

BYLAWS
OF THE
ARIZONA DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

HISTORICAL PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, In these last days, God is pouring out His Spirit upon all flesh in Pentecostal fullness (Acts 2:17), resulting in the forming of the Pentecostal Assemblies of saved and Spirit-baptized believers, and

WHEREAS, These Pentecostal Assemblies have associated themselves in general unity for the propagation of their distinctive testimony under the name of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and

WHEREAS, The General Council has made provision for the care and development of local assemblies through the agency of District Councils; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we gladly assume this delegated responsibility that has been committed to us, and hereby assemble ourselves in scriptural order and recognize ourselves as the Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God, for the purpose of promoting and husbanding the interests of the fellowship in the territory assigned to us, and agree to be governed by the following Bylaws:

ARTICLE I. NAME AND TERRITORY

Section 1: Name

The name of this body shall be the Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2: Territory

The Arizona District Council includes the entire state of Arizona.

ARTICLE II. OPERATIONS MANUAL

The District Presbytery shall establish and maintain an Operations Manual for the Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE III. PREROGATIVES

Section 1. To promote the evangelization of our district, our country, and the world by all scriptural means.

Section 2. To set forth a basis of Christian fellowship and provide for counsel and cooperation among those of like precious faith. (1 John 1).

Section 3. To establish and develop assemblies in the fellowship in accordance with New Testament standards and principles.

Section 4. To examine candidates for the ministry and to license and ordain as ministers those who shall meet the standards of the Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9) and the requirements of the district and the General Council as set forth in their bylaws and/or constitution and bylaws. It shall be amenable to the General Council of the

Assemblies of God in matters of doctrine and the personal conduct of all ministers who are permitted to have district endorsement.

Section 5. To elect its own officers and committees, to arrange for its own meetings, and to govern itself.

Section 6. To establish and maintain such departments and institutions as may be thought advisable for the pursuance of its work.

Section 7. To have the right to buy, lease or otherwise acquire, own, hold in trust, use, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of such property, real or chattel, as may be useful for the prosecution of its works.

ARTICLE IV. STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

The Statement of Fundamental Truths shall be the same as set forth in the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council and its local Assemblies of God churches, which are 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 Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

The Adorable Godhead

a. Terms Defined

The terms *trinity* and *persons*, as related to the godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from "gods many and lords many." We therefore may speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is One Lord, as a Trinity or as one Being of three persons, and still be absolutely scriptural (examples, Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16,17).

b. Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

Christ taught a distinction of persons in the godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 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; John 3:8; Hebrews 7:3; 1:1-13).

h. Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ

Wherefore, it is a transgression of the doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title *Son of God* solely from the fact of the Incarnation, or because of His relation to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (2 John 9; John 1:1,2,14,18,29,49; 1 John 2:22,23; 4:1-5; Hebrews 12:2).

i. Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

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

j. Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son

Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only the express duty of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is an unspeakable joy in the Holy Spirit to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the godhead except those which express relationship (see paragraphs b, c, and d), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22,23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2:8,9; Revelation 7:9,10; 4:8-11).

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

- a. His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35).
- b. His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).

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

4. The Fall of Man

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

5. The Salvation of Man

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

- a. Conditions to Salvation.** Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).
- b. The Evidences of Salvation.** The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12).

6. The Ordinances of the Church

- a. Baptism in Water.** The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47,48; Romans 6:4).
- b. Holy Communion.** The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements – bread and the fruit of the vine – is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

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

8. The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

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

9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Romans 12:1, 2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord"

(Hebrews 12:14). By the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command: “Be ye holy, for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:15,16).

Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:1-11,13; 8:1,2,13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12,13; 1 Peter 1:5).

10. The Church and Its Mission

The Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her Great Commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22,23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

Since God’s purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshipped by man, 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: (1) evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20), (2) worship of God (John 4:23, 24), (3) building a Body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11,16), and (4) meeting human need 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, following 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; 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 new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21, 22).

ARTICLE V. RELATIONSHIPS

Section 1. General Council

The Arizona District Council is an integral part of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri. Therefore, the principles of unity and cooperative fellowship set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council are the principles which shall govern the Arizona District Council.

Section 2. General Council Constitution and Bylaws Compliant

The Arizona District Presbytery shall annually update its bylaws to reflect changes made by the General Council. The updates shall be posted on the Arizona District Council website within 30 days following action of the district presbytery.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership

Section 1. Nature

The Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God is a cooperative fellowship based on mutual agreements voluntarily entered into by its members.

Section 2. Principles for Fellowship

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

Section 3. Ministers

All ordained, licensed, and certified ministers holding accredited fellowship certificates from the General Council, and having their permanent residence within the boundaries of the district, are considered members of the Arizona District Council.

Appointed U.S. missionaries who move from the Arizona District to minister in other districts shall have their credentials transferred, but shall be listed as U.S. missionaries in the district directory for the purpose of itinerating and having voting privileges in the District and Sectional Councils while on furlough.

Section 4. Churches

All General Council and District Affiliated churches, of the Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God, are considered to be member churches. Each assembly has the right to representation by one (1) lay delegate at all duly called District or Sectional Councils, according to the provision in the bylaws.

2. Meetings

Section 1. District Council

The District Council shall meet annually, or as need may require, with the election of officers and all district business to be conducted at that time.

Section 2. Sectional Councils

Sectional Councils shall meet biennially prior to the District Council in session to elect sectional officers.

Section 3. Other Meetings

Other meetings may be called by the District Presbytery as need may require, the time and place to be selected by the Executive Committee and properly announced.

Section 4. Right of Initiative

The right of initiative in the matter of calling special sessions shall be granted to any ordained minister of the Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God when occasion demands. A statement setting forth the reasons for a special session of the Council, signed by not less than fifteen (15) ordained ministers, may be considered sufficient reason for the call of a special session, such statement to be filed with the District Presbytery which may, if it shall be deemed advisable, respond to the summons and issue the call for a special session.

ARTICLE VII. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Section 1. Rules of Order

The work of this District Council shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of "Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised," or other standard acceptable texts, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

Section 2. Parliamentary Committee

A Parliamentary Committee of three (3) persons shall be appointed to serve each District Council in session.

ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS, NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

1. Officers

Section 1. Corporate Officers

The superintendent, assistant superintendent, and secretary-treasurer shall be the president, vice president, and secretary-treasurer, respectively, of the corporation.

Section 2. Executive Presbytery

The Executive Presbytery includes the superintendent, assistant superintendent, secretary-treasurer, and three executive presbyters who are pastors.

Section 3. District Presbyters

The district presbyters shall consist of a qualified pastor elected from each of the sections of the district. No one shall serve as a district presbyter and executive presbyter simultaneously.

Section 4. District Presbytery

The District Presbytery shall consist of the executive presbyters, general presbyters, and the district presbyters.

Section 5. General Presbyters

The Arizona District Council shall be represented in the General Council General Presbytery by three (3) members, the district superintendent, the district secretary-treasurer, and the assistant district superintendent, providing he is the pastor of a local church. The General Presbytery is the official policy making body of the General Council when the General Council is not in session.

Section 6. Non-Resident General Council Executive Presbyter Nominee

At each District Council prior to General Council, two (2) ministers from the Arizona District shall be nominated as candidates for the Southwest Region non-resident executive presbyter. One (1) shall be the district superintendent, the other, who is not an elected full-time district official, shall be nominated by secret ballot. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote shall be required for nomination.

Section 7. Definition of Directors

All references to "District Presbytery" shall be interpreted as a reference to the "Board of Directors" as defined by the Arizona Nonprofit Corporate Code, i.e. A.R.S. § 10-3101, *et seq.* A reference to any person that serves on the District Presbytery shall be interpreted as a reference to a "Director" as defined by the Arizona Corporate Code.

2. Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Voting Constituency

- A. District Council.** The voting constituency of the Arizona District shall consist of all members present and registered at any duly called Sectional or District Council, specifically: ordained, licensed, and certified ministers; District HonorBound: Men of Promise director, district women's director (if not a certified, licensed or ordained minister); the spouses of all full-time executive officers; and an authorized delegate from each assembly within the district that is officially set in order with the General or District Council. Each delegate must bear a letter of confirmation from the local assembly or have the pastor's signature on the registration card.
- B. Sectional Council.** The voting constituency of each section shall consist of all members present and registered at any duly called Sectional Council. Those authorized to vote in a Sectional Council are:
 - 1. All pastors and other ordained, licensed, and certified ministers residing in the section, or attending an Assemblies of God church in said section, who are members of the Arizona District.
 - 2. Each General Council or District Affiliated church may have one (1) delegate. Each delegate must bear a letter of confirmation from his/her church or have the pastor's signature on the registration card.
 - 3. Department Elections – (Refer to departmental bylaws for their respective voting constituency.)

Section 2. Quorum

- A. District Council.** All credentialed ministers and delegates of the District Council who are present and registered by the Roster Committee at a duly called meeting shall constitute a quorum.
- B. Sectional Council.** All credentialed ministers and delegates who reside within a Section and are registered at a duly called Sectional Council shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. Qualifications of Officers

- A. The officers of the Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God shall be elected at one of its regular meetings, according to the manner of election as provided. They shall be ordained ministers of mature experience and ability, whose lives and ministry are above question, and shall have been members of the district for at least two (2) years prior to their election and who fully cooperate with all its policies. One (1) executive presbyter shall be elected from the North Area, consisting of the Canyon North, East, North Central, Northeast, and Northwest Sections; one (1) executive presbyter shall be elected from the Central Area, consisting of the Central Valley, Northwest Valley, Phoenix Metro Indian, Southeast Valley, and West Valley Sections; and one (1) from the South Area, consisting of the East Central, South, Southeast, and Southwest Sections. One (1) executive presbyter shall be elected for each area from the nominees presented by the sections in that area. An executive presbyter shall cease to serve if he/she moves from the area he/she was elected to serve.
- B. District presbyters and those filling other created offices shall have the same above qualifications, except they shall have been members in good standing in the district for at least twelve (12) consecutive months prior to the date of elections. The district presbyters shall be ratified by the District Council.
- C. All nominees for non-resident executive presbyter shall be members in good standing and resident in the Arizona District for a period of at least two (2) years prior to nomination. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote shall be required to elect.

Section 4. Term

The tenure of office shall be for two (2) years with the exception of the district superintendent, the assistant superintendent, district secretary-treasurer, and executive presbyters, whose terms of office shall be for three (3) years, or until a successor shall have been chosen. The superintendent, assistant superintendent, and secretary-treasurer shall be elected on different years.

The executive presbyters shall be elected on the following schedule: North Area the same year as the district superintendent, Central Area the same year as the assistant superintendent, South Area the same year as the secretary-treasurer.

A newly elected superintendent or secretary-treasurer shall take office thirty (30) days after election.

Section 5. Nominations

- A. All candidates for elective offices shall be nominated by secret ballot. At district council any candidate eligible for nomination must receive a minimum of five (5) or more votes on the nominating ballot. All candidates receiving five (5) or more votes on the nominating ballot shall be presented and shall be balloted upon until a candidate shall receive the necessary majority of votes cast. In the event that no one receives the required five (5) ballots for nomination, all eligible candidates nominated by secret ballot shall be presented and balloted upon until a candidate shall receive the necessary majority of votes cast. If no such majority shall have been received by the second elective ballot, all but the four (4) highest names shall be removed. After the fourth elective ballot, all but the two (2) highest names shall be removed.
- B. **Vote required.** A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote is required for all elected offices except for assistant presbyter and secretary-treasurer of each section which shall be a simple majority of votes cast. If anyone received the required majority on the nominating ballot, an election is declared.

Section 6. Sectional Elections

There shall be biennial Sectional Councils prior to the District Council, at a time approved by the District Presbytery, at which time all sectional officers shall be elected. The executive presbyters shall be elected at the District Council. Proper representation from the various departments shall constitute the voting body.

