



**ARIZONA DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF THE  
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD  
BYLAWS  
FOR  
DISTRICT AFFILIATED  
ASSEMBLIES**

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## **Preface**

This Assembly shall operate as an unincorporated division of the Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God, under the attached Bylaws for District Affiliated Assemblies. The Bylaws shall serve as a guideline for the operation of all District Affiliated Assemblies within the Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God.

It is desirable that the form of organization for the Assembly be kept as simple as possible. The Assembly should not create offices without a clear need for such office. Members of committees should recognize that they have been chosen to serve, rather than to rule. Any such committee members shall serve at the pleasure of the Advisory Council.

The Pastor is the under-shepherd, called of God, to minister to spiritual needs and to direct the activities of this Assembly in accordance with these Bylaws and the Bylaws of the Arizona District Council. The Pastor should be respected as the leader of this Assembly.

**BYLAWS FOR  
DISTRICT AFFILIATED ASSEMBLIES**

Name of Assembly: \_\_\_\_\_ (the "Assembly")

Bylaws Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

**Preamble**

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Spirit may be honored according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ, by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands; we, whose names appear on the Assembly roster on the above date, do hereby recognize ourselves as a local Assembly in fellowship with and a part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God, and herein adopt the following Bylaws and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

## **ARTICLE I. ASSEMBLY AND AFFILIATION**

**Section 1.** The Assembly is an unincorporated division of the Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God, an Arizona nonprofit corporation, and is organized:

- a. To establish and maintain a place of worship; and
- b. To conduct, under the guidance of the Holy Scriptures, the work of evangelizing both U.S. Missions and World Missions in obedience to the command of the Lord Jesus (Matthew 28:19, 20); and in harmony with the teachings and practices of His servants and apostles (Acts 8:4, 5, 25, 26-40; 13:1-4; 16:6-10; Romans 10:12-17; 15:18-21; 2 Corinthians 10:16).

**Section 2.** This Assembly is affiliated with the Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God with headquarters in Phoenix, Arizona (the "Arizona District Council," including The Presbytery, Executive Presbytery, District Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Secretary Treasurer and all Elected Officials) and the General Council of the Assemblies of God with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri (the "General Council"). This Assembly shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation. By its affiliation, this Assembly agrees to submit to the authority of both the Arizona District Council and the General Council, and to adhere to the Bylaws of the Arizona District Council and the General Council. These Bylaws shall not conflict with the terms and conditions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Arizona District Council or the General Council. In the event of a conflict, the conflicting terms and conditions of these Bylaws will be void and will have no force or effect.

This Assembly shall only be pastored by a minister duly credentialed by the General Council and approved by the District Council.

### **SECTION 3.**

**THIS ASSEMBLY AGREES TO THE FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT "A".**

## **ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1 Standard of Membership**

Membership in the Assembly shall be “scriptural members” only, and shall not constitute membership in the Arizona District Council. The Standard of Membership of this Assembly should be as follows:

- a. Evidence of a genuine experience in regeneration (new birth) (John 1:12, 13; 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:18-25).
- b. Evidence of a consistent Christian life (Romans 6:4, 13, 14; Ephesians 4:17-32, 5:1, 2, 15; 1 John 1:6, 7).
- c. Subscription to the Fundamental Truths.
- d. Regular contribution to the support of the Assembly according to the Scriptures (Malachi 3:10; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-9).
- e. Evidence of a cooperative, submissive, humble and Christ-like spirit as the Scriptures enjoin.
- f. Membership will not be extended to any person known to be practicing unscriptural conduct which brings a reproach to the cause of Christ. All immorality condemned in Scripture shall be considered grounds for refusing membership until repentance is assured.

### **Section 2. Reception of Members**

- a. Persons desiring to become active Members of the Assembly should make the facts known to the Pastor, who should examine the applicant according to the Standard of Membership.
- b. The Pastor should recommend such applicants who meet the Standard of Membership to the Advisory Council, which, with him, will render a final decision on Membership status.
- c. All applicants who shall have met the Membership Standards and have been accepted as members by the Advisory Council and the Pastor should be received into the Assembly publicly at any of the regular Assembly services and their names shall be inscribed on the Assembly roster. The roster should indicate whether the Member is recognized as an Adult Voting Member or a Non-Active Member.

