

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF BETHEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Updated Constitution and Bylaws to March 23, 2021

PREAMBLE

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the Worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Spirit may be honored according to privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands; we, whose name appear upon the assembly fellowship with and a part of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and of the Southern New England District Council of the Assemblies of God; and declare that we hereby adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this church shall be **BETHEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH, ASSEMBLY OF GOD** of the city of **BRISTOL**, State of **CONNECTICUT**.

ARTICLE II. PREROGATIVES

Section 1. This Assembly of God shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures, “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, . . . till we all come in the unity of faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:3, 13).

Section 2. In connection therewith, or incidental thereto, it shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest, or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes; all in accordance with its constitution and bylaws or as the same may be hereafter amended. The fact that this assembly is affiliated with the General and District Councils of the Assemblies of God shall in no way impair its right to hold title to property as a self-governing unit or impair its sovereignty with respect to such property.

ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION AND FELLOWSHIP

While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its affairs, this assembly declares itself to be voluntarily in full cooperative fellowship with all other churches affiliated with the Southern New England District of the Assemblies of God Inc., and The General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri; and shares in the privileges and assumes the responsibilities enjoined by this affiliation.

As a member of the General Council this assembly agrees to:

1. Cooperate by every possible means in extension of God’s work and kingdom throughout the world.
2. Support the missionary program agreed upon by the District and General Councils.
3. Participate in District and General Council sessions via duly chosen delegates.
4. Invite the counsel of the district officary in the event of church difficulty as determined by a majority of the Official Board (and when changing Lead Pastors).
5. Share in support of the District and General Council. (See General Council Bylaws, Article XVIII, Section 1. c. (2), and Section 2. (c).)

6. Recognize that the District Council or The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall have the right and authority to:
 - a. Approve scriptural doctrine and conduct; and
 - b. Disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct, as stated in Article III, paragraph f., of the General Council constitution.

This assembly recognizes that the District Council and General Council shall have the remedy of withdrawing the local assembly certificate of membership if deemed necessary.

ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH

This assembly accepts the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God, the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopts the Statement of Fundamental Truths of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, to wit:

Additionally, we prescribe and position ourselves with the theological, moral, and cultural issues as presented in the position papers of the Assemblies of God. (Appendix A).

1. The Scriptures Inspired

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

2. The One True God

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

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

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 (Gen. 1:26, 27; 2:17; 3:6; Rom. 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 of Salvation

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

b. The Evidence of Salvation

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

6. The Ordinances of the Church

a. Baptism in Water

The ordinance of Baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus, they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life. (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47, 48; Rom. 6:4).

b. Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements – bread and 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 Cor. 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Cor. 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers “till He comes!”

7. The Baptism in the Holy Ghost

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

8. The Initial Physical Evidence of the

Baptism in the Holy Ghost

The baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (1 Cor. 12:4-10, 28), but different in purpose and use.

9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 Thess. 5:23; Heb. 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of “holiness without which no man shall see the Lord” (Heb. 12:14). By the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to obey the command: “Be ye holy, for I am holy” (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 (Rom. 6:1-11, 13; 8:1, 2, 13; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 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 (Eph. 1:22, 23; 2:22; Heb. 12:23).

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

- a. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16).
- b. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Cor. 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 (Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Cor. 12:28; 14:12).

The Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason-of-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 4:29-30; Heb. 2:3, 4).
- b. Adds a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God (1 Cor. 2:10-16; 12, 13, 14).
- c. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ (Gal. 5:22-26; 1 Cor. 14:12; Eph. 4:11, 12; 1 Cor. 12:28; Col. 1:29).

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the three-fold purpose of leading the Church in **(1)** Evangelization of the world (Mark 15:15-20), **(2)** Worship of God (John 4:23, 24), **(3)** Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His son (Eph. 4:11-16).

12. Divine Healing

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

13. The Blessed Hope

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

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

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

15. The Final Judgment

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Rev. 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; Rev. 21, 22).