Proper notice shall be given of said meeting, and either the district superintendent, assistant district superintendent, or the district secretary shall be present to preside. The South and Central Area sections shall meet on the odd numbered years, and the North Area sections shall meet on the even numbered years. The following officers shall be chosen in each Sectional Council:

- A. Executive Presbyter Nominee.** Each section of the designated area (North, Central, or South) for election at the upcoming District Council shall nominate one of its ordained pastors. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote cast shall be required to nominate. If no one has received a two-third (2/3) vote after the fourth (4th) elective ballot, the two highest names shall be voted upon until a nominee of that section is elected (Article VIII, Part 2, Section 3 a). When an Area is to present an executive presbyter nominee, and the Area will not be having a Sectional Council the District Office shall mail to the voting constituents a ballot by January (15) fifteenth. This may be done by mail, fax, e-mail, or any appropriate electronic media that is available to the eligible voting constituents. Each person receiving this ballot shall have ten (10) days to return it to the designated district official. The district officials shall have five (5) days to tally the votes and send another ballot. This is to continue until one person in each section is declared a nominee for executive presbyter for that section.
- B. Presbyter.** Each section shall elect one (1) of its ordained pastors. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of votes cast shall be required to elect. If no one has received a two-thirds (2/3) vote after the fourth (4th) elective ballot, the two (2) highest names shall be voted upon until a presbyter for that section is chosen. If any presbyter ceases to pastor in the section he/she was elected to represent, said term of office as presbyter shall automatically terminate.
- C. Assistant Presbyter.** Each section shall elect one (1) of its ordained ministers. A simple majority of votes cast shall be required to elect. If no one receives a simple majority of votes cast after the third (3rd) elective ballot, the two (2) highest names shall be voted upon until a nominee for that section is chosen. If any assistant presbyter ceases to reside in the section he/she was elected to represent, said term of office as assistant presbyter shall automatically terminate.
- D. Secretary-Treasurer.** Each section shall elect one (1) of its ordained ministers. A simple majority of votes cast shall be required to elect. If no one has received a simple majority vote after the third (3rd) elective ballot, the two (2) highest names shall be voted upon until a nominee for that section is chosen. If any secretary-treasurer ceases to reside in the section he/she was elected to represent, said term of office as secretary-treasurer shall automatically terminate.
- E.** All officers elected at the Sectional Council shall assume the responsibility of their offices at the close of the District Council, for a period of two (2) years, or until successors are elected or appointed.

Section 7. Vacancies

- A.** It shall be the prerogative of the District Presbytery to make appointment for the filling of any office, except that of district superintendent or district secretary-treasurer, which may become vacant between sessions of the District Council, and to notify members of the district of such appointment.
- B.** The office of district superintendent or secretary-treasurer shall be filled by a special called session of the District Council.

3. Duties of the Officers

(Other responsibilities may be assigned as approved by the Presbytery)

Section 1. Superintendent

- A.** To preside at the meetings of the District Council and to supervise all the activities and functions thereof.
- B.** To preside at the meetings of the District Presbytery.
- C.** To act as president of the corporation in all legal matters, and to be a member of all committees.
- D.** To be in charge of the District Office and to delegate all responsibilities as specified in the Operations Manual.
- E.** To perform any other duties such as may be directed by District Council or District Presbytery.

Section 2. Assistant Superintendent

- A. To assume the duties of superintendent in case of vacancy until a special election shall be called to elect a superintendent. The assistant superintendent shall not be expected to resign his or her pastorate while assuming this office as a result of a vacancy in the office of superintendent.
- B. To assume all responsibilities as specified in the District Operations Manual.

Section 3. Secretary

- A. The secretary shall make and keep true records of the proceedings of the District Council. He/she shall publish all district reports and mail them to all ministers and affiliated churches at least ten (10) days prior to the annual District Council in session.
- B. Shall be the custodian of the official seal of the district, and shall keep a record of all ordained, licensed, and certified ministers; and assemblies of the district fellowship.
- C. To act as secretary of the corporation in all legal matters.
- D. Shall be a member of the District Presbytery by virtue of his/her office and keep a record of all presbytery meetings.
- E. To assume all responsibilities as specified in the District Operations Manual.

Section 4. Treasurer

- A. Shall be the custodian of the District Council funds, and shall deposit them in a bank designated by the District Presbytery.
- B. Shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements of funds, and conduct the work of this office according to the accepted methods of business.
- C. Shall be authorized to sign all such checks, and make such disposition of funds as may be required in the accurate procedure of the business of the district as directed by the District Council.
- D. To act as treasurer of the corporation in all legal matters.
- E. Shall be a member of the District Presbytery by virtue of the office.
- F. To assume all responsibilities as specified in the District Operations Manual.

Section 5. Executive Presbyters

- A. The District Executive Presbytery shall be authorized to execute district policy established by the District Council in session and interpreted by the district presbytery. They shall be empowered to make decisions on matters of business between meetings of the district presbytery in accordance with the District Bylaws. They shall be amenable to the district presbytery. Copies of the minutes shall be provided to the District Presbytery Board.
- B. The district superintendent, secretary-treasurer, and their successors shall act as trustees of the district; and they shall be empowered to negotiate, consummate, execute and sign all deeds, mortgages, encumbrances, or other documents affecting real estate, now or hereafter owned by said district in connection with any property that has reverted to the district or any property to be used in connection with new or Arizona Missions works, when so authorized by the Executive Committee.
- C. They shall meet regularly each month.
- D. They shall set the exact time and place for all district meetings.

Section 6. District Presbyters

- A. District Duties** (All presbyters working together in district duties comprise a board which is called the District Board of Presbyters or District Presbytery.)

1. They shall represent the district constituency and shall have the official oversight of all business and activities of the district between the sessions of the Council. They shall be empowered to interpret policy established by the District Council in session, working in keeping with the expressed intent of said Council.
2. They shall serve as directors of the district operations.
3. They shall have power to appoint committees.
4. They shall set the salaries and allowances of all elected, full-time district personnel. All salaries shall be reviewed annually at the final presbyter meeting of the year. They shall audit and authorize payment of all necessary expenses of the administration of the district.
5. They shall make provision for paying the traveling expenses of executive presbyters, sectional presbyters, general presbyters, department heads, and other district officers traveling on authorized district business.

B. Sectional Duties

1. To arrange for the date and place of fellowship or ministers' meetings in the section and submit notification of the same to the district superintendent and all ministers of said section.
2. To set the time and place and to direct notification to all churches and ministers of the section for the Sectional Council in which each section nominates its officers. The notification shall be in writing at least two (2) weeks before the date of said meeting.
3. To supervise the Arizona Missions work of the section and act as sectional Arizona Missions chairman, working in cooperation with the district Arizona Missions director.