### **Section 3. Adult Voting Members**

Adult Voting Members of the Assembly should consist of such persons whose names appear on the Membership roll and who:

- a. Are 18 years of age or older;

- b. Are in good standing with the Assembly;
- c. Are regular contributors to the support of the Assembly with tithes and offerings according to their ability; and
- d. Have not willfully absented themselves from the regular services of the Assembly for a period of three consecutive months prior to the date of the vote in question.

#### **Section 4. Honorary Members**

Honorary Member status should be extended to persons holding ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God, those in military service, away at college or whose work makes it impossible for them to serve as Adult Voting Members.

#### **Section 5. Inactive Members**

Enrolled Members of this Assembly who:

- a. Shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of the Assembly for a period of three consecutive months or more;
- b. Cease to contribute of their means to support the Assembly;
- c. Are out of harmony with the Assembly's teachings or its ministries; or
- d. Shall be under charges of misconduct or shall have fallen under condemnation through sinful practices, shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to full fellowship. Upon notifying such person in writing of the charges and providing a reasonable opportunity for such person to respond thereto, the standing of such persons shall be settled by definite and prompt action of the Assembly through its Advisory Council. No person shall be restored to voting Membership within 30 days prior to any business meeting.

#### **Section 6. Transfer of Membership**

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 of transfer, which shall be granted on the approval of the Pastor and Advisory Council. Such letter should be signed by the Pastor and the Secretary of the Assembly.

#### **Section 7. Obligations of Members**

- a. Cooperative Action - The Membership of this Assembly shall accept the policy of fundamental unity and agreement, alike in doctrine, conduct and action, and shall conform to the scriptural injunction that there be no division in the body. Members shall be subject to those who may be delegated to rulership as the Word of God plainly teaches that

the principle of Christian fellowship may be kept inviolate and perpetuated, recognizing its fundamental importance.

b. Attitude Toward Strife - Inasmuch as no Christian institution can comply with the plain teaching of scripture unless unity and harmony predominate within its circle, no Member of this Assembly may use means to incite or engender strife, but shall work in harmony with Membership and its Officers as did the early church (Acts 2:42). If there is cause for dissatisfaction, it shall be called to the attention of the Pastor and the Advisory Council. At their discretion, necessary adjustment shall be made (Acts 6:1-7; Matthew 18:15-18).

c. Financial Support - All Members shall be supporting Members in proportion as the Lord shall prosper them (Malachi 3:10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-9), thereby acknowledging that any institution can stand or be of full service only in proportion as all its members accept their responsibility in maintaining it.

### **Section 8. Discipline**

The Advisory Council shall have the authority and power, in its sole and absolute discretion, to discipline Members and to remove from the Membership roll the names of those who walk disorderly or conduct themselves in a manner inconsistent with or violate the obligations of members, set forth in this Article II and the Bylaws of this Assembly.

### **Section 9. Right of Appeal**

Any Member who has been disciplined pursuant to the foregoing Section 9 of this Article II or whose right to vote has been suspended pursuant to Section 6 of this Article II has the right of appeal to the Executive Presbytery of the Arizona District Council. The action of said Executive Presbytery, by a majority vote, shall be considered final.