ARTICLE V. ORDINANCES

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

Section 2. The ordinance of the Lord’s Supper shall be observed regularly as enjoined in the Scriptures (Luke 22:19, 20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership Eligibility. Membership in the assembly shall be open to all those, over the age of 18 years old, who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who are water baptized, and who voluntarily subscribe to its tenets of faith and agree to be governed by its constitution and bylaws as herein set forth.

Section 2. Voting Membership. All those who meet the scriptural standards for membership, whose names appeared on the original membership roll of the assembly at the time the assembly was first organized, together with those names that shall be added from time to time, shall constitute the legal voting membership of the assembly, provided they are 18 years of age or over, that they regularly attend and take part in church services, that they have been a member for 30 days, that they are living consistent Christian lives and are in agreement with our distinctive testimony.

Section 3. Inactive Membership. Enrolled members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of the assembly for a period of 3 consecutive months or more, or who move away, or who cease to contribute of their means to its support, or who may be out of harmony with its teachings or who shall be under charges of misconduct, or who may have fallen under condemnation through sinful or worldly practices and have not responded to restorative efforts by the pastor(s), shall be considered as inactive members, shall lose their voting privileges, and be removed from the membership roll until they are restored to the fellowship, their standing to be settled by the definite action of the assembly through its elected officers i.e. Church Board.

Section 4. Honorary Members. Honorary members shall consist of those members who have entered the ministry as district officers, pastors, evangelists, missionaries, religious educators, or those serving in the Armed Services, or students attending school away from the city where this church is located, making it impossible to serve as active members. Honorary

membership recognition shall continue as long as the member maintains a consistent Christian life, remains sound in doctrine, and maintains a cooperative attitude toward the home assembly. (Voting privilege may be granted at the discretion of the assembly.)

Section 5. Associate Members. The Official Board shall be authorized to make provisions for associate (non-voting) members when such persons may have to be absent from their home assembly for prolonged periods of time such as attending college in the city where this church is not located.

Section 6. Special Members. The Official Board shall be authorized to make provisions for special (non-voting) members when such persons may not be capable of casting an informed vote due to illness, handicap or mental incapacity.

ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers. There shall be a Lead Pastor, an Official Board, a Secretary and Treasurer. Other Officers shall be added as may be needed.

Section 2. Official Board

- a. The Official Board consisting of six (6) members shall function under the leadership of the Lead Pastor.
- b. The Board Members shall be men or women of mature Christian experience and knowledge, who shall be expected to meet the requirements as set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Acts 6, and they shall have shown themselves to be faithful members in attendance to the regular church services and in giving of tithes and offerings to the church.
- c. Administrative affairs of the church shall be carried on by the Official Board. The Lead Pastor is responsible for the hiring and firing of church pastors/staff and consults to the official board and when necessary involves the elders in these processes. If new staff or pastoral positions are created then a decision is made by the majority of votes of the Official Board and with proper financial advice from the Church Treasurer to aid in the decision making process.
- d. Members of the Official Board shall be at least 25 years old, and shall have been members of the assembly for at least one (1) year.

Section 3. Elders. New Elders will be selected by the serving Elders subject to the approval of the Lead Pastor. Elders should conform to 1 Timothy 3:1-7. Elders who are appointed by the Pastor will assist with the spiritual leadership of the church.

Section 4. Pastors. The Lead Pastor along with the support team of fellow pastors, work in the daily operations of the church as employees and function spiritually in their calling to their specific areas of ministry. These individuals are licensed ministers at a local level, licensed with the Assemblies of God or ordained with the Assemblies of God and hold the minimum requirement of a bachelor's degree (or have relevant experience in their field of ministry). These individuals work and minister at the discretion of the Lead Pastor; therefore giving the Lead Pastor the right to take on or release employees at will (the board and elders of the church are part of this process and their advice and cooperation is sought). An exit interview will be performed with the Lead Pastor and a member of the board or eldership present; notes from the exit interview will be submitted to the monthly board reports.