Section 7. General Presbyters

(See General Council Bylaws Article III, Section 9)

ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES

Section 1. The standing committees shall consist of the Credentials Committee, the Resolutions Committee, the Roster Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Parliamentary Committee, together with such other committees as may be provided for in the future.

Section 2. The District Credentials Committee members shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery Board. All credential candidates shall be examined by a committee, with at least one (1) member who must be a presbyter, appointed by the Executive Presbytery Board, and recommendations shall be made to the District Presbytery Board.

Section 3. Standing committees shall be established or appointed as necessity may indicate. They shall be appointed by the district superintendent, in cooperation with the district presbyters, and they shall serve until adjournment of the next regular meeting of the District Council.

Section 4. Special committees may be created by the District Council in session or by the District Presbytery between sessions as may be required.

Section 5. All committees or departmental heads shall meet with the Executive or District Presbytery annually to develop a district calendar. Said calendar is to be printed and mailed during the fourth quarter to each church and all members of the district holding credentials.

A member of the Executive Committee shall be invited to sit in all departmental committee meetings as an ex-officio member of the committee.

Section 6. The presbyter, assistant presbyter, and secretary-treasurer shall constitute the Executive Committee of the section.

ARTICLE X. DISTRICT SECTIONS

Section 1. Purpose

- A. For the purpose of aiding the pursuance of district business, the territory of the District Council shall be divided into sections, and each section shall have at least one (1) representative on the District Presbytery.
- B. For the purpose of promoting general unity and fellowship in the district, fellowship meetings or ministers' meetings will be encouraged for each section. The presbyter for the section shall be entrusted with the responsibility of arranging for and the conducting of the meetings.

Section 2. Boundaries

- A. The boundaries of the district sections shall be set or changed by the District Council as the need may arise.
- B. The sections of the district shall be designated upon the official map of the district and be recognized as follows:
 1. Canyon North
 2. Central Valley
 3. East
 4. East Central
 5. North Central
 6. Northeast
 7. Northwest
 8. Northwest Valley
 9. Phoenix Metro Indian
 10. South
 11. Southeast
 12. Southeast Valley
 13. Southwest
 14. West Valley

Section 3. Officers Duties

A. Presbyter (See Bylaws Article VIII, 3. Section 6)

B. Assistant Presbyter

1. Serve as sectional Arizona Missions representative.
2. Assist the presbyter and represent the section at any meeting which the presbyter is unable to personally attend.

C. Secretary-Treasurer

1. Keep minutes of all sectional business meetings and other related sectional meetings and send out fellowship announcements at least two (2) weeks in advance.
2. Forward all Arizona Missions money to the district with proper designation.
3. Keep a record of all receipts and disbursements of the section.

D. World Missions Representative. There shall be a World Missions representative for each section. The duties shall be to promote World Missions in the section in consultation with the district World Missions secretary. Appointment shall be made by the district World Missions secretary in consultation with the sectional presbyter.

ARTICLE XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

A. All General Council Affiliated Assemblies and District Affiliated Assemblies

Section 1. The local assembly (or church) is recognized as God ordained (1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Revelation 1:11, 20). Group of believers holding the Pentecostal standards and associating themselves in local bodies, accepting their full personal share of responsibility for maintenance of scriptural order in the local body and having a standard of membership in keeping with scriptural principles, shall be recognized as local assemblies and eligible for affiliation with the District Council.

Section 2. Local assemblies shall be set in order by the district officary, and shall be amenable to the district in doctrine, in conduct, and all other matters that affect the peace and harmony of the fellowship. They shall have a standard for membership, which may be determined either by the local assembly itself, or by agreement with the District Council. They shall support the district organization and send properly accredited delegates to the Sectional and District Councils.

Section 3. The District Council recognizes the sovereignty of the local assembly in accordance with Article II of the General Council Constitution. Affiliation with the district shall in no wise destroy this sovereignty.

Section 4. The district superintendent, assistant superintendent, secretary-treasurer, and sectional presbyter shall be authorized by the Arizona District Council to serve as trustees for any local dependent congregation in all legal matters involving that congregation. These officers have the authority to make decisions in all such matters.

Section 5. The local assembly shall recognize that the District Council or the General Council of the Assemblies of God has the right to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct and the authority to withdraw its certificate of membership if deemed necessary. When conditions arise in any local assembly which in the judgment of the district officials prevents that church from governing itself according to the rules of order set forth in the Arizona District Council Bylaws regarding church order, or when the voting membership of any assembly drops below twenty (20), the affairs of the church automatically revert to the district officary.

Section 6. It may become advisable for the district officary to appoint a pastor to a local assembly whose membership is not sufficient in number to elect a pastor or govern themselves according to the Bylaws set forth by the Arizona District. After such appointment, the annual business meeting shall be conducted in such assembly by a district officer. A vote of confidence may be taken at said business meeting by the presiding district official to determine the effectiveness of the appointee. The voting shall be by secret ballot, and the results shall not be disclosed to the congregation. Such review shall continue until such time as the church is able to elect its pastor and conduct its business.

Section 7. All affiliated local churches of the Arizona District Council shall bear the name Assembly of God. They shall be issued a certificate of fellowship from the Arizona District Council.

Section 8. All General Council churches adopting a constitution and bylaws shall file a copy of same with the district office. Said constitution and bylaws must be approved by the district Executive Presbytery. All district Arizona missions and district affiliated churches shall operate under the constitution and bylaws provided by the Arizona District Council.

Section 9. All new churches affiliating with the Arizona District beginning May 1, 2007, shall include the "Reversion Clause" (set forth in the Bylaws, Article XVI, Section 3, Part D) in the deed to all real property owned or controlled by the church or its subsidiaries, related or affiliated companies, joint ventures, or "Support Organizations" as defined by Section 501 (c) (3) or Section 509 (a) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

It is also required that all churches of the Arizona District include this Reversion Clause in their bylaws and in the deed to all real property owned or controlled by the church or its subsidiaries, related or affiliated companies, joint ventures, or Support Organizations:

“If the Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God or its successor (the “Arizona District”) determines in its sole and absolute ecclesiastical, theological, and scriptural discretion that the grantee has ceased to be an Assemblies of God church in “good standing” with the Arizona District or its successor for a period of not less than 45 days after notice to the grantee and opportunity to cure, then the real property shall forthwith revert to the grantor upon recording of a “Declaration of Default and Failure to Cure” in the office of the local recording authority stating that the Arizona District, or its successor, has determined that the grantee is no longer in good standing with the Arizona District. This provision may be waived in writing by the grantor.”