## **ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

### **Section 1. Annual Meetings**

a. Annual Meeting. An annual meeting of Members of the Assembly should be held as designated by the Advisory Council, or at such date as may be designated by the Church Advisory Council, for the election of members of the Advisory Council and the transaction of such other business properly brought before such annual meeting of the Members.

b. Order of Business. At each annual meeting of the Members of the Assembly, the Members should elect members of the Advisory Council, each of whom should hold office for a term of one year or until his or her successor is elected and qualified. The Advisory Council should have full

and complete authority to determine the other agenda items for the annual meeting. The order of business for such meetings should at least include:

- (1) Devotional;
- (2) Roll call;
- (3) Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting by the Secretary;
- (4) Report of the Treasurer;
- (5) Report of the Pastor;
- (6) Report of committees and/or departments;
- (7) Unfinished business;
- (8) Election of members of Advisory Council;
- (9) New business; and
- (10) Adjournment.

c. Report of Treasurer. The Treasurer should make a full report of funds handled since the last annual meeting of Members. Important financial matters affecting the entire Assembly may be discussed and recommended for consideration and adoption.

## **Section 2. Special Meetings**

Special meetings of the Members of the Assembly for any purpose or purposes may be called at any time only by the Advisory Council. Business transacted at any special meeting of the Members shall be limited to the purposes stated in the notice of such meeting.

## **Section 3. Quorum**

Except as otherwise required by law or these Bylaws, not less than 25% of Adult Voting Members entitled to vote at any meeting of the Members, present in person, shall constitute a quorum. The affirmative vote of the majority of such quorum shall be deemed the act of the Members of the Assembly provided, however, that members of the Advisory Council may be elected by a plurality of affirmative votes of such quorum. If a quorum shall fail to attend any meeting of the Members, the meeting may be adjourned from time to time to another place, date or time, without notice other than announcement at such meeting, until a quorum is present or represented. At such adjourned meeting at which a quorum is present or represented, any business may be transacted that might have been transacted at the meeting of the Members as originally noticed.

#### **Section 4. Notices**

Notices of all annual and special business meetings shall be announced at all services on the two consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting, provided that such meetings may be called after being announced at only one Sunday service if Members are notified by first class mail at least ten days prior to the meeting. Mailed written notices shall be directed to each Member's address as it appears upon the books of the Assembly and shall specify the place, date, hour and purpose or purposes of such meeting. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be given when properly deposited in the United States mail. Notice of a special meeting shall include a description of the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called.

#### **Section 5. Determination of Members Entitled to Notice and to Vote**

a. Revision of Membership Roll. At least 30 days prior to each annual meeting of Members, the Advisory Council should revise the Membership roll of the Assembly and remove from the list of voting Members all names of those who have deceased during the year, those whose status has been changed to inactive or those being disciplined under Sections 6 or 9 of Article II of these Bylaws. Persons whose names are removed as voting Members should be notified of such action by a letter from the Pastor or Secretary of the Assembly.

b. Availability of Membership Roll. The Advisory Council should prepare and make available, at least ten days before every meeting of Members, a complete list of the Members entitled to vote thereat, arranged in alphabetical order.

#### **Section 6. Voting and Membership Participation**

Except as otherwise required by law or these bylaws, each Member entitled to vote and present in person at a meeting of the Members should be entitled to one vote. Voting may be by voice or by ballot as the presiding officer of the meeting shall determine.

#### **Section 7. Conduct of Business Meetings**

In order to facilitate the conduct of business of this Assembly in an orderly and satisfactory manner, unless otherwise determined by the presiding officer of a meeting, all meetings of Members should be governed by the accepted rules of parliamentary procedure (as stated in *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*). It should be recognized that the purpose of rules and forms of procedure is to serve the will of the Assembly rather than to restrain it; to facilitate, and not to obstruct the expression of its deliberation.

## **ARTICLE IV. ADVISORY COUNCIL**

### **Section 1. General Authority**

**The Official Church Board** consists of the Arizona District Superintendent, the Secretary/Treasurer, Sectional Presbyter, and district affiliated church pastor. This Official Church Board is established by the Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God Bylaws. The Advisory Council is *not* the official church board in any capacity. The Advisory Council limited to advising and assisting the pastor and the Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God District as defined below:

