigned by the District Superintendent and the District Presbytery. He shall also serve as chairman of the District Presbytery:

1. When the office of District Superintendent is vacant.
2. In an emergency when directed by the District Superintendent.
3. In the event the District Superintendent is incapacitated and unable to serve.

The Superintendent will be deemed to be incapacitated if:

- (a) The Executive Presbytery Board is provided written notification from the Superintendent's physician or medical provider attesting to his incapacity;

or

- (b) So determined by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Presbytery Board.

### (d) Executive Secretary

At the direction and approval of the Executive Presbytery, this person shall have

executive responsibilities for the maintenance and publication of accurate records of District Council proceedings and for the preparation and publication of current District Council minutes and a District directory; shall be the executive custodian of all official and legal documents of the District Council; and shall, with the District Superintendent, sign all District ministerial credentials and legal documents.

(e) Executive Treasurer

At the direction and approval of the Executive Presbytery, this person shall have executive responsibilities for the maintenance and publication of District financial records and shall be the executive custodian of all District funds; shall verify that accurate records of receipts and disbursements of District monies are maintained; shall be a signatory on District and Sectional checking accounts; and shall contract annually with a CPA firm to review all District financial records and shall bring and present that report at the annual District Council.

(f) Waive Reversion Clause

The District Executive Presbytery shall waive the reversion clause of a local church deed, when requested by the church, for the life of a loan, if the reversion clause prevents its securing a loan.

(g) Appeal Board

If, in the judgment of the District Executive Presbytery, the action of the District Council in reversing any of its actions seems improper and unwarranted, the District Executive Presbytery may appeal such action to the Executive Presbytery of the General Council for final action. The decision of the General Council Executive Presbytery in such action shall be considered final when rendered.

(h) Under the direction of the District Superintendent, the Executive Presbyters may be called upon to perform any of the functions that follow, or others as needs arise: assist a Sectional Presbyter in meeting the needs of a particular local church; monitor churches placed under District supervision; investigate, evaluate, and represent the District when circumstances require intervention in a local church (District Bylaws, Article IX, Section 4); investigate charges placed against ministers, and review such charges with the executive officers and full Executive Presbytery to determine appropriate action; and assist in the restoration process to restore ministers under discipline.

(i) Matters of Great Importance

In all matters of great importance to the District Council as determined by the District Executive Presbytery, it shall communicate with the Executive Presbytery of the General Council before any decision or final action shall be taken.

### Section 3. DISTRICT SECTIONAL PRESBYTERY

(a) Arm of Executive Presbytery

The Presbytery shall act as the arm of the Executive Presbytery of the District in executing the work of the District Council on the field throughout the District.

(b) Represent the District

Presbyters shall be expected to represent the interest of the District Council in their Sections, as well as interests of the Section to the District Presbytery. When called upon by the District Superintendent, presbyters shall render assistance in every way possible.

(c) Resolve Problems

Presbyters shall seek to resolve any problems that may arise in their Sections, and make a full report to the District Superintendent on each occasion. Serious matters shall be referred to the District Superintendent or the Executive Presbytery.

- (d) Keep Financial Records  
Sectional Presbyters shall keep accurate financial records of the Section and make a full report annually to the District Superintendent's office for review.
- (e) Minutes  
Sectional Presbyters shall assure that accurate minutes of all Sectional business meetings are recorded and a copy forwarded to the District Superintendent's office for review.
- (f) Notice of Sectional Meetings  
Presbyters shall mail notice of the meetings to Sectional churches and credential holders.

## ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES

### Section 1. STANDING COMMITTEES

Standing Committees shall be appointed as needed by the District Superintendent and ratified by the District Presbytery. These committees may include, but not be limited to: District Council committees, Revolving Loan Plan, Camp, World Missions and Home Missions.

### Section 2. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The Credentials Committee shall consist of the District Superintendent and the District Presbytery. It shall examine applicants for ministerial credentials, provide for the ordination of accepted candidates to the ministry and sign all applications for General Council ministerial credentials.

### Section 3. FINANCE COMMITTEE

#### A. Composition

There shall be a Finance Committee, composed of the Superintendent, the Executive Treasurer, one (1) Executive Presbyter nominated by the Superintendent and approved by a simple majority vote of the directors present and voting at any duly called and noticed regular or special meeting of the Board, two (2) Sectional Presbyters nominated by the Superintendent and approved by simple majority vote of the directors present and voting at any duly called and notice regular or special meeting of the Board, and two (2) laypersons nominated by the Superintendent and approved by a simple majority vote of the directors present and voting at any duly called and noticed regular or special meeting of the Board. The Finance Committee may invite such additional persons as necessary to attend Finance Committee meetings as non-voting resource persons, provided that those persons have been approved by a simple majority vote of the directors present and voting at a duly called and noticed regular or special meeting of the Board

#### B. Term

Other than the Superintendent and Executive Treasurer, who shall serve on the Finance Committee for so long as they serve in their respective offices, members of the Finance Committee shall serve a term of one (1) year and may serve up to six (6) consecutive terms.

#### C. Chair and Supervision

The Finance Committee shall be chaired by the Superintendent and shall report to and be under the general supervision of the Board of Directors.

#### D. Duties

Under the general supervision of the Board of Directors, the Finance Committee shall (1) prepare the annual budget for submission to the Board of Directors; (2) plan for the Network's financial future by effectively overseeing the management of the Network's various funds; (3) develop and implement internal financial controls; (4) prepare and distribute accurate, timely, and user-friendly financial reports to the offices, Board of Directors, and Network Council; and (5) develop and implement safeguards to protect the Network's assets.

E. Meetings

The Finance Committee shall meet as often as necessary to fulfill its duties but shall meet no less than four (4) times per year

F. Notice

Notice of all meetings shall be provided no less than fourteen (14) days before the meeting and no more than ninety (90) days before the meeting via electronic mail. If all members are present, the notice requirement may be waived by a unanimous vote of the members

G. Quorum

A simple majority of members present shall constitute a quorum. A member shall be counted present if the member is physically present at the meeting or present via real-time communication technology.

H. Removal and Vacancy

Other than the Superintendent and Executive Treasurer, any member of the Finance Committee may be removed with or without cause upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and a simple majority vote of the directors present and voting at any duly called and noticed meeting of the Board. Other than the Superintendent or Executive Treasurer, any vacancy shall be filled upon the nomination of the Superintendent and a majority vote of the Board of Directors, pursuant the requirements of this Section.

Section 4. AD HOC COMMITTEES

Ad hoc committees shall be appointed by the District Superintendent, as the need may arise, to assist in the proper conduct of the business of the District Council.

**ARTICLE V. MINISTRY**

Section 1. MINISTRY DESCRIBED

Christ's gifts to the Church include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11), exhorters, administrators, leaders and helpers (Romans 12:7, 8). We understand God's call to these ministry gifts is totally within His sovereign discretion without regard to gender, race, disability, or national origin.

Three classifications are recognized: the Ordained Minister, the Licensed Minister and the Certified Minister. All applicants for ministerial recognition must meet the qualifications as listed in the General Council Bylaws, Article VII.

All ordained, licensed, and certified ministers holding current ministerial credentials are authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church, and those holding local church credential as provided below.

A fourth classification of ministry, a local church credential, may be provided by a local General Council affiliated church under basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines adopted by the District Council. The local church credential shall be non-transferable (limited to the issuing local church) and shall be limited to two (2) years (unless the credential is solely required for active and on-going local ministry in a prison, hospital or institution). A person holding a local church credential can perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church if authorized in writing by the senior pastor of the local church issuing the credential. They shall be known as Commissioned Ministers.

Prior to issuing local church credentials, the board of deacons (trustees, elders) must file a completed local church credential certification form with the District Council.

No other classification of ministry shall be recognized other than those described in this section.