Section 10. Support. It is recognized that for any organization to survive and serve effectively it must have the moral and financial support of its constituency.

- a. *District.* Each church should support the district monthly with an offering in the amount of two percent (2%) of their general fund monthly income.
- b. *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.
- c. *Campground.* Each church should support Granite Hills Retreat and Conference Center monthly with an offering in the amount of one percent (1%) of their general fund monthly income.

B. General Council Affiliated Assemblies

(See General Council Constitution Article XI, and Bylaws Article VI)

Section 1. Qualifications for Recognition

- A. Minimum Membership.** An adult membership of not less than twenty (20) persons.
- B. Statement of Fundamental Truths.** An acceptance of the Assemblies of God Tenets of Faith.
- C. Acceptable Standard of Membership.** A scriptural standard of membership determined by the local assembly in agreement with the District Council.
- D. Acceptable Standards for Church Officers.** A scriptural standard for deacons and other officers in positions of leadership in the local assembly. Because 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 or for scriptural causes of a former spouse’s marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by an unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15). However, we recommend that all other opportunities for Christian service for which these believers may be qualified be made available to them.
- E.** 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 the Arizona District Bylaws.

F. Organization and Recognition

1. *Constitution and Bylaws.*
 - a. An affiliated assembly shall be set in order under the jurisdiction and/or with the approval of the district, and with a recommended or approved constitution and/or bylaws.
 - b. Any local church which has not adopted a constitution and/or bylaws shall automatically abide by the Constitution and/or Bylaws provided by the Arizona District Council.

- c. Any local church adopting a constitution and/or bylaws shall file a copy of same with the District Office. Said constitution and/or bylaws must be approved by the District Executive Presbytery before it is declared valid.
- d. All changes in the approved constitution and/or bylaws shall be filed with the District Office. Said changes may be declared invalid if they are not in harmony with the General Council or District Council Constitution and/or Bylaws or policies.

2. Incorporation

- a. An affiliated assembly shall request assistance and guidance from the Arizona District in becoming a proper religious non-profit corporation from the state with particular attention paid to the reversionary clause.
- b. Upon approval of the district presbytery, the application for affiliation shall be forwarded to the general secretary of the General Council of the Assemblies of God. Recognition of affiliation shall be regarded as completed upon receipt by the assembly of an official Certification of Affiliation issued by the general secretary. In the event an application for affiliation is declined by a district presbytery, appeal may be made by the church to the General Council Executive Presbytery, whose decision shall be final.
- c. Church Disaffiliation – A church is required to have a two-thirds vote of the membership or a more restrictive rule prescribed by the governing documents of the church or Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God in order to disaffiliate. (For more information, see the Disaffiliation Percentage Resolution. General Council Bylaws, Article VI. Assemblies, Section 4, d.)

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 officary in filling a pastoral vacancy and to benefit from other approved ministries. The assembly is asked to let the district superintendent and presbyter know by letter or phone when they would like to receive assistance.
- C. Selection of a Pastor.** Only ministers holding a current credential with the Assemblies of God may be considered. Only one (1) name shall be placed in nomination and be voted on before another name is considered. Any member of the assembly may suggest names of Assemblies of God ministers for the consideration of the nominating committee, but no name shall be placed in nomination and no prospective pastor shall be contacted until the recommendation of the official board, or the sectional presbyter, or district superintendent has been received.
- D. Discipline.** The right to administer discipline to its member according to the Scriptures and its bylaws. Any assembly that finds itself facing difficulties, which they seem unable to solve, may by a majority vote of a quorum of the membership of the congregation, request District Affiliation until such time that they can return to their former status.
- E. Property.** The right to acquire and hold title to property, either through trustees or in its corporate name as a self-governing unit.
- F. Appeal.** (See General Council Constitution Article XI, Section 1, e)
 - 1. *To District Officiary:* The right of the pastor, the board, or the church body by petition to appeal to the district officary for help when in need of counsel or advice.
 - 2. *To General Council Executive 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 when there is a question 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, appeal may be given to the General Presbytery.

G. Representation. The right of representation at the meetings of the General Council by one (1) officially appointed and registered delegate, and at meetings of the Arizona District Council according to the provision for such.

H. Other Benefits. The right to benefit from approved General Council institutions such as colleges, divisional and departmental ministries, publications, etc.

Section 3. Responsibilities

A. Limited Sovereignty. The fact that a local assembly is affiliated in the association of a District Council or The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall in no wise destroy its sovereignty. However, there are certain responsibilities to the fellowship that should be recognized.

B. Adherence to General Council Principles and Doctrine. It shall be the duty of the 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.

C. 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.

1. *Regular Support of Churches Encouraged.* In order to support and develop the work and ministries of the Assemblies of God in the U.S. and abroad, all its churches shall be encouraged to send offerings at regular intervals.

2. *Combined Report for all Offerings.* A combined report of all offerings, which are designated for departments, shall be given under the caption of World Ministries 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.

D. Annual Church Ministries Report (ACMR). Each church of the Assemblies of God shall be requested to keep an up-to-date record of its membership, and a report of the same shall be sent annually, on forms provided, to the office of the district secretary and the General Council secretary.

E. 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.

F. Transfer of Local Church Membership

1. It is recommended that the member shall request a letter of introduction from the church of which he/she is a member to be sent by mail to the church where affiliation is desired.

2. It is recommended that the receiving church shall give an acknowledgement of transfer to the former church.

Section 4. Intervention of District in a Local Assembly

A. Circumstances Requiring Intervention. While the right of a local assembly to 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 officers, 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 services of the Arizona District Council is available to assist the General Council affiliated church in dealing with any of its problems, either internal or external, when requested by the pastor or a majority of the official board of the church or a petition signed by 30 percent of the voting members, with the petitioning process and delivery to the district council taking no more than 30 days in total to complete. When district officers receive such requests, they shall respond by investigating problems and, if necessary, recommending remedial actions to the responsible district governing entity, (e.g., district presbytery or district executive presbytery). At its discretion, that governing entity may act to bring the church under district supervision, and, when necessary, revert it from General Council status to district affiliated status until the governing entity considers the problem resolved.