- a. The Advisory Council should act as and have all powers given to an advisory council, but at all times acts subject to the advice and consent of the Arizona District Council, in the sole and absolute discretion of the Arizona District Council. Neither the Assembly nor the Advisory Council has any power or authority to bind the Arizona District Council.
- b. All affairs of the Assembly should be managed under the direction of the Advisory Council.
- c. The Advisory Council should review the annual budget that is set by the Pastor, including all salaries for which the Assembly is responsible.
- d. The Advisory Council, along with the Pastor, will serve as the nominating committee for Advisory positions.
- e. The Advisory Council should appoint officers annually, to serve for one year terms or until their successors are duly appointed and qualified, which officers should include at least the following:
  - b. Principal executive officer, who should be the Pastor, absent unusual circumstances;
  - c. Secretary, who may also serve as the Treasurer, but who should not be the Pastor; and
  - d. Treasurer, who may also serve as the Secretary, but who should not be the Pastor.

### **Section 2. Members of the Advisory Council**

- a. Number. The authorized number of members of the Advisory Council should be fixed from time to time by resolution of the Advisory Council, but should not be less than [four] nor more than [nine]. Except as otherwise provided in Article XI of these Bylaws, all members of the Church Advisory Council should be Members of the Assembly they represent.
- b. Qualification. The Advisory Council should consist of persons of mature Christian experience and knowledge, who should be at least 23 years of age and should have been members of the Assembly for at least

one year. They should currently support the church with their tithes and offerings, have a cooperative spirit, and regularly attend church services. They should be filled with the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2.

c. Election, Resignation, Vacancies and Removal. Each member of the Advisory Council should hold office for a one year term or until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified. Any member of the Advisory Council may resign at any time upon written notice to the Pastor and Advisory Council. Any newly created Advisory Council membership or any vacancy occurring in the Advisory Council for any cause may be filled by a plurality of the votes cast at a meeting of Members of the Assembly, and each member of the Advisory Council so elected should hold office until the expiration of the term of office of the member of the Advisory Council whom he or she has replaced or until his or her successor is duly elected and qualified.

### **Section 3. Meetings of the Advisory Council**

a. Regular Meetings. The Advisory Council should meet as needs may arise, at such times as the Advisory Council from time to time determines, or as the pastor determines.

b. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Advisory Council may be held at any time or place whenever called by the Pastor, the Secretary, the Treasurer, or by any member of the Advisory Council. Notice of a special meeting of the Advisory Council should be given by the Pastor.

c. Quorum. At all meetings of the Advisory Council, a majority of the total number of members of the entire then authorized Advisory Council should constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The act of a majority of the members of the Advisory Council present at any such meeting at which there is a quorum shall be the act of the Advisory Council, unless otherwise specifically provided by these Bylaws.

d. Alternative Participation. Members of the Advisory Council may participate in any meeting of the Advisory Council through the use of conference telephone or similar communications equipment, so long as all members participating in such meeting can hear one another, and such participation should constitute presence in person at such meeting.

e. Action without Meeting. Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Advisory Council may be taken without a meeting if all members of the Advisory Council consent thereto in writing or by electronic transmission, and it should be the duty of the Secretary of the Assembly to record such resolution with the minutes of proceedings of the Advisory Council.

## **ARTICLE V. OFFICERS**

## **Section 1. Number and Election**

a. Number. The officers of the Assembly should include a Pastor, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Advisory Council should appoint the Secretary and Treasurer and such other officers and agents with such powers and duties as it deems necessary. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person. All Officers should be Members of the Assembly.

b. Election and Term of Pastor's Office. The Pastor shall be appointed, reviewed, removed and/or replaced solely in accordance with Article VI of these Bylaws.

c. Election and Term of Office of Other Officers. With the exception of the Pastor, the officers of the Assembly should be appointed annually by the Advisory Council and should hold office until such officer's successor is duly appointed and qualified, or until such officer's death, resignation or removal. Any officer may be removed at any time, with or without cause, by a vote of the majority of the Advisory Council. With the exception of the Pastor, any vacancy occurring in any office may be filled by the Advisory Council.

## **Section 2. General Authority**

### a. General Authority of the Pastor

(1) The Pastor should be the Chairman of the Advisory Council.

(2) The Pastor should be considered the spiritual overseer of the Assembly and an ex officio member of all committees.