## Section 2. BASIC QUALIFICATIONS

The following qualifications pertain to all applicants for ministerial recognition:

- (a) **Salvation.** Testimony to having experienced the new birth (John 3:5).
- (b) **Baptism in the Holy Spirit.** Testimony to having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues according to Acts 2:4. The Spirit-filled life will enable a minister to fulfill the fourfold mission of the church (General Council Constitution, Article V, paragraph 10).
- (c) **Evidence of call.** Clear evidence of a divine call to the ministry, evidenced by a personal conviction, confirmed by the work of the Spirit and the testimony of fellow ministers.
- (d) **Christian character.** A blameless Christian life and a good report of those who are outside the church (Titus 1:7; 1 Timothy 3:7).
- (e) **Doctrinal position.** A thorough understanding of and agreement with our doctrinal position as contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.
- (f) **Assemblies of God polity.** A satisfactory working knowledge of the principles, practices and purposes of the Fellowship through a study of the General Council and District Council Constitution and Bylaws.
- (g) **Voluntary cooperation and commitment to the Fellowship.** An active loyalty to our constitutional agreements, a cooperative spirit and a readiness to seek and receive the counsel of older mature Christians and those in positions of authority.

By voluntary it is meant that, upon learning the principles, doctrines and practices of the Assemblies of God, and by seeing the benefits to be derived from being associated with such an organization, persons of their own free choice decide to become members, thus subscribing to all that for which the organization stands.

For the minister, by cooperation, it is meant, to the best of one's ability, complying with all decisions setting forth and defining duties and responsibilities incumbent upon members of the organization. It includes active participation and respect for the will of the majority expressed through constitutional processes.

Hence, for the minister, voluntary cooperation means that when the minister decides to become a cooperating member of the Assemblies of God, this cooperation and participation thereby becomes obligatory and not optional.

- (h) **Basic education requirements.** Any level of formal academic achievement (diploma or degree) shall not be a requirement for credentials; however, credential applicants shall meet the following criteria:
  - (1) All applicants are required to be interviewed by the District Credentials Committee and, in preparation for the interview, pass a standard exam approved by the General Presbytery whereby they demonstrate knowledge of the Bible, Assemblies of God doctrines and ministerial practices; unless an exception is granted by the General Council Credentials Committee or permitted by General Presbytery policy; and either
  - (2) Successfully complete equivalent training to that indicated in paragraph (3) below, preferably, in an endorsed Assemblies of God postsecondary school; or in a seminary, college, Bible college or school approved by the District Credentials Committee

consistent with criteria established by the General Council Credentials Committee; or

- (3) Successfully complete courses, prescribed by the General Presbytery, offered in correspondence through Global University of the Assemblies of God, or pass the final examinations in the prescribed courses; or
  - (4) Be recommended by a District Credentials Committee as qualifying for credentials through self-study and ministerial experience. Such candidates shall have a proven and fruitful ministry of substantial duration. Requests from a District for such a candidate shall be presented to the General Council Credentials Committee and may be granted on a case-by-case basis.
- (i) **Mandatory screening.** All applicants for ministerial credentials shall be screened through a designated screening agency established by the Executive Presbytery. Said screening shall be done by the District Council prior to the submission of the application to the office of the General Secretary.
  - (j) **Marriage status.** We disapprove of any married persons holding ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God if either marriage partner has a former spouse living, unless the divorce occurred prior to his or her 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), except as hereinafter provided.
  - (k) **Ecclesiastical annulments and marriage dissolutions.** The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant qualifies for an ecclesiastical annulment. In such cases there must be clear and satisfactory evidence of deception, fraud or other conditions which have a profound impact preventing the creation of a valid marriage union, unknown at the time of marriage by the applicant. The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant qualifies regarding a former marriage when the termination of that marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the Fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials; or if a former marriage ended prior to conversion. In those cases involving preconversion divorce they shall be decided on an individual basis just as those that deal with ecclesiastical annulments. Appeals from the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the General Presbytery.
  - (l) **Eligibility of women.** The Scriptures plainly teach that divinely called and qualified women may also serve the church in the ministry of the Word (Joel 2:29; Acts 21:9; I Corinthians 11:5). Women who meet the qualifications for ministerial credentials are eligible for whatever grade of credentials their qualifications warrant and have the right to administer the ordinances of the church and are eligible to serve in all levels of church ministry and/or District and General Council leadership.
  - (m) **Ministers from other organizations.** If a minister from another reputable body desires to affiliate with the Assemblies of God, the credentials committee of both the General Council and the District Councils are under no obligation to accept the applicant's previous ministerial status, but will judge each candidate on his or her own merits as to the level of credentials to be granted. Such applicants shall be required to:
    - (1) Conform to Assemblies of God criteria for recognition.
    - (2) Complete an application for ministerial recognition.
    - (3) Submit a letter of recommendation from a neighboring Assemblies of God minister or the sectional presbyter for the applicant's area.



- (4) Submit a recommendation from the body with which the minister was formerly affiliated. If such is not available, letters of recommendation should be sought from three reputable ordained ministers who are familiar with the applicant's ministry, two of whom should be with the applicant's former credentialing body.
- (5) Take the credential examination.
- (6) Complete such courses as may be prescribed by the General Presbytery for ministers transferring from other credentialing bodies.
- (7) Meet with the District Credentials Committee for an oral interview.
- (8) Be recommended by the District Credentials Committee for action by the General Council Credentials Committee.
- (9) All previously ordained ministers so approved shall receive recognition as ordained Assemblies of God ministers with the laying on of hands by the District Presbytery. All other applicants so approved shall receive the appropriate level of credential recognition.
- (10) Ministers who receive Assemblies of God recognition shall relinquish their ministerial credentials with any other organization, unless an exception is granted by the General Council Credential Committee upon recommendation of a District Council Credentials Committee for a minister serving as a missionary in this country who holds a credential with a member body of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship.

### Section 3. ORDAINED MINISTER

#### (a) Qualifications

- (1) The qualifications for ordination are outlined in the New Testament (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9).
- (2) Applicants twenty-three (23) years of age or over, who have met the necessary requirements, shall appear before the Credentials Committee of the District. No persons may be ordained to the ministry until they have held a License to Preach and has been engaged in ministry for at least two (2) full consecutive years immediately prior thereto.
- (3) All applicants for ordination shall meet with the District Credentials Committee, and if accepted, shall be recommended for ordination at the next District Council. All ordinations shall take place under the auspices of the District Council.

#### (b) Exceptions

- (1) No person shall be ordained to the ministry who has not been a member of the District for at least one (1) year. If this person has not been a member two (2) full years, this person must meet the requirements and secure the endorsement of the District officials where previously licensed.

#### (c) Ministers with Disabilities

Ministers with permanent disability or illness, which prevents them from engaging in active ministry, shall be indicated as disabled. The credential status of the minister shall remain unchanged. The annual renewal of his or her credentials shall take place in the regular manner. Ministers with disabilities thus approved by their districts shall not have further obligation of financial support the General Council.

(d) Renewal of Fellowship Certificate

(1) Expiration Date

All fellowship certificates are valid only until December 31 of each year and must be renewed annually. The renewing of credentials is the responsibility of the individual minister. In the event a minister does not receive a renewal form by December 1, the District Office should be notified.

Section 4. LICENSED MINISTERS

Preaching Ministry

- (a) Qualifications for license shall include clear evidence of a divine call, character and preparation suitable for that calling, practical ministry experience, and an evident purpose to devote one's life in service to the proclamation of the gospel.
- (b) All candidates must show a conformity to such provisions as are made for candidates by the General Council in education and other training.
- (c) License to Preach shall be recommended by the District Council to properly qualified applicants for approval by the General Council Credentials Committee.
- (d) All candidates for License to Preach shall make application with the Iowa District Council.