Section 5. Discipline of Assemblies

Since the approval of an assembly is the prerogative of the District and General Councils and is indicated by the issuance of appropriate certificates of affiliation, the Arizona District 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. (See General Council Constitution Article XI, Section 1, d).

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, all districts should seek to retain any meritorious group within the Assemblies of God.

B. Criteria for Discipline of Pastor Who is Involved. Circumstances of the occasion would determine whether the minister should be disciplined or denied ministry in either the original church or the dissident group, or even residency in the area where the division occurred. If a minister is guilty of wrong conduct and wrong attitudes resulting in a split, the District Presbytery shall deal appropriately with him/her as provided in Article XIII, Section 3 of the General Council Bylaws.

Section 7. Relocation of Assemblies

Any assembly desiring to relocate must first meet with the Sectional Executive Committee. The Sectional Committee will then make a study and make recommendation to the District Presbytery based upon: 1) need; 2) location of and distance from already established assemblies; 3) ministry involved; 4) other pastors and churches affected by the relocation. The District Presbytery will then make the final decision.

Section 8. Private Ownership of Church Properties Disapproved

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

We affirm the historic prohibition against ownership of church property by pastors or individual church members. In light of the stated policy of the District Council as noted below in Article XI, Section 12, Part C of the Bylaws, and based on the advice of legal counsel obtained by the District Council in 2006, it is agreed that, notwithstanding any language to the contrary, the District Presbytery is hereby authorized to use one or more related, affiliated or similar legal entities, including, but not limited to, subsidiaries, joint ventures, or "Support Organizations" (as defined by the Internal Revenue Code) to hold title to district real and/or personal property.

Section 9. Records

All assemblies shall maintain complete records in accordance with acceptable business bookkeeping methods in all matters of finance, business meetings, and any other records pertinent to the ongoing ministry of the church. They shall remain as permanent records of the church.

C. District Affiliated Assemblies

Section 1. Churches

A. New Churches

1. All assemblies established with the approval of the Arizona District Council Arizona Missions Department shall be considered District Council Affiliated.
 2. *Procedures for Starting a New Church.* Anyone desiring to start a new work must submit an application to the District Arizona Missions director, who shall forward it to the Sectional Arizona Missions Committee for their review and recommendation to the District Presbytery, after consultation with pastors of churches who may be affected. Final approval must then be granted by the District Presbytery.
 3. Initiative may be taken in opening new works by:
 - a. The District Arizona Missions Committee.
 - b. Established churches starting new works.
 - c. Individuals in cooperation with District Arizona Missions Committee.
- B. All churches not having obtained General Council status, or who have lost that status through circumstances requiring district intervention, or failing to continue to meet General Council criteria, shall be considered District Affiliated.

Section 2. Government

- A. District Affiliated Churches shall be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws for District Affiliated Churches as provided by the Arizona District Council.
- B. District Affiliated Churches shall be under the direction of a board, comprised of the district superintendent, district secretary-treasurer, sectional presbyter, and pastor of the church.

Section 3. Monthly Activity Report

All District Affiliated Churches shall submit a Monthly Activity Report to their sectional presbyters, and shall cover areas of finances, income and expenses, attendance in services, progress or regress, and other items pertinent to making an overall realistic evaluation.

The report will be formulated by the district superintendent and the sectional presbyters, and shall cover areas of finances, income and expenses, attendance in services, progress or regress, and other items pertinent to making an overall realistic evaluation.

Section 4. District Affiliated Church Pastored by an Appointed U.S. Missionary

All churches under the leadership of an appointed U.S. missionary shall be accountable to the district superintendent. Those churches qualifying may, upon the recommendation of the district superintendent and approval of the Executive Presbytery, be granted the privilege of electing a pastor or other officers.

Section 5. Annual Business Meeting

An annual business meeting shall be conducted by a district officer, or the pastor with permission from the district officials. A vote of confidence may be taken at said business meeting, after consultation with the pastor, by a presiding district official to determine the effectiveness of the pastor. The voting shall be by secret ballot, and the results shall not be disclosed to the congregation. Such a review shall continue until such time as the church becomes a General Council affiliated church.

Section 6. Relationship to the District

- A. District affiliated churches are entitled to one (1) lay delegate at the Sectional and District Councils.
- B. District affiliated churches shall remain in this 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. (See General Council Bylaws Article VI, Section 5).

Section 7. Title to Property

The title to property of District affiliated churches shall be held by the Arizona District Council unless, in the judgment of the Executive Presbytery, the church is qualified to be incorporated and hold the title of its own property.

Section 8. Reversion of General Council Affiliated Church to District Affiliated Status

- A. When General Council affiliated church's active voting membership has dropped below twenty (20), the church shall be notified that, unless the membership is increased to the minimum requirement of twenty (20) active voting members within one (1) year, the church shall revert to district affiliated status.
- B. They shall remain District affiliated until the recommendation of their board is made to reapply for General Council status and approval is given by the District Presbytery Board.

ARTICLE XII. MINISTRY

Section 1. Ministry Described

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

All ministers holding current ministerial credentials are authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church in accordance with applicable federal or state laws.

In terms of maturity of ministry, four (4) classifications of ministry are recognized as follows:

A. Certified Ministers

Beginners and efficient helpers in gospel work, especially those who work under pastoral leadership and who devote a part of their time to Christian service.

B. Licensed Ministers

Those who give clear evidence to a divine call, who have had practical experience in preaching, and who give evidence of purpose to devote their entire time to preaching the gospel.

C. Ordained Ministers

Those who are of mature experience and who are qualified and able to undertake the responsibilities of the full gospel ministry and whose ministries are acceptable generally.

D. Local Church Credential

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 years, unless the credential is solely required by active and ongoing local ministry in a prison, hospital, or institution. A person holding a local church credential can perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church if authorized in writing by the senior pastor of the local church issuing the credential.