(3) The Pastor should be responsible for all spiritual services, and should be entrusted with the plans and arrangements for special services, revival meetings, conventions, and the like. No person should be invited to speak or preach in the Assembly, unless by an understanding and in full harmony with the Pastor's wishes.

(4) The Pastor should have oversight of all visitation work and may appoint others to assist him in this and any other activity of the Assembly.

(5) The Pastor should comply with all reporting requirements set forth in Article VIII of these Bylaws

(6) The Pastor should seek counsel from the Sectional Presbyter or the Arizona District Council in times of critical decisions or crisis affecting the life of the Assembly.

b. General Authority of Secretary. The Secretary should keep a true and accurate record of all meetings of the Membership and of the Advisory Council. The Secretary should also keep the Membership roll of the

Assembly, updating it in accordance with Articles II and III of these Bylaws. Copies of all minutes and updated Membership records should be forwarded to the Arizona District Council.

c. General Authority of the Treasurer. The Treasurer should receive and disburse all monies of the Assembly under the supervision of and at the direction of the Advisory Council.

### **Section 3. Fiduciary Duties**

The Pastor and each officer of the Assembly owe a fiduciary duty (both legal and moral) to the Assembly, including the duty of due care, diligence and loyalty, the avoidance of self-dealing, the expenditure of Assembly contributions for the purposes specified, and the avoidance of commingling personal and Assembly funds. The Pastor and each officer of the Assembly should act in good faith, with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances and in a manner such person reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the Assembly.

### **Section 4. Removal of Officers**

The Advisory Council, in its sole and absolute discretion, may remove the Secretary, the Treasurer or any other officer (except the Pastor) or member of any committee of the Advisory Council by an act of a majority of the Advisory Council at any regular or special business meeting. Grounds for removal include, but shall not be limited to: 1) unscriptural conduct; 2) departure from the Fundamental Truths set forth in the Bylaws of the Arizona District Council; 3) falling into sinful practices; or 4) incompetency in office.

### **Section 5. Staff**

- A. Adding Staff (Policy for District Churches): Ministerial and other staff may not be hired without the prior written approval of the Official Board. Compensation for ministerial staff must be a part of an approved budget of the Assembly.
- B. Title of Pastor will not be given unless they hold ministerial credentials approved by Arizona District Council and General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- C. Compensation will be targeted as 50% of undesignated offerings as the church can afford.

## **ARTICLE VI. APPOINTMENT OF PASTOR**

### **Section 1. Qualifications of Pastor**

The Pastor shall be a credentialed minister of the Arizona District Council or the General Council and shall annually renew his credentials with the Arizona District Council in a timely fashion. Throughout the tenure, he or she shall hold a current

Assemblies of God fellowship card. Exceptions shall be permitted only at the discretion of the Executive Presbytery of the Arizona District Council.

### **Section 2. Appointment of Pastor; Renewal**

The Pastor shall be chosen by the Arizona District Council. Wherever practical, an expression of the Membership of the Assembly should be obtained by secret ballot. The Pastor's appointment shall be for a term of one year, and his ministry shall be reviewed each year by the Arizona District Council.

### **Section 3. Pastoral Confidence Vote**

A Pastoral confidence vote from the Membership of the Assembly may be taken annually by the Arizona District Council if deemed necessary or appropriate by the Arizona District Council. Results of such vote should not be made public

### **Section 4. Removal of Pastor**

The Pastor may be removed by the Arizona District Council in its sole and absolute discretion or by the Advisory Council, acting with the advice and consent of the Arizona District Council.

## **ARTICLE VII. FINANCES**

### **Section 1. Source of Funds**

Funds for the operation, development and maintenance of the Assembly shall be provided by gifts, devices, bequests, legacies, trusts, annuities, voluntary contributions and the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the Assembly (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; and 2 Corinthians 9:6-9). The Assembly may borrow funds from time to time at the direction of the Advisory Council from unrelated third parties and parties affiliated with the Arizona District Council and the General Council, but only with the prior written consent of the Arizona District Council.