Section 5. CERTIFIED MINISTERS

Those beginning in the ministry may be recommended for certified ministerial credentials. (General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 3)

Section 6. CREDENTIALS

- (a) All credential certificates, with the accompanying fellowship card, shall be issued from the office of the General Council at Springfield, Missouri.
- (b) Each application shall be accompanied with a fee set by the District Presbytery to defray expenses in processing the application.
- (c) All applicants seeking certificate of ministry, license, or ordination must have full endorsement of the Presbyter in each Section.
- (d) Any certain extent of academic education shall never be a requirement for credentials, but it shall be required of applicants that they take such study courses and pass examinations as may be prescribed by the Credentials Committee of the Iowa District Council in agreement with the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God (General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 2, (h)).
- (e) Late Fee  
All who shall have failed to renew their Fellowship Certificates on or before December 31 shall be considered delinquent and shall be required to pay a late fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00), until January 15.
- (f) Reinstatement  
Ministers whose renewal applications are not postmarked by January 15, shall be recorded as lapsed as of December 31. They must make application for reinstatement and pay a nonrefundable fee of hundred dollar (\$100.00) fee in order to be reinstated. These ministers shall not be subject to the minimal time

lapse required of those whose credentials have been terminated for other causes.

#### Section 7. ACTIVE MINISTRY

All ministers in the District carrying General Council credentials shall be encouraged, as far as practicable, to devote their entire time to the ministry (Article V, Section 2 (d), District Bylaws for exception).

#### Section 8. MINISTERIAL RELATIONS

- (a) All ministers holding credentials with the District Council and General Council shall be amenable to both the District Council and General Council in matters of doctrine and conduct.
- (b) All credentialed ministers shall be expected to affiliate with the District Council within the boundaries where they minister, and to work in cooperation with the same. Ministers who reside in one District but pastor, attend or serve on the staff of a church located in another District shall be required to be a member of the District in which the church is located.

All credentialed ministers shall be expected to cooperate with other District Councils in which they may labor temporarily (Article V, Section 14, District Bylaws for exception).

#### Section 9. SENIOR-RETIRED MINISTERS

In respect and honor to those ministers who have given years of service to the Fellowship, the term senior-retired shall be used for those who are sixty-five (65) years of age or older and who have ceased to engage in any regular appointed ministry.

- (a) Application For Retired Category  
Senior-retired status shall be granted only to those ministers who filed a request for such status with the District Office. The District Secretary shall forward annually to the General Secretary a list of those ministers who have made these requests.
- (b) Guidelines
  - Reports  
Senior-retired ministers shall file an abbreviated annual report to maintain a correct mailing address. (General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 7).
- (c) Support of General National Leadership and Resource Center  
Senior-retired ministers shall be free to distribute as they desire the portion of their tithes previously paid to the General Council

#### Section 10. MINISTRY IN A NON-ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CHURCH

Ministers are recommended to confer with district council officials before engaging in ministry in any church group or organization not affiliated with the Assemblies of God. (General Council Bylaws: Article IX, Section 9.)

#### Section 11. AFFILIATING WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

In the event a minister shall identify with another organization granting ministerial credentials, and shall have received such credentials, his or her credentials with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall

be terminated. An investigation shall be made to determine the proper category of termination.

#### Section 12. ATTITUDE TOWARD THOSE REMOVED FROM COUNCIL FELLOWSHIP

In order to render effective decisions made in the interest of proper discipline and for the protection of our Assemblies, after investigation and consideration of all facts by those qualified to act in such cases according to our cooperative agreements, such decisions shall be considered just and final by all. (General Council Bylaws: Article IX, Section 10.)

#### Section 13. CREDENTIAL TERMINATIONS

(a) Lapsed

Ministers who do not elect to renew their credentials, providing there is no cause for disciplinary action, shall be published as lapsed.

(b) Resigned

Ministers who remove themselves from the Fellowship, and against whom there are no charges filed, shall be published as 'Resigned'. (General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 11, (a), (2).)

(c) Dismissal

A minister who is found guilty of violating any of the Assemblies of God principles set forth in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws shall be subject to disciplinary action by the General Council Credentials Committee. (General Council Bylaws, Article X.)

(d) Reinstatement

Application for reinstatement may be made through the District Council where the minister resides and/or ministers, but the application will be considered subject to the approval of the District in which the former action was taken [See General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 8 (b) (1)].

#### Section 14. TRANSFER OF CREDENTIALS

(a) Certificate of Transfer

When a member minister takes up residence and/or ministry in another District, a Certificate of Transfer shall be issued within sixty (60) days by the Iowa District Council when requested by the minister, unless definite charges are pending. The certificate of transfer must be requested by the minister in a timely fashion.

(b) Exceptions

Exceptions may be made for the following reasons:

(1) Ministers moving to serve at the Assemblies of God National Leadership & Resource Center

(2) Those who are retired from active ministry.

(3) Those in the Armed Forces who are currently on active duty.

(4) Those who are serving on the staffs of schools affiliated with the General Council and District Council, or non-affiliated schools acceptable to the General Council and the District Council in which the school is located.

(4) Those who are appointed U.S. missionaries or world missionaries who are on furlough or on temporary assignment in the United States and reside in a district other than their home district.

- (5) Ministers having membership in one district and a mailing address only in another district
- (6) Students in schools outside their home Districts
- (7) Those who are serving in a non-Assemblies of God institution providing:
  - a. They have a regular scope of ministry which reaches beyond district boundaries
  - b. Both districts agree to the exception
  - c. The institution is acceptable to both districts.
- (8) Church planters involved in transdistrict ministry.

Section 15. INTEGRITY IN EDUCATIONAL CREDENTIALS

- (a) **Continuing education encouraged.** Our ministers and churches are encouraged to seek continuing education, discipleship, spiritual formation, and training opportunities of all kinds, of all degrees of difficulty, of their own initiative or in cooperation with the district council and the General Council, but with great care always taken to properly understand and honestly describe all such training, certifications, degrees, and titles.
- (b) **Using adequately accredited institutions.** Because of the many questionable institutions offerings unaccredited or deficient training and education, and since the General Council, our General Council schools, and our regional Assemblies of God universities are committed to achieving and maintaining the highest standards of accreditation in education, we strongly encourage our ministers to meet their continuing education needs either through endorsed Assemblies of God institutions or through other reputable institutions having accreditation status at least equivalent to that held by our own regionally and nationally accredited schools, and to consult the district council or General Council offices if they have any questions in these matters.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

Section 1. DATE

The regular session of the District Council shall convene annually between April 15 and May 15 of each year pursuant to a call of the Executive Presbytery.

ARTICLE VII. MINISTERIAL COURTESY

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

No minister carrying credentials shall serve on the church board, except the pastor and any staff member as provided by the local church Constitution and Bylaws.

- (b) Any minister who so offends shall be subject to Scriptural treatment as an offender by the District Presbytery or the General Council Credentials Committee. Such discourtesy will seriously affect the granting of annual fellowship certificates and

may be the basis for their recall.

- (c) Any minister carrying credentials with the District and holding office in a local church shall be amenable to the pastor and church board.

## **ARTICLE VIII. DISCIPLINE**

Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible. The aims of discipline are that God may be honored, that the purity and welfare of the ministry may be maintained, and that those under discipline may be brought to repentance and restoration (Galatians 6:1). (see General Council Bylaws: Article X).

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

A minister shall not be permitted to be accompanied by one or more attorneys at any meeting, hearing, or appeal pertaining to his or her discipline. A minister shall be permitted to be accompanied by one approved credentialed minister at any meeting, hearing, or appeal pertaining to his or her discipline.