E. Dual Credentials in the United States

Individuals are allowed to hold dual credentials under special circumstances as approved by the General Council after appeal is made to the Arizona District Presbytery.

Section 2. Qualifications and Requirements

A. General

1. Testimony to having experienced the new birth (John 3:5).
2. Testimony to having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4. The spirit-filled life will enable him/her to fulfill the three-fold mission of the Church (Article VIII, Section 2, b, of the General Council Bylaws).
3. 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.
4. A blameless Christian life and a good report of those who are without (Titus 1:7; 1 Timothy 3:7).
5. A thorough understanding of the agreement with our doctrinal position as contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.
6. A knowledge of the principles, practices, and purposes of the fellowship through a study of the General Council Constitution and Bylaws and District Council Bylaws.
7. An active loyalty to our constitutional agreements, a cooperative spirit, and a readiness to seek and receive the counsel of older brethren and those in positions of authority.
8. *Educational Requirements:*

Any level of academic achievement (diploma or degree) shall not be required for credentials; however, credential applicants shall meet the following criteria.

 - a. All applicants are required to be interviewed by the District Credential 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 doctrine and practices; and either
 - b. Successfully complete equivalent training to that indicated in paragraph “c” below, preferably, in an endorsed Assemblies of God post secondary 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.
 - c. Successfully completed courses offered 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
 - d. Be recommended by a District Credentials Committee as qualifying for credentials through self-study and ministerial experience. Such candidate 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.

9. *Marriage Status*

Annulments, Marriage Dissolutions, and Divorces. The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant's annulment of a former marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials; or, in the case of a divorce or a dissolution, whether the circumstances would more appropriately be classified as calling for an annulment; or if the divorce occurred prior to conversion; or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or for the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15). In those cases involving pre-conversion divorce, marital unfaithfulness, or abandonment, they shall be decided on an individual basis just as those that deal with annulment are decided. The application must be accompanied by clear and satisfactory evidence of an illegal marriage through deception or fraud, or that the divorce did occur prior to one's conversion, or for a former spouse's unfaithfulness, or for abandonment. Appeals from the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the Presbytery Board. Appeals from the decisions of the said Presbytery may be made to the General Council Executive Presbytery (General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 2, j).

10. *Annulments*

Annulments, Marriage Dissolutions, and Divorces. The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant's annulment of a former marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials; or, in the case of a divorce or a dissolution, whether the circumstances would more appropriately be classified as calling for an annulment; or, if the divorce occurred prior to conversion. In those cases involving pre-conversion divorce, they shall be decided on an individual basis just as those that deal with annulment are decided. The application must be accompanied by clear and satisfactory evidence of an illegal marriage through deception or fraud, or that the divorce did occur prior to one's conversion. Appeals from the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the Presbytery Board. Appeals from the decisions of the said Presbytery may be made to the General Council Executive Presbytery (General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 2, j - k).

11. *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; 1 Corinthians 11:5). Women who have developed in the ministry of the Word so their ministry is acceptable generally, and who have proven their qualifications in actual service, and who have met all the requirements of the Credential Committee of the District Council, are entitled to whatever grade of credentials their qualifications warrant and the right to administer the ordinances of the church when such acts are necessary.

12. *Ministers from Other Organizations*

If a minister from another reputable body desires to affiliate with the Assemblies of God, a recommendation from that body should accompany the application. However, the Credentials Committee is under no obligation to accept the applicant's previous ministerial status, but will judge each candidate on his/her own merits in the light of Assemblies of God criteria. It is expected that ministers who receive Assemblies of God recognition will relinquish credentials received from any other organization.

B. Certified Ministers

Efficient helpers in gospel work who devote a part of their time to Christian service.

1. They shall be actively engaged in some aspect of ministry, except in case of ill health or infirmity.
2. They shall have been a member of a local assembly for at least six (6) months.
3. They shall have the recommendation of their pastor.

C. Licensed Ministers

Qualifications for license shall be in two (2) categories:

1. Preaching Ministry (General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 3, d).
 - a. Clear evidence of a divine call, a practical experience in preaching together with an evident purpose to devote one's time to preaching the gospel. They shall perform accepted and approved ministries, except in case of ill health and infirmity.
 - b. Conformity to such provisions as is made for candidates by the General Council of the Assemblies of God in reading courses and other training.

D. Ordained Ministers (General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 3, d)

Qualifications for ordination are outlined in the New Testament scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9).

1. Mature individuals of not less than twenty-three (23) years of age who have developed in the ministry of the Word so that their ministry is acceptable generally and who have proven their qualification in actual service and who have met all the requirements of the Credentials Committee of the Arizona District Council, may be ordained to the ministry of the gospel and may serve either as evangelists or as pastors as their qualifications warrant.
2. They must have met all the requirements of the Arizona District Council in making application and in filling out the form.
3. No person may be ordained to the ministry until he/she has held a ministry license and shall have been engaged in active work as a pastor, evangelist, or other recognized full-time preaching ministry for at least two (2) full consecutive years.
4. They must be residents of the Arizona District and appear before its Credentials Committee.
5. If they have been licensed in a district other than the Arizona District, they must be residents of the Arizona District at least one (1) year, meet the requirements, and secure the endorsement of the officary of the district with which they were previously licensed before receiving ordination.
6. In order to maintain active status, ordained ministers must have approved ministries, except in the case of ill health and infirmity.

Section 3. Procedure for Ministerial Recognition

The District Council shall have the authority to examine and recommend candidates qualifying for Ministerial Credentials (General Council Constitution and Bylaws Article VII, Section 4).

A. Application

1. Ministerial applicants seeking ordination, licensed, or certified minister credentials shall obtain application forms from the district secretary. All application forms must be submitted in compliance with the specified deadline application date established by the district secretary. Licensed and certified minister applicants shall be endorsed by not less than two (2) ordained ministers of the district.
2. All ministerial applicants seeking ordination, licensed, certified ministers, or reinstatement shall undergo screening by a designated agency. The appropriate screening fees, in addition to the application fee, will be the responsibility of the applicant.
3. All applications for ordination, licensed, and certified ministers shall be accompanied by the required fees.

B. Written Examinations

Candidates desiring recognition must be able to pass such examinations as required for each grade of ministry as administered by the District Credentials Committee.