Section 5. Indemnification. This church shall indemnify to the fullest extent permitted by law any officer, Board Member, employee or agent of the church who is a party to a proceeding because he is an officer, Board Member, employee or agent of the church. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no indemnification may be provided for an action or omission unless it did not (a) involve a knowing and culpable violation of law, (b) enable the person or a relative or associate to receive an improper economic gain, (c) show a lack of good faith and a conscious disregard for the duty of the person to the church under circumstances in which the person was aware that his conduct or omission created an unjustifiable risk to the church.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

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

Section 2. There shall be an annual business meeting of the assembly, at which time the election of officers shall take place and the report of all officers shall be presented. This meeting shall be held by the end month of May of each year. The time and place shall be given on the two Sundays prior to the date of the said meeting. All committee reports, including new business items, must be submitted to the Official Board before May 7th, for placement on the agenda. A notice calling for these reports will be sent by the Executive Pastor to the ministry leaders two (2) months prior to the annual meeting.

Section 3. Special business meetings of the assembly may be called when necessary, after proper notice has been given by the Lead Pastor or by a majority of the Official Board. Special meetings of the assembly may also be called for any purpose by petition having been signed by not less than one-third of the active membership of the assembly, the petition to be placed in the hands of the Lead Pastor or the Secretary and announcement made two consecutive Sundays immediately prior to the date of meeting. However, before the right of petition is exercised, the church should request the help of the district officary.

Section 4. Quorum. No record of any special or regular business meeting of the assembly shall be made unless one-third or more active members shall be present to constitute a quorum.

Section 5. The Official Board, with the Lead Pastor, shall meet monthly or as needed for the transaction of routine business for the assembly, time and place to be announced by the Lead Pastor. Participation in the meeting may be in person; or if necessary by telephone or virtual via video.

ARTICLE IX. DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1. Children's Ministry. There shall be a Children's Ministry existing and maintained as a branch of the church activities.

Section 2. Other Departments. All departments and committees shall be subordinate to the assembly and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the Lead Pastor and the Executive Pastor, and the Lead Pastor and Executive Pastor shall be an ex officio member of all committees and departments.

ARTICLE X. FINANCES

All funds for the maintenance of the assembly shall be provided by the financial donations (i.e. tithes and offerings) of the members and friends of the organization and sales of any goods or services provided by the assembly. *Offerings shall be accepted by the assembly at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the Lead Pastor and Official Board, and shall be administered by the Church Administrator and Lead Pastor under their direction for the benefit of this assembly* (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; 1 Cor. 16:1, 2; 2 Cor. 9:6-8).

ARTICLE XI. PROPERTY

Section 1. All property of the assembly shall be deeded to the assembly and held in its name.

Section 2. In the event this church shall cease to function for the purposes as declared heretofore in its Articles of Agreement and/or the Articles of its Constitution as a place of Christian worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, where Jesus is recognized as savior of mankind and for bible-based Christian teaching, prayer, evangelism and fellowship, then after providing for the payment of its debts, the remaining assets will not inure to the benefit of any private person or persons but all such remaining assets shall revert to, and be transferred to, the parent body, The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Missouri 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 within the Southern New England District and under the direction of the presbytery of said district.

In the event of cessation of this church, its Official Board shall within 1 year thereafter transfer all properties and any remaining assets to The General Council of the Assemblies of God in accordance with the foregoing provisions. If such transfer is not made within the time prescribed herein or if the aforesaid transfer as an organization operated exclusively for religious purposes with tax-exemption status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, then disposition thereof shall be made by the court of the county in which this church is located, provided that in such case proceeds of the dissolution shall be distributed to an organization or organizations having purposes nearest the purposes of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and which are organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes, and which have established tax-exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

In the event that the District Council or the General Council of the Assemblies of God shall withdraw the local assembly's certificate of membership, or if the assembly withdraws from the above named fellowship, the assembly shall retain the right to govern itself and shall in no way impair its right to hold title to its property as a self-governing unit or impair its sovereignty with respect to such property as stated in Article II PEROGATIVE.