## **ARTICLE IX. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES**

### **A. GENERAL COUNCIL AFFILIATED ASSEMBLIES**

#### Section 1. QUALIFICATIONS FOR RECOGNITION

- (a) Minimum Membership  
An active voting membership of not less than twenty (20) persons who shall accept responsibility to maintain scriptural order in the local body. In cases where there are fewer than 20 voting members, an exception may be granted by the district, in compliance with General Presbytery policy, and provided that the church has demonstrated the capacity for self-governance;
- (b) Statement of Fundamental Truths  
An acceptance of the Assemblies of God Tenets of Faith (District Constitution, Article VI).
- (c) Acceptable Standards of Membership  
A Scriptural standard of membership determined by the local assembly.
- (d) Local Church Leadership
  - (1) Standard for offices of bishop, or elder and deacon. Since the New Testament restricts divorced and remarried believers from the church offices of bishop, or elder and deacon, we recommend that this standard be upheld by all our assemblies (Titus 1:5-9; I Timothy 3:12), except when the divorce occurred prior to conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17) 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).
  - (2) Prerogative of local assemblies. It is understood that recommendations are not binding, but local assemblies shall maintain the prerogative of setting their own standards (in accord with provisions of Article XI of the General Council Constitution).
- (e) Organization and Recognition
  - (1) Constitution and Bylaws

An affiliated assembly shall be set in order under the jurisdiction and/or with the approval of the District, and with a District or General Council recommended or approved Constitution and Bylaws.

(2) Incorporation

An affiliated assembly shall request assistance and guidance from the District in obtaining a proper religious non-profit corporation from the state.

(f) Membership Certificate

Upon notification by the District of the action, the General Secretary's office shall issue a certificate of affiliation to each church coming into the Fellowship which has been approved for General Council affiliation.

(g) Demonstrate a willingness to contribute to Assemblies of God missions.

Section 2. PREROGATIVES AND PRIVILEGES

(a) Autonomy

The right of self-government under Jesus Christ, its living Head, which includes the power to choose or call its pastor, elect its official board, and transact all other business pertaining to its life as a local unit.

(b) Available Ministries

The right to request the assistance of the District officials in filling a pastoral vacancy and to benefit from other approved ministries.

(c) Discipline

The right to administer discipline to its members according to the Scriptures and its Bylaws.

(d) Property

The right to acquire and hold title to property, either through trustees or in its corporate name, as a self-governing unit. In case the congregation should cease to exist as a church body and ceases to use its property for church purposes, then the property is to revert to, and become the property of the Iowa District Council of the Assemblies of God.

(e) Appeal

(1) To District Officials

The right of the pastor, the board, or the church body, by petition, to appeal to the District officials for help when in need of counsel or advice.

(2) To General Council Presbytery

The right to appeal from a decision by the District officary to the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God regarding whether or not the assembly has received proper help from the District.

(3) To General Council General Presbytery

When exceptions are taken to the decisions of the Executive Presbytery, either by the local assembly or by the District Presbytery, an appeal may be made to the General Presbytery.

(f) Representation

The right of representation at the meetings of the General Council by one officially appointed and registered delegate, and at meetings of the District Council according to the provision for such (District Constitution, Article VIII, Section 3).

### Section 3. RESPONSIBILITIES

(a) Limited Sovereignty

The fact that a local assembly is affiliated in the association of the District Council or The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall in no way destroy its rights as above-stated or interfere with its sovereignty. There are certain additional responsibilities to the Fellowship that should be recognized.

(1) Adherence to General Council Principles and Doctrine

It shall be the duty of local assemblies to support, by every means possible, the basic principles upon which the Fellowship is founded, including that of voluntary cooperation and strict adherence to the Statement of Fundamental Truths.

(2) Maintenance of Scriptural Order and Conduct

Local assemblies shall accept their full share of responsibility for the maintenance of scriptural order in the local body, and uphold a Scriptural standard of conduct.

(b) Assemblies of God Ministries Support

(1) Regular Support of Churches Required

In order to support and develop the work and ministries of the Assemblies of God at home and abroad, each church shall be required to send offerings at least annually.

(2) Combined Report For All Offerings

A combined report of all offerings which are designated for departments shall be given under the caption of Assemblies of God Total Giving. The intent is to provide recognition for contributions to all ministries of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, to place each appeal and ministry on an equal basis, and to lend encouragement to churches and individual contributors to determine the appeal to which they will respond under the leading of the Spirit.

(3) Categories of Ministries For Which Credit Is Given For Offerings

Assemblies of God Total Giving recognition shall provide credit to Assemblies of God churches for contributions to various world ministries approved by the General Council (General Council Bylaws: Article VI, Section 2, (c), (3)).

(c) Annual Reports

Each church of the Assemblies of God is requested to keep a current record of its membership. A report of membership and other vital statistics shall be submitted on the Annual Church Ministries Report to the District Superintendent's office and to the General Secretary's office of the General Council.

(d) Safeguarding The Assemblies From Unapproved Ministries

(1) It is known that many unreliable and unsafe teachers and preachers go about seeking entrance into assemblies without any recommendation; therefore, all pastors, workers, and leaders of Assemblies should make proper investigation regarding those persons not known to them, and the platform be denied strangers until proper recommendations be forthcoming.

(2) Since the use of non-Assemblies of God evangelists may bring confusion and problems detrimental to the Fellowship, it is recommended that Assemblies of God churches use Assemblies of God evangelists.



- (3) The advice and counsel of the District Presbytery should be sought in all matters of importance. Pastors, presbyters, and District officials should maintain a reciprocal exchange of information relative to unreliable persons seeking ministry in our assemblies.
- (4) No minister dismissed by the Assemblies of God may be allowed to pastor or have ministry in an Assemblies of God church.
- (e) Transfer Of Local Church Membership
  - (1) It is recommended that a member desiring to affiliate with another church shall request a letter of introduction be sent by mail to that church from the one in which membership is presently held.
  - (2) It is recommended that the receiving church shall give an acknowledgment of transfer to the former church.
- (f) Support  
It is recognized that for any organization to survive and serve effectively, it must have the moral and financial support of its constituency. The District ministries must be supported by the local assembly. It is recommended that their financial support should be according to the policies of the District (District Bylaws, Article X, Section 2 and Article XI, Section 2).

#### Section 4. INTERVENTION OF DISTRICT IN A LOCAL ASSEMBLY

- (a) Circumstances Requiring Intervention  
While the right of a local assembly of self-government is a basic General Council principle, it is also recognized that the assembly has a responsibility to the District Council and General Council, and both have a responsibility to the assembly. Some of the circumstances which require intervention by the District officials are as follows:
  - (1) Division resulting in disruption.
  - (2) Assumption of dictatorial authority by the pastor or board.
  - (3) Prolonged absence of pastoral leadership.
  - (4) Deviation or departure from Assemblies of God principles and practices.
  - (5) Attempt to disaffiliate from Assemblies of God Fellowship.
- (b) Intervention Procedure  
The District has the right to meet with the pastor, board and/or congregation. This meeting can come about in the following ways:
  - (1) By request of the Pastor.
  - (2) By action of the board.
  - (3) By petition signed by 30 percent of its active voting members.
  - (4) By request of the District officials.
- (c) District Supervision  
If, in the judgment of the District Presbytery, a church becomes unable to manage itself in doctrine, government, or finances, a vote of the congregation shall be taken as to whether it

comes under supervision. A majority vote is necessary for passage. Guidelines for supervision to be decided upon before the vote is taken should include:

- (1) The term of supervision.
- (2) The extent of supervision.

If the church is proven to be in doctrinal error, is moving to leave the fellowship, or is under leadership not credentialed by the Assemblies of God, and is unwilling to come under District supervision, the District retains the right to impose supervision until the matter is satisfactorily corrected. The status of the church shall not change, since the supervision is of a temporary nature.

#### **Section 5. DISCIPLINE OF ASSEMBLIES**

Since the approval of an assembly is the prerogative of the District and General Council, and is indicated by the issuance of appropriate certificates of affiliation, the Iowa District Council of the Assemblies of God has the right to request a meeting with the assembly if, for some valid reason, its status is in question. The General Council of the Assemblies of God has the right to withdraw its certificate of membership, if deemed necessary.