### **Section 2. Internal Controls**

The Advisory Council shall adopt and cause the Assembly to conform to internal financial controls approved by the Arizona District Council in respect of, among other things, the receipt, safeguarding and disbursement of funds by the Assembly and the recording of all transactions by the Assembly.

### **Section 3. Other Offerings, Receipts, etc.**

Departments of the Assembly may receive offerings and raise funds only in accordance with the established policies of the Assembly or at the direction of the Advisory Council. No monies should be collected by individual members of the Assembly for any cause without the prior written consent of the Advisory Council.

### **Section 4. Pastor's Compensation**

a. The Pastor should be given regular and adequate financial support. The amount and manner of compensation paid to the Pastor (the “Pastor’s Compensation”) shall be determined by agreement between the Pastor and the Advisory Council, with the advice and consent of the Arizona District Council, and shall comply with the terms and conditions of these Bylaws. The Assembly’s financial responsibility to the Pastor should be reviewed annually by the Advisory Council and the Arizona District Council.

b. Unless otherwise agreed upon, with the advice and consent of the Arizona District Council and confirmed in writing, the annual Pastor’s Compensation shall not exceed the lesser of (i) 50% of the [unrestricted] tithe offerings] (the “Offerings”) received by the Assembly on an annual basis, or (ii) \$45,000 per year. If annual receipts in the Assembly General Fund exceed \$90,000 for One consecutive year(s), the Pastor’s Compensation should be set at such level as may be determined by the Advisory Council, with the advice and consent of the Arizona District Council.

c. All Assembly bills and expenses will be paid prior to the Assembly’s obligation to pay the Pastoral Compensation.

#### **Section 5. Arizona District Council and General Council Support**

- a. Two Percent Fund. The Assembly shall contribute a minimum of *two percent (2%)* of its Undesignated General Fund income (which shall mean all funds received except those for Assemblies of God World Missions, or designated offerings for building funds, etc.) to the Arizona District Council on a monthly basis.
- b. Camp Fund. The Assembly shall contribute a minimum of *one percent (1%)* of its undesignated general fund income to Granite Hills Retreat and Conference Center for support of the district camp ministry.
- c. General Council. Logically, support of the General Council follows support of the District Council. If practical, let each assembly take one (1) offering each year, or designated monthly support, for the upkeep of the national headquarters office and the travel expense of the executive officers.

#### **Section 6. Budget**

Prior to every fiscal year, the Pastor shall prepare or cause to be prepared a proposed budget and submit it to the Advisory Council for approval.

### **ARTICLE VIII. RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING**

#### **Section 1. Permanent Records**

The Assembly should maintain complete records in accordance with acceptable business bookkeeping methods in all matters of finance. The Assembly should maintain records of business meetings and of any other records pertinent to the ongoing ministry of the Assembly. These records should be maintained as permanent records of the Assembly.

### **Section 2. Monthly Reports**

The Assembly should provide monthly reports on the forms provided by the Arizona District Council, or with approved computer printouts to the District Secretary-Treasurer at the Arizona District Council. The Pastor is responsible for delivering such reports to the Arizona District Council and Sectional Presbyter in a timely manner each month. These monthly reports should cover areas such as finance, income, expenses, service attendance, progress and regress, and other matters specified from time to time by the Arizona District Council.

### **Section 3. Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of meetings of the Advisory Council and any committee thereof shall be filed with the Arizona District Council.

### **Section 4. Annual Church Ministries Report (ACMR)**

The Annual Church Ministries Report in the form specified from time to time by the Arizona District Council shall be filed each year with the Arizona District Council.

### **Section 5. Tax Exempt Reporting**

The Pastor is expected to oversee filing for local property tax exemption in a timely manner according to the specific requirements of the county in which the church and its property is located.

### **Section 6. Filing of Corporate Papers**

The Pastor shall oversee the filing of the annual reports to the Arizona District Council.