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS

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

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The Lead Pastor shall be considered as the spiritual overseer of the assembly and shall direct all of its activities. He/She shall be the president of the corporation and shall act as chairman of all the business meetings of the assembly and the Official Board. He/She shall be an ex officio member of all committees and departments. He/She shall provide for all the services of the assembly and shall arrange for all special meetings, conventions, or revival campaigns. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the assembly without his/her approval.

Section 2. The Official Board is chosen to serve the church and therefore shall act in an advisory capacity with the Lead Pastor in all matters pertaining to the assembly in its spiritual life and in the ministry of its ordinances. The Official Board shall act in the examination of applicants for membership, and also in the administration of discipline. The Official Board shall be custodians of all the real property of the assembly.

Section 3. The Secretary shall maintain a file of the minutes of meetings of the Official Board and of the annual and special business meetings of the assembly. He/she shall be the custodian of all legal documents of the corporation in conjunction with the Church Administrator.

Section 4. The Church Treasurer's financial accountability system: All funds for the assembly are counted by 2 people, then recorded and taken to the bank by the Church Administrator and/or bookkeeper. Online contributions are directly deposited in Bethel's bank account. Printouts of online transactions are recorded by the Church Administrator/bookkeeper. The Church Administrator pays all bills, reconciles accounts and prepares reports for the Treasurer and Lead Pastor. The Lead Pastor, Executive Pastor and Church Administrator can sign checks. The Lead Pastor receives bank statements, credit card statements and other various monthly reports for review. The Treasurer and Church Administrator meet monthly to review finances and prepare reports for review by the board. Annual financial reports are prepared and reviewed by the Treasurer, Church Administrator and Lead Pastor, then are reviewed by the Church Board for approval by vote.

ARTICLE II. ELECTIONS, VACANCIES AND THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Section 1. When the search for a Lead Pastor is necessary a pastoral search committee will be assembled. The committee should be composed of two elders, two board members, two pastoral or support staff, two ministry leaders and the current lead pastor (in case of situations regarding death, sickness or removal then the Executive Pastor can fill the role of the Lead Pastor on this committee). The committee will interview possible candidates and then vote privately on the candidate they would like to present to the Official Board. Upon majority vote, the possible candidate for Lead Pastor will be presented to the church members to be voted upon in a special church meeting. Only one name shall be voted upon at a time. Election shall be by secret ballot at the Special Business Meeting of the assembly or at a special meeting called for that purpose. A two-thirds majority vote of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election.

Section 2. The Secretary and the Treasurer shall be selected by the Lead Pastor and elected by the Official Board. They shall be chosen from the membership of the assembly. They shall remain in office as long as the Board approves of their performance, based on an annual evaluation, and they agree to continue in the position.

Section 3. The Official Board shall be chosen from the membership of the assembly. They shall be nominated by a nominating committee and elected by a majority vote at the annual business meeting. Their terms of office shall be for three years. When the term of each is complete, that person shall be ineligible for election for one year.

Section 4. The Nominating Committee

The church shall have a nominating committee consisting of the Lead Pastor as Chairman, two (2) members of the Official Board, and two (2) other active members of the church who are not members of the Official Board. *The nominating committee shall be selected by the Official Board in the month of February and the nominating committee meeting shall convene in the month of March prior to the monthly business meeting which is held on the last tuesday of every month.*

It is their duty to select and place in nomination candidates to fill each office. There shall be no restrictions on the number of names for each office.

Members who have held active membership in this assembly for at least one year may be nominated. The committee is to nominate on the basis of qualifications and other requirements of the Constitution and Bylaws and provided the person consents to accept the nomination. No nominations shall be allowed from the floor at the annual meeting. The slate of nominees shall be posted two weeks prior to the election.