#### **Section 6. NEW ASSEMBLIES RESULTING FROM A DIVISION**

(a) **Criteria For Recognition**

When efforts to maintain unity and harmony in an assembly have failed and a division results in a new congregation being formed, the District should exercise strong and wise leadership in ascertaining the facts, and seek to preserve Assemblies of God adherents for the Fellowship. Within the bounds of ethical principles, sound doctrine, and District policy, the District should seek to retain any meritorious group with the Assemblies of God.

(b) **Criteria For Discipline Of Pastor Who Is Involved**

If a minister is guilty of wrong conduct and wrong attitudes resulting in a split, the District Presbytery shall deal appropriately with him as provided in the District Bylaws, Article VIII.

#### **Section 7. PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF CHURCH PROPERTIES DISAPPROVED**

The District Council disapproves of the ownership of any church properties by other than the entire church body through its duly elected trustees.

#### **Section 8. REVERSION OF GENERAL COUNCIL AFFILIATED ASSEMBLY TO DISTRICT AFFILIATED STATUS**

When an annual questionnaire for a General Council affiliated church reflects that its active voting membership has dropped below twenty (20), the church shall be notified, at the discretion of the District Officers, that unless the membership is increased to a minimum requirement of twenty (20) active voting members within one (1) year, the church shall revert to District affiliated status.

When such action is taken, the District Office shall notify the General Secretary of the General Council and the local church.

The church shall remain in a District-affiliated status until sufficient growth and maturity has been demonstrated to qualify for General Council affiliation. An application for same shall be filed with the District Secretary and approved by the District Presbytery.

### **B. DISTRICT AFFILIATED ASSEMBLIES**

#### **Section 1. CHURCH CLASSIFICATION**

- (a) District Council Self-Governing Churches  
Assemblies that have proven their ability to govern themselves, are financially self-supporting, operate under their own Articles of Incorporation, have adopted Bylaws approved by the District Presbytery, and have applied for this classification may, by vote of the District Presbytery, be listed as District Council Churches. These churches shall have the same prerogatives, privileges and responsibilities as a General Council Affiliated Church with the exception of sending a delegate to the General Council in Session.
- (b) District Council Dependent Assembly  
Assemblies that are unable to meet the qualifications of a District Council Self-Governing Church (see (a) above) shall be listed as District Dependent Churches unless they are under the supervision of a parenting church (see (c) below). Such Dependent Churches shall operate on guidelines provided by the District. The official board of a Dependent Assembly shall consist of its pastor, the presbyter of the section in which it is located and the District Superintendent or his designated representative.
- (d) Parent Affiliated Churches  
Assemblies which are initiated or adopted by a General Council Church and operate under the supervision and the Articles of Incorporation and Constitution and Bylaws of the sponsoring church shall be listed as a Parent Affiliated Church (PAC). These PACs may be a satellite or multi-site church, or a language or cultural group who meets in the parent church's facilities. Such PACs shall be listed in District Council and General Council records as a Parent Affiliated Church.
- (e) Cooperating Assemblies  
Churches that subscribe to Article V. Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council Constitution who desire to enter into a cooperative status with a district and the General Council on a temporary basis before officially affiliating with the District Council and/or the General Council shall be listed as Cooperating Churches. This status is for a four (4) year term, renewable at the request of the local church congregation at the discretion of the District Council Executive Presbytery in cooperation with the General Council Executive Presbytery.
- (f) Satellite and Multi-Site Assemblies  
Churches that meet the criteria and qualifications as outlined in Article IX, C.

## Section 2. PREROGATIVE AND PRIVILEGES

- (a) Degree of Supervision  
The District officials shall be represented on the board of a District-affiliated Assembly, but the degree of supervision by the District will be determined by the District officary.
- (b) Title To The Property  
The title to the property of a District affiliated assembly shall be held by the Iowa District Council of the Assemblies of God, unless, in the judgment of the District officials, the church is qualified to be incorporated and hold title to its own property. In case the congregation should cease to exist as a church body and ceases to use its property for church purposes, then the property is to revert to and become the property of the Iowa District Council of the Assemblies of God.
- (c) Certificate of Affiliation  
A Certificate of Affiliation will be issued by the Iowa District Council to an assembly that qualifies for District affiliation.
- (d) Delegate  
Each General Council church shall be granted one (1) delegate to the District Council and one (1) to the General Council. District Council Self-Governing churches shall be granted one (1) delegate

to the District Council and none to the General Council. District Dependent, Parent Affiliated, Cooperating Assemblies, Satellite and Multi-site Assembly churches shall have no delegates to either the District or General Councils.

### **C. SATELLITE AND MULTI-SITE ASSEMBLIES**

#### **Section 1. SATELLITE AND MULTI-SITE CLASSIFICATION**

A General Council assembly, when opening a satellite or multi-site church under its supervision, shall inform the District leadership that the satellite or multi-site church is opening and the church shall be listed on District Council and General Council records as a District affiliated church under the supervision of the sponsoring church.

#### **Section 2. RECOGNITION OF SATELLITE OR MULTI-SITE CHURCH AS A DISTRICT COUNCIL OR GENERAL COUNCIL CHURCH.**

Upon mutual agreement of the sponsoring church, the satellite or multi-site church, and the District Council (in accordance with District Council and General Council constitutional and bylaw procedures), the satellite or multi-site church may be recognized as a District Council or General Council assembly. At such time of recognition, the governance of the satellite or multi-site church shall be transferred from the sponsor church to the newly recognized District Council or General Council assembly.

### **D. CHURCH PROPERTY**

The District recommends that each Assemblies of God Church of the Iowa District to incorporate the following resolution in its bylaws:

"In case of a defection from the faith as set forth in the Statement of Fundamental Truths in the Constitution of the General Council of The Assemblies of God, or from affiliation with the Assemblies of God, any portion of the membership subscribing to and practicing the above-mentioned tenets of faith, and retaining affiliation with the Assemblies of God, shall hold possession of and have full title to all property of this corporation with full rights under the provision of these Articles and of the Constitution and Bylaws of this corporation."

### **E. PASTORAL CHANGE**

Ministers leaving their pastorates are requested to notify the District Superintendent and the Presbyter of their Section thirty (30) days or more in advance. The notice shall be in writing when possible.

### **F. PRESERVATION OF AFFILIATION**

In the event that disaffiliation with the General Council of the Assemblies of God is under consideration by an affiliated assembly, the pastor or board shall inform the District Superintendent in writing by certified mail. Once this communication is received by the superintendent, the church must wait a minimum of ninety (90) days to convene a special called business meeting to consider disaffiliation. The church membership roster must remain unchanged until the process to disaffiliate has been completed, except in cases where a member is under discipline for moral failure. The pastor will meet with the District Superintendent as soon as possible to discuss the situation. The pastor and board will meet with the district officers within thirty (30) days of notification with the express purpose of discussing the church's rationale for disaffiliation and giving the district officers the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation. Within sixty (60) days of notification the pastor, board and district officials will participate in a specially called church business meeting where such matters will be discussed for the express purpose of giving the district officers the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council Affiliation with no vote regarding disaffiliation to be taken. If, after these meetings, resolution between the church's leadership and the District leadership has not been reached and a specially called business meeting is called to discuss and vote upon disaffiliation, the pastor or board shall invite the district officers to participate in said business meeting for the express purpose of giving the district officers the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council Affiliation. A decision to disaffiliate shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership, or a more restrictive rule prescribed by the governing documents of the church or district. In the case of a previously existing church which later affiliated with the

Fellowship through a vote of its membership, the percentage required to disaffiliate shall not exceed the percentage required when the church voted to affiliate.