## **ARTICLE IX. COOPERATION**

### **Section 1. Sectional Council and District Council Physical Support**

The Pastor is expected to cooperate and participate in sectional and district activities as much as possible.

### **Section 2. District Council and General Council Financial Support**

It is expected that the Assembly will support the Arizona Missions Fund, U.S. Missions Fund, and the Assemblies of God World Ministries Fund on a monthly basis.

**ARTICLE X. PROPERTY; DEBT; INSURANCE**

**Section 1. Title of Property**

All property of this Assembly shall be held in the name of, Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God or as otherwise directed by, the Arizona District Council.

**Section 2. Authorization to Purchase, Sell or Encumber**

Authorization to purchase, sell, lease, mortgage or otherwise encumber real property used by the Assembly shall be subject to the prior written advice and consent of the Arizona District Council.

**Section 3. Debt**

The Assembly shall not incur any indebtedness for borrowed money, whether secured or unsecured, short-term or long-term, in excess of an aggregate amount established from time to time by the Arizona District Council.

**Section 4. Insurance**

This assembly should obtain and maintain adequate Liability, Property, and Casualty Insurance. A current copy of Insurance coverage and Agency will be provided to the Arizona District Council Office in a timely manner.

**ARTICLE XI. RIGHT TO APPOINT DIRECTORS**

In the event that the Arizona District Council determines, in its sole and absolute discretion, that the Assembly is not in good standing, the Arizona District Council shall have the power to appoint members of the Advisory Council such that the members appointed to the Advisory Council by the Arizona District Council will constitute a majority of the Advisory Council. The Arizona District Council may make such a determination on any facts that it deems appropriate, including, but not limited to, a determination that the Assembly is not in good standing because of one or more of the following:

- i. The Pastor or the Assembly has failed to comply with or has deviated from the Fundamental Truths;
- ii. The Pastor or the Assembly has failed to comply with any applicable law;
- iii. The Pastor or the Assembly has failed to comply with any provision of the Arizona District Council's and/or the General Council's Constitution or Bylaws;

- iv. The Pastor or other officers or members of the Assembly have engaged in conduct and practices unbecoming to Assemblies of God members;
- v. The Pastor has failed to comply with the reporting requirements set forth in Article VIII of these Bylaws;
- vi. The Pastor or the Advisory Council has assumed a dictatorial authority over the Assembly;
- vii. The Assembly has become so divided its functioning is disrupted
- viii. The Pastor has engaged in a prolonged absence; or
- ix. The Assembly has attempted to disaffiliate from the General Council or the Arizona District Council.

**ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION OF ASSEMBLY**

In the event the Assembly is dissolved, any assets not already held by the Arizona District Council shall become the property of the Arizona District Council at the discretion of the Executive Presbytery of the District Council. The Arizona District Council, after paying or adequately providing for all debts and obligations of the Assembly body, shall use the property or proceeds therefrom for the furtherance of the purposes of the Arizona District Council.

**ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to this document may be made only after obtaining the written approval of the Arizona District Council, in its sole and absolute discretion. No amendments may conflict with the respective Constitutions and Bylaws of either the Arizona District Council or the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

These Bylaws are hereby adopted by the Assembly.

By: \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)  
*(Signature of district secretary-treasurer or superintendent)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EXHIBIT "A"**

The Fundamental Truths of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **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).

### **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; 2:33; Philemon 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 washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

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

## **6. The Ordinances of the Church**

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

b. Holy Communion - The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements - bread and the fruit of the vine - is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "til 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 enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Ghost 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 Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost**

The baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 28), but difference 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 Ghost we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:15, 16).

Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:1-11, 13; 8:1, 2, 13; Galatians 2:20; Philemon 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).

## **11. The Ministry**

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for a threefold purpose of leading the Assembly in: (1) evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20), (2) worship of God (John 4:23, 24), and (3) building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11, 16).

## **12. Divine Healing**

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

## **13. The Blessed Hope**

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

## **14. The Millennial Reign of Christ**

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

## **15. The Final 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 a new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21, 22).