Section 5. Vacancies

- A. **The Lead Pastor.** In the event the Lead Pastor has serious charges preferred against him/her or his/her ministry has ceased to be effective, and no provision has been made for the termination of his/her ministry, responsibility is vested in the Official Board to ask for the resignation of the Lead Pastor at any of its regular business meetings. However, the Official Board cannot ask for the resignation of the Lead Pastor until after the Secretary or the Lead Pastor shall have called the District Superintendent and arranged for a meeting where a district official will seek to resolve the differences between the Lead Pastor and the Official Board. In the event that such differences cannot be resolved, and the asked for resignation is refused by the Lead Pastor, the pastorate shall not be considered vacant until the action of the Official Board has been sustained by a majority vote of the membership present and voting at a meeting called for the expressed purpose of voting on this action of the Official Board. Such meeting to be presided over by a district officer. If a majority vote sustains the action of the Official Board, then a vacancy in the pastorate shall occur, a supply shall be arranged for by the Official Board until a Lead Pastor shall be chosen as prescribed in Section 1. In the case of the Lead Pastor's removal from office a report of such action shall be made to the District Council office.
- B. **Other officers:**
- a. Any office may be declared vacant by an act of a majority of the membership of the Official Board at any regular or special business meeting. In the event that an office is vacated, the unexpired term shall be filled by appointment by the Lead Pastor and Official Board.
 - b. Ground for such action shall be: (1) Unscriptural conduct. (2) Departure from the tenets of faith. (3) Incompetency in office. (4) Any good and sufficient cause.

- c. Any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for a hearing of his/her case before the assembly if he/she so requests.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Standard of Membership

The standard of membership of this assembly shall be: (a) Evidence of a genuine experience in regeneration (the New Birth). (John 1:12, 13; 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:18-25). (b) Evidence of a consistent Christian life. (Rom. 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13, 14; Eph. 4:17-32; 5:1, 2, 15; 1 John 1:6, 7). (c) The 16 Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God (d) Willingness to regularly contribute financially and practically to the support of the assembly according to his or her ability. (e) Faithfully attend church gatherings, especially Sunday worship services (or in special cases view online), and attend required membership meetings.

Section 2. Reception of Members

- a. Persons desiring to become active members of the assembly shall make the fact known to the Lead Pastor, who shall examine the applicant according to the standard for membership.
- b. The Lead Pastor shall present the names of those who apply for membership with his/her recommendation to the Official Board who shall vote upon said recommendation. Upon approval, all persons who shall meet the membership requirements shall be received into the assembly publicly (or in special scenarios privately) at any of the regular Sunday services and their names inscribed on the roster.

Section 3. Discipline

- a. Any member of the assembly who shall willfully absent oneself from the regular services for a period of 3 consecutive months, or who is under charges, shall be removed from active voting membership by the Church Administrator.
- b. Unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith held by this assembly shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member by a majority of the Official Board. (Matt. 18:15-18; Rom. 16:17, 18; 1 Cor. 5:11; Gal. 1:8, 9; Titus 3:1-15). Unscriptural conduct are things such as but not limited to: sexual immorality, deviciveness, propagating false doctrine, conviction of theft, drunkenness, illegal drug usage, lude or sexually explicit behavior. Our objective would be to first seek the restoration of the said person; however incidents of a serious nature must and will be reported to the proper authorities. If restoration is possible, readmittance back into the assembly is required by a unanimous vote of the board.

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

Section 5. The Church Administrator shall be authorized to revise the membership roll of the assembly periodically, and to remove from the list of active members all names of those who may have become deceased during the year, together with the names of those who may have withdrawn from the fellowship, or who may have fallen into sin and whose lives may have become inconsistent with the standards and teachings of the assembly. The following rules and instructions shall be observed as occasion may require. (Matt. 18:15-17; Rom. 16:17, 18; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; 2 Thess. 3:6-15).