## ARTICLE X. FINANCE AND PROPERTY

### Section 1. TITLE TO PROPERTY

All real and personal property of the Network shall be deeded to the Network and held in its name.

### Section 2. PURCHASE, SALE AND ENCUMBERING REAL PROPERTY

The purchase of any real property shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present and voting at any duly called and noticed regular or special meeting of the Network Council.

The sale or encumbrance of any real property which is owned and operated by the Network as a campground or as the Network office shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present and voting at any duly called and noticed regular or special meeting of the Network Council.

The sale or encumbrance of all other real property owned by the Network shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of directors present and voting at any duly called and noticed regular or special meeting of the Board.

### Section 3. TRANSACTIONS

The Board shall have the authority to borrow funds and enter into business transactions. In no case shall the Board enter into any one business transaction involving a larger sum than One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000.00) without the prior approval of the District Council. This restriction does not apply to Revolving Loan or Home Missions grants or loans to church plants, revitalization churches, or other churches requiring financial assistance; the purchase, sale, or encumbering of real property as described in these Bylaws; or the exemption covered in Standing Resolution #13.

### Section 4. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

#### (a) Ministers Support Of District Council

To have the endorsement of the District for ministry in the District in all capacities (evangelists, pastors, staff, etc.) and for renewal of credentials all ministers must financially support the District monthly as follows:

- (1) Ministerial dues equal to a tithe of their ministerial income.
- (2) Nationally appointed World or U.S. Missionaries according to General Council By-laws and policies.
- (3) Evangelists, employees of the General Council, Assemblies of God schools and institutions, or other schools acceptable to the General Council, are required to contribute ministerial dues equal to one-half (1/2) of the tithe of their ministerial income.
- (4) Ministers with no ministerial income are required to contribute monthly dues of \$10.00 if ordained, and \$5.00 if certified or licensed.
- (5) Ministers with limited ministerial income are required to contribute minimum dues monthly of \$10.00 if ordained, and \$5.00 if certified or licensed, unless their ministerial tithe is more than the minimum dues.

- (6) If a married couple are both credentialed and only one has ministerial income, the minimum dues of the spouse may be deducted from the ministerial “tithe” of his/her spouse.
- (7) Those classified as “disabled”, or “senior-retired”, who have no ministerial income, have no financial obligation to the District and may direct their contributions as they may choose.

(b) Minister Support of General Council

Ordained, licensed/specialized licensed and certified ministers shall contribute from their tithe, or as an offering to the General Council the minimum amounts set forth in the General Council bylaws, Article VII Ministry, Section 10. Credential Renewals and Reinstatements, paragraph f. Support of the National Leadership and Resource Center. All who can are strongly urged to give more than the suggested amount, either personally or through the assemblies they pastor.

Compliance with the above requirements relating to both District and General Council shall be a prerequisite for renewal of credentials of all active ministers. If their dues are in arrears, they shall be given an opportunity to meet this deficit with their renewal.

(c) Eligible Officers

No minister shall be eligible for either District or Sectional office who failed to cooperate in the financial support of the District Office.

The silence of any ministers nominated for office will be affirmation they have fulfilled the financial obligations.

This qualification for office shall be stated by the chairman at the Sectional and District Council meetings just prior to the balloting for the election of officers.

(d) Churches Support of District Council

It is recommended that each church participate in the support of the District by contributing monthly to one of the following programs:

(1) Church Partners Program – Church Tithe

A tithe of the church's general fund (less any pastoral salaries and benefits) shall be sent each month to the District Office. Such tithes received by the District shall be divided among Home Missions, District Ministries, District Development, Camp Operations, World Misisons and Student Ministries.

(2) Church Partners Program - 2%

Two percent (2%) of the church's general fund shall be sent each month to the District Office. This contribution will be divided as in the tithing program.

(e) Offerings

Offerings may be taken at each District meeting for the expenses of the District.

Section 5. REVOLVING LOAN

There shall be made available a permanent fund for loans to Assemblies of God churches of the Iowa District to assist in the buying, building, repairing, and improving of churches; and buying and building of parsonages. (See Iowa District Council Assemblies of God Revolving Church Loan Program.)

**ARTICLE XI. DEPARTMENTAL MINISTRIES**

The District Superintendent shall be authorized to establish a variety of departmental ministries, as is deemed necessary and appropriate by the District Presbytery. Departmental ministries shall function according to operational policies established by the Superintendent in consultation with the District Presbytery. Departmental operational policies shall be recorded in a District policy manual. The establishment of departments, the appointment of departmental leadership and the establishment of departmental policies shall be approved by the District Presbytery. All such departments and departmental leadership shall be amenable to the District Presbytery.

## **ARTICLE XII. FINANCIAL PLANS**

### **Section 1. THE MINISTERS LIFE GROUP PLAN**

The Ministers Life Group Insurance Plan, as adopted by the Iowa District Council, is operated by The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Information is available from the General Council Insurance Department.

### **Section 2. MINISTER'S BENEFIT ASSOCIATION**

The Minister's Benefit Association, a subsidiary of The General Council, offers an opportunity whereby both the minister and church may contribute toward retirement income for the minister.

### **Section 3. CHURCH EXTENSION PLAN**

The Iowa District is a member of the Church Extension Plan (CEP), with headquarters at Salem, Oregon. The CEP is designed to finance church building programs. The General Presbyters of the cooperating Districts elect from their members the Board of Directors. Anyone desiring information for procuring a loan may contact the District Office.

## **ARTICLE XIII. PUBLICATION**

Inasmuch as the Iowa Ministry Network News is the official publication of the Iowa District, it shall be owned and operated by the Iowa District with headquarters at Urbandale, Iowa.

## **ARTICLE XIV. MILITARY SERVICE**

While we recognize human government as having divine ordination, and while we affirm our unswerving loyalty to the Government of the United States, we nevertheless are constrained to define our position with reference to the taking of human life:

As a Movement, we affirm our loyalty to the Government of the United States in war and peace. We shall continue to insist, as we have historically, on the right of each member to choose whether to declare his/her position as a combatant, a noncombatant, or a conscientious objector.

## **ARTICLE XV. INSTITUTIONS**

### **Section 1. ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

The District Council shall be in sympathy with the establishing and developing of alumni associations of Assemblies of God colleges for the betterment of Christian education and fellowship.

### **Section 2. NORTH CENTRAL UNIVERSITY**

The Iowa District Council is a participating District in the ownership of North Central University (NCU). The Iowa District shall provide representation to the NCU Board of Regents. This representation shall include the District Superintendent or a representative of his/her choice. Other representation of pastors, lay leaders, or at large members shall be selected by the NCU Board Chair, President and the Committee on Regents.

## **ARTICLE XVI. ORDER**

### **Section 1. BUSINESS SESSIONS**

All business sessions of the District Council shall be governed by the Newly Revised Robert's Rules of Order for parliamentary procedure in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

### **Section 2. PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS**

All resolutions for presentation to the District Council, except emergency measures, shall be delivered to the District Superintendent's office at least sixty (60) days prior to the beginning date of the annual meeting. These resolutions will be mailed to every member of the District Council for consideration, prior to District Council.

Resolutions of an emergency nature, as determined by the Presbytery Board, shall be decided by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Council. Said resolutions shall be printed and given to the ministers and delegates at the time of District Council.

## **ARTICLE XVII. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The regular order of business of the District Council shall be:

1. Report of the Roster Committee
2. Report of the District Superintendent
3. Election of Officers
4. Reports of Executive Officers
5. Committee Reports
6. Unfinished Business
7. New Business
8. Adjournment

The District Council shall include times of prayer and devotional services. The reading of reports shall be permanently suspended (Resolutions, Section 1). Following the Report of the District Superintendent, the Election of Officers shall be interspersed with the remainder of the business of the District Council.

## **ARTICLE XVIII. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any regular meeting of the District Council. Amendments to be adopted shall require a majority of all votes cast (District Bylaws: Article XVI, Section 2 for exceptions).