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

Section 6. Reinstatement of Membership- former members can resubmit a membership application, which will be submitted to the Lead Pastor and will be considered and voted up by the Official Board of the church. Upon approval, all persons who shall meet the membership reinstatement requirements shall be received into the assembly publicly (or in special scenarios privately) at any of the regular Sunday services and their names inscribed again on the roster.

ARTICLE IV. PROPERTY RIGHTS

Section 1. All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the corporate name of the assembly, or if the assembly is not incorporated, in the name of the district.

Section 2. No real or chattel property of the assembly over the value of \$50,000.00 shall be purchased, sold, leased, or mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without the same shall have first been authorized by a vote of at least two-thirds of the voting membership who are in attendance at a regular or special meeting of the assembly which has been called for the consideration of the proposal.

Section 3. Real or chattel property associated with a daughter church, church plant or additional campus may be purchased, sold, leased but not mortgaged, nor otherwise alienated by a majority vote of the Official Board. If a need arises for it to be mortgaged or otherwise alienated then ARTICLE IV. PROPERTY RIGHTS Section 2 applies.

Section 4. The Lead Pastor and the Secretary of the assembly shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized and recommended by the vote of the membership of the assembly. Such certificates shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

ARTICLE V. ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

1. Devotional.
2. Acceptance of the previous minutes by Secretary.
3. Report of Treasurer.
4. Report of committees.
5. Unfinished business.
6. Election of officers.
7. New business.
8. Adjournment.

ARTICLE VI. PARLIAMENTARY ORDER

In the conducting of its affairs, the church shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of Roberts' Rules of Order Newly Revised, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

The bylaws may be amended at any monthly meeting of the Official Board by a majority vote. Updated Bylaws will be provided to the assembly on a yearly basis during the annual business meeting, if amendments have been made.

ARTICLE VII. EMERGENCY BYLAWS

Section 1. Definitions and Procedures

a. An emergency exists for purposes of this section if a quorum of the church's members or directors cannot readily be assembled because of any of the following events:

A natural catastrophe, including, but not limited to, a hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought, or, regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion.

An attack on this state or nation by an enemy of the United States of America, or upon receipt by this state of a warning from the federal government indicating that an enemy attack is probable or imminent.

An act of terrorism or other manmade disaster that results in extraordinary levels of casualties or damage or disruption severely affecting the infrastructure, environment, economy, government functions, or population, including, but not limited to, mass evacuations.

A pandemic.

A state of emergency proclaimed by a governor or by the President.

Any other condition as a result of which a quorum cannot readily be assembled.

b. The emergency bylaws may make all provisions necessary for managing the church during the emergency, including but not limited to the following:

Procedures for calling a meeting of the Church Board, Elders or Voting Members.

Quorum requirements for any meeting.

Designation of additional or substitute directors.

Modification of lines of succession to accommodate the incapacity of any director, officer, employee, or agent resulting from the emergency.

Relocation of the principal office.

c. During an emergency, the Church staff shall have the maximum authority possible to run the church's interim affairs in the manner they deem best.

d. All provisions of the regular bylaws consistent with the emergency bylaws remain effective during the emergency. The emergency bylaws are not effective after the emergency ends.

e. Corporate action taken in good faith in accordance with the emergency bylaws both binds the church and may not be used to impose liability on a corporate director, officer, employee, or agent.

Section 2. Electronic Meeting and Action by Unanimous Consent

a. In the event of an emergency or other sufficient cause as determined by the church staff, church board or church elders may participate and act at any meeting through the use of any technology by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can communicate simultaneously with each other, upon such terms and in such manner as the church staff shall determine. Participation in such meeting shall constitute attendance and presence in person at the meeting of the member or members so participating.

b. Action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the church board may be taken without a meeting if all members consent thereto in writing, and the writings are filed with the minutes of proceedings of the Network Presbytery.