**DOCTRINES  
AND  
PRACTICES  
DISAPPROVED**



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## **DOCTRINES & PRACTICES DISAPPROVED**

In accord with its constitutional prerogatives, The General Council of the Assemblies of God has declared itself pertaining to disapproval of certain matters as follows:

### **Section 1. UNCONDITIONAL SECURITY**

In view of the biblical teaching that the security of the believer depends on a living relationship with Christ (John 15:6); in view of the Bible's call to a life of holiness (1 Peter 1:16; Hebrews 12:14); in view of the clear teaching that a man may have his part taken out of the Book of Life (Revelation 22:19); and in view of the fact that one who believes for a while can fall away (Luke 8:13); The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the unconditional security position which holds that it is impossible for a person once saved to be lost.

### **Section 2. LEGALISM**

#### **(a) Matters of Conscience**

The Assemblies of God strongly affirms that the Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). However, since sincere commitment to holy living sometimes results in sharp differences of opinion among believers on debatable disapproves of those who hold to matters of personal conscience. The Assemblies of God disapproves the practice of pressing these debatable matters of personal consequence upon others.

#### **(b) Adding Conditions to Salvation**

The Assemblies of God strongly affirms that salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8, 9). Therefore, the Assemblies of God disapproves any teaching or practice that seems of those who hold to issues that seems to add conditions to salvation. (Galatians 3:1 – 5).

### **Section 3. ESCHATOLOGICAL ERRORS**

#### **(a) The Restitution of All Things**

The Assemblies of God understands the teaching of Acts 3:21 to limit the restoration to that of which the prophets have spoken, thus denying the universal redemption theory. We are opposed to all forms of universalism (Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:10).

#### **(b) Setting a Date For the Lord's Return**

It is unwise to teach that the Lord will come at some specified time, thereby setting a date for His appearing (Mark 13:32, 33; Luke 12:37-40; 1 Thessalonians 5:2). It is also unwise to give out from the platform, or publish, visions of numbers and dates fixing the time of the second coming of the Lord.

#### **(c) Post-Tribulation Rapture**

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

#### **(d) Amillennialism**

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

#### **(e) Credentials Jeopardized if Made an Issue**

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

#### Section 4. MEMBERSHIP IN SECRET ORDERS

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

The nature of such organizations demands secrecy (John 18:20; Acts 26:26) reinforced by religious oaths (Matthew 5:34) and strong attachment by binding obligations to persons who are for the most part unregenerate (2 Corinthians 6:14). The spirit, philosophy, and general influence of such secret orders aim at the improvement of the natural man only (1 Corinthians 2:14; Colossians 2:8), thus wrongly channeling by incorrect interpretations, important spiritual truths (2 Peter 3:16).

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

In consideration of the foregoing, all ministers affiliated with the Assemblies of God should refrain from identifying themselves with any of the secret orders that the General Council recognizes as essentially of the world, worldly; and the General Council advises any who may have identified themselves with such orders to sever their connections with them (2 Corinthians 6:17). Furthermore, Assemblies of God ministers are requested to use their good influence among our lay members to dissuade them from such fraternal affiliations (1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:24-26).

#### Section 5. DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

##### (a) Membership

##### (1) Marriage Entanglements Before Conversion

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

##### (2) Common-law Marriages

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

##### (b) Remarriage

Low standards on marriage and divorce are very hurtful to individuals, to the family, and to the cause of Christ. Therefore, we discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching. We positively disapprove of Christians getting divorces for any cause except fornication and adultery (Matthew 19:9). Where these exceptional circumstances exist or when a Christian has been divorced by an unbeliever, we recommend that the question of remarriage be resolved by the believer as he or she walks in the light of God's Word (1 Corinthians 7:15, 27, 28).

##### (c) Local Church Leadership

##### (1) Standard for Office of Bishop, or Elder, and Deacon

Since the New Testament restricts divorced and remarried believers from the church offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon, we recommend that this standard be upheld by all our assemblies (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:12), except when the divorce occurred prior to conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17) 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).

(2) Prerogative of Local Assemblies

It is understood that recommendations are not binding, but local assemblies shall maintain the prerogative of setting their own standards (in accord with provisions of Article XI of the Constitution).

(d) Performing marriage ceremonies

(1) Ministerial guidelines.

We **discourage** any Assemblies of God minister performing a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former spouse is still living, unless the case is included in the exceptional circumstances described in Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraph b.

(2) Violation of conscience not required.

We realize that the remarrying of such persons included in the exceptive circumstances in Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraph b, could violate the conscience of a minister; and if this should be the case, the minister should not be expected to perform such ceremonies.

(3) Same-sex ceremonies.

No minister shall perform any type of marriage, cohabitation, or covenant ceremony for persons who are of the same sex. Such a ceremony would endorse homosexuality which is a sin and strictly forbidden in God's Word (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26,27; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Timothy 1:9-11). Any minister of our Fellowship who performs a ceremony for these types of disapproved relations, unless innocently deceived into doing so, shall be dismissed from the Fellowship.

(4) Counsel.

An Assemblies of God minister is urged to counsel applicants for marriage ceremonies with scriptural guidelines for Christian marriage prior to performing the ceremony. A minister may not perform ceremonies for persons who, in the minister's opinion, approach marriage without proper forethought, wisdom, and sobriety.

(e) Ministerial Credentials

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

Section 6. WORLDLINESS

In view of the alarming erosion of national moral standards, we reaffirm our intention of holding up biblical standards against all forms of worldliness. We urge all believers to "love not the world, neither the things that are in the world....For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 John 2:15, 16).

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

## Section 7. ABUSES OF STEWARDSHIP

### (a) Tithing

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

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

### (b) Solicitation of Funds

(1) It is considered improper and unethical for ministers or missionaries to solicit funds, by letter or otherwise, for anything or any reason whatsoever without proper authorization.

(2) The purpose of this Section is not to hinder or discourage legitimate projects but to protect the Fellowship from those who employ methods not in harmony with Assemblies of God principles or policies. Leaders in local projects shall have unquestioned freedom in local churches or communities.

Projects of general interest to the District must have authorization of the District officers.

Projects or institutions of national scope that plan to solicit funds from Assemblies of God churches must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Promotion of all projects of a missions character must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery.

(3) The obtaining and use of mailing lists for promotional purposes not having proper authorization or which are not in keeping with policies of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be considered improper and unethical, whether it be under the name of a prayer chain beyond a local scope, chain letters, or appeals to the constituency for the support of ventures of strictly local or personal character. All offenders guilty of the practices expressed in the foregoing paragraphs shall be subject to discipline.

### (c) Private Ownership of Religious Institutions

The General Council of the Assemblies of God approves the holding of title to all church buildings, schools, or other institutions that are supported by funds solicited for the work of God by properly constituted corporations. It disapproves the holding of title to such properties by the ministers of the Assemblies of God, through private ownership, corporations sole, or closed corporations. In the event a local congregation is not incorporated or set in order by the District Council, title should be vested in properly qualified trustees. Where private ownership exists, a properly incorporated body shall be formed and title to the property shall be transferred to the corporation.

A disregard of this principle and recommendation shall seriously affect the relation of the Assemblies of God members involved in such ownership.

#### Section 8. VIOLATIONS OF MINISTERIAL COURTESY

All discourteous conduct is disapproved, and all ministers are advised against interfering with pastors in charge of assemblies, whether it be by going in upon their work without consent or by such correspondence with members of the assembly as will hurt the influence of the leader.

All correspondence which concerns the whole assembly shall be addressed to the one in charge and not to individual members. Where there is no pastor, letters concerning the work shall be addressed to the officers of the assembly.

Any minister who so offends shall be subject to discipline

#### Section 9. MINISTRY IN A NON-ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CHURCH

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

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

We recommend therefore that our ministers confer with District Council Officials before engaging in ministry in any church group or organization not affiliated with the Assemblies of God so as to ascertain whether such ministry might result in confusion or misunderstandings. If the minister does not have District approval, he or she shall be expected to refrain from conducting services for the church. Ministers who violate this principle shall be subject to discipline.

#### Section 10. AN IMPROPER ATTITUDE TOWARD THOSE REMOVED FROM THE FELLOWSHIP

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

#### Section 11. INTERDENOMINATIONAL OR ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

The General Council of the Assemblies of God encourages ministers or churches to fellowship with other Christians of like precious faith who hold to the inspiration of Scripture, the deity of Christ, the universality of sin, the substitutionary Atonement, the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and His second coming.

The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall not belong to any interdenominational or ecumenical organization that denies the evangelical beliefs stated in the above paragraph, and urges its ministers and churches to avoid entanglement with such interdenominational or ecumenical organizations except to bear witness to our evangelical and Pentecostal faith and experience.

#### Section 12. DIVINE HEALING AND PROFESSIONAL MEDICINE

The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of any credentialed minister counseling a believer to exclude medical advice and/or treatment when seeking prayer for physical healing. Assemblies of God ministers shall not represent medical advice and/or treatment as a lack of faith in God's healing power.

#### Section 13. ACCOUNTABILITY IN EDUCATIONAL ATTRIBUTION

(a) Attribution. In order to maintain our testimony of quality and integrity in educational credentials before the Church and the world, and to minimize the possibility of our ministers and churches being victimized by, or supporting, or perpetrating frauds in education or credentialing, we maintain certain standards for the attribution of degrees, certifications, and titles.

- (1) *Attribution by ministers.* Our ministers shall refrain from listing, promoting, or attributing to themselves or others any degrees or titles conferred by institutions or organizations having, at the time of conferral, a formal accreditation status less than that

of our appropriately corresponding Assemblies of God institutions (whether institute, regional university, or seminary).

- (2) *Attribution by the General Council.* No media, ministry, department, arm, or employee of the General Council shall list, attribute, or promote for any person, any degree or title conferred by an institution or organization having, at the time of conferral, a formal accreditation status less than that of our appropriately corresponding Assemblies of God institutions (whether institute, regional university, or seminary).
- (3) *Attribution by local churches.* We strongly encourage our ministers, boards, and churches to take great care to ensure that all ministers and church employees have actually earned the legitimately accredited education, training, and certification, as defined above, which they claim by their titles or degrees (such as counselor, therapist, doctor, and so on).
- (4) *Attribution accepted.* All previously earned or conferred degrees prior to August 2007, from any institution whatsoever shall be fully accepted and grandfathered in.

(b) Intentional failure to comply. Intentional refusal to comply with this ethical standard for educational credentials constitutes perpetrating a fraud upon the church and the world, personally and in the good name of the Assemblies of God, and the General Council disapproves of such practices.

#### Section 14. ABSTINENCE FROM ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND RECREATIONAL DRUGS

The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the use of substances, such as but not limited to alcohol, tobacco, and recreational drugs, that are harmful to the body or mind, or that detract from a Christian's testimony, or that are a cause of stumbling to others, or that impair good judgment.





**STANDING RESOLUTIONS  
OF THE  
IOWA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**STANDING RESOLUTIONS OF  
THE IOWA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Section 1. SUSPEND READING REPORTS**

Inasmuch as the District Reports come to the District Council printed in permanent form, these reports shall not be read to the convention, except by a majority vote of the Council in session.

**Section 2. ANNUAL CHURCH AND PASTORS REPORTS (1982)**

We urge our ministers to send their annual questionnaire to the District Office in the month of December and annual church report before the deadline date of January 31.

**Section 3. ANNUAL MINISTER'S TITHE REPORT (1972)**

We delete the publishing of the annual report of minister's contributions, which is sent to all ministers.

**Section 4. ASSEMBLY OF GOD NAME (1979)**

Be it Recommended that the name 'Assemblies of God' be acknowledged, honored, and kept before the Assemblies of God people;

Be it Further Recommended that our churches have the Assemblies of God name, or use of the Assemblies of God emblem, as a part of their church name;

Be it Further Recommended that no Assemblies of God church affiliated with the Iowa District Council of the Assemblies of God represent itself as being independent or interdenominational.

**Section 5. DISTRICT COUNCIL MINUTES (1981)**

The Presbytery Board shall approve the minutes of our annual District Council at their first regular board meeting following District Council.

**Section 6. SPONSORS OF RESOLUTIONS (1982)**

When resolutions are presented to the District Council, the names of the sponsors shall be read. Any printed Resolutions mailed prior to Council, shall also list the names of the sponsors.

**Section 7. NATIONAL MINISTERS DAY (1982)**

The Iowa District Council of the Assemblies of God recommend that all our churches give honor where honor is due by setting aside, each year, the second Sunday of October as a day to honor their ministers.

**Section 8. PASTORING IN SAME AREA**

We disapprove of a minister, who has served as pastor or ministerial staff in a given area, serving in a ministerial capacity in another assembly in that area without the expressed written consent of the Executive Presbytery. Violation of this principle will seriously affect the granting of an annual Fellowship Certificate, and may be the basis for their recall.

**Section 9. PASTORAL STAFF**

We strongly urge and recommend that all members of pastoral staff in our churches who officiate in the capacity as described in Article VII, Section 1, in the General Council Bylaws, carry Assemblies of God Credentials.

**Section 10. LOCAL CONSTITUTION & BYLAW CHANGES**

We strongly recommend that all our churches making changes in their Constitution and Bylaws should submit those changes to the District Office for review and recommendation before they are presented to the local congregation.

Section 11. QUALIFICATIONS FOR CHURCH PASTOR

The Pastor of this church shall at all times be a credentialed minister of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, or a minister serving with the express written approval of the Executive Presbytery of the Iowa District Council of the Assemblies of God. In the event the Pastor of this church ceases to be a credentialed minister of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., or a minister serving with the express written approval of the Executive Presbytery of the Iowa District Council of the Assemblies of God, the office of the Pastor of this church shall be deemed vacated. In no event shall a present/former pastor of this church who is no longer credentialed by the General Council of the Assemblies of God serve as pastor or staff member of this church without the express written consent of the Executive Presbytery of the Iowa District Council of the Assemblies of God. The express written consent of the Executive Presbytery of the Iowa District Council of the Assemblies of God shall be required to amend, remove or revoke this bylaw provision on the 'Qualifications for Church Pastor'.

Section 12. NON-SUBSTANTIVE EDITING OF DISTRICT CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

A person assigned by the District Superintendent or Executive Presbytery shall make non-substantive editorial changes in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Iowa District Council to achieve correct referencing; proper updating of articles, Sections and sub-Sections; correct lettering and numbering of the same; and consistency in terminology, capitalization and grammar in general.

Section 13. LIMITED AUTHORITY TO PERMIT THE DISTRICT PRESBYTERY TO APPROVE ADDITIONS OR MAJOR MAINTENANCE OF SUNSTREAM CAMPGROUND.

The District Presbytery shall be granted authority to approve and borrow funds for projects at Sunstream Campground when the District Council is not in session, or when delaying a decision until the annual District Council is not expedient. Any project that would cause the total debt of Sunstream to exceed \$250,000 must have approval by the District Council in either its annual or specially called session before it is implemented.

Section 14. AUTOMATIC UPDATE OF THE IOWA DISTRICT COUNCIL CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS TO COMPLY WITH CHANGES IN THE GENERAL COUNCIL CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS.

A person assigned by the District Superintendent or Executive Presbytery shall make changes in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Iowa District Council to keep it in compliance with changes made to the General Council Constitution and Bylaws during the biennial or special called General Council session. These changes will be reviewed by the Iowa District Presbytery and presented at the following Iowa District Council