C. Interview of Candidate by Credentials Committee

All ministerial candidates shall meet with the District Credentials Committee for interview.

D. Action of Credentials Committee

Ordained, Licensed, and Certified Ministers.

The Arizona District Council shall recommend candidates qualifying for ordination, license, and certified ministers to the General Council Executive Presbytery for recognition. Approved applications shall be submitted to the General Council of the Assemblies of God for the approval of the General Council Executive Presbytery that constitutes the Credentials Committee, (see General Council Bylaws Article IV, Section 2)

E. Certificates

Ordination, Ministry License, and Certificate of Ministry Ministers.

The General Council Credentials Committee is authorized to issue ordination certificates, ministry licenses, and certified ministers certificates, together with the accompanying annual fellowship card, to all properly qualified and approved applicants. (See General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 5).

F. Ordination Service

All ordination services shall take place under the auspices of the Arizona District Council (General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 4).

Section 4. Renewal of Fellowship Certificates

A. Expiration Date

1. All fellowship certificates are only valid until December 31, of each year and must be renewed annually, (see General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 10, b).
2. Both copies of the General Council renewal forms for all ordained, licensed, and certified ministers must be in the District Office, or postmarked, no later than December 31.
3. Certified ministers' renewals are to be accompanied by the District Questionnaire, signed by their pastor.

B. Grace Period – Until January 15 (See General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 10, c).

1. All who shall have failed to renew their fellowship certificates on or before January 15, or who shall have failed to indicate their purpose to do so, shall be considered as delinquent. The credentials of those who do not avail themselves of this grace period will be recorded as lapsed as of the expiration date of December 31.
2. Ministers who fail to renew their credentials within the stated time shall be assessed a late fee of fifty dollars (\$50) for ordained, licensed, and certified ministers in order to have them renewed.

C. Reinstatement Required after January 15. (See General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 10, d)

1. Ministers who have not renewed by January 15, shall apply for reinstatement and pay a reinstatement fee of one hundred dollars (\$100).
2. When a minister who is a member of our district shall have been removed from our rolls for any cause, except failure to renew and dismissal, and shall apply for reinstatement, he/she shall not be eligible for reinstatement until at least six (6) months shall have elapsed after said name has been stricken from our list of ministers. Said minister will be required to take the appropriate written exam, if the time lapse has been seven (7) or more years. (Number of years changed by General Council Action).
3. Applicants requesting reinstatement shall undergo screening by a designated agency. All appropriate screening fees, in addition to the reinstatement fee, will be the responsibility of the applicant.

D. Official List (See General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 6).

An official ministers list of all ordained, licensed, and certified ministers is compiled by the Credentials Committee of the General Council of the Assemblies of God and published for the convenience of all concerned. This official list is revised annually and contains the names of those who are engaged in active ministry and whose certificates of fellowship have been issued for the current year.

When a change of address is made, the secretary should be notified of the change by mail or email. When a minister leaves the district, he/she shall inform the secretary of such move, giving a forwarding address where he/she can be reached.

Section 5. Inactive Ministers

A. Definition

1. All ministers who shall withdraw from active ministry or shall cease to engage in pastoral, evangelistic, or other full-time ministry for a period of one (1) year or more shall be expected to notify the district office, which shall inform the general secretary.
2. The general secretary is authorized to remove the names of such persons and to place them on an inactive list.

B. Removal of Inactive Ministers from Ministerial List

1. If such inactivity shall continue for a second year, their names shall be eliminated from the ministerial list.
2. This shall not apply to those whose inactivity has been caused by the infirmity of old age or ill health, or those engaged in other aspects of full-time ministry.

C. Restoration of Inactive Ministers to Active Status

Should the minister at any time return to active ministry, his or her name may be restored to the active list upon application bearing the endorsement of the district officers.

Section 6. Prerogatives and Privileges

- A. Opportunities for ministry throughout the fellowship, and the availability of approved ministries.
- B. Representation at District and General Councils.
- C. The extension of local ministry through the worldwide fellowship of the Assemblies of God in fulfilling the Great Commission.
- D. Accessibility to Assemblies of God publications and other printed materials.
- E. Accessibility to Assemblies of God institutions such as colleges, etc.
- F. Utilization of departmental ministries such as camps, ministries to men, women, youth, Sunday schools, etc.
- G. Availability of insurance and retirement programs, such as group term insurance, group hospitalization, and Ministers' Benefit Association retirement plan.
- H. Fellowship with those of like mind and purpose.

Section 7. Responsibilities and Requirements

A. Adherence to Sound Doctrine. A person who has a declared open change in doctrinal views inconsistent with our Statement of Fundamental Truths can no longer be eligible for endorsement as an Assemblies of God minister. The General Council has also declared itself in disapproving of the following doctrinal deviations:

1. Unconditional Security of the Believer

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 awhile 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.

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 matters of personal conscience, the Assemblies of God disapproves the practice of pressing these debatable matters of personal conscience upon others (Romans 14:1-4).

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 to add conditions to salvation (Galatians 3:1-5).

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 (Mathew 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 always 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 people to be prepared for that coming, which may occur at any time, and not lull their minds in 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 years’ 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.

We recommend that should any of our ministers embrace any of the foregoing eschatological errors, they 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).

B. Representation of our Distinctive Pentecostal Testimony. It is expected that Assemblies of God ministers shall correctly and properly represent our distinctive Pentecostal testimony in teaching, practice, and personal conduct.

C. Cooperative Relationship to the General and District Councils (See General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 8).

1. *Amenability and Cooperation.* All ministers holding credentials shall be amenable to both the Arizona District Council and the General Council of the Assemblies of God in matters of doctrine and conduct.

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, and compliance with General Council principles and practices.

2. *Affiliation with District of Residence.* All ministers – ordained, licensed, and certified – residing within the boundaries of the Arizona District shall be expected to affiliate and work in close cooperation with this district.
3. *Exceptions.* In the case of a minister pastoring a church in the Arizona District but residing in another district, said minister shall be expected to affiliate with the Arizona District Council.
4. *Cooperation with other District Councils.* Ministers shall be expected to cooperate with other district councils in which they may labor temporarily.
5. *Ministry in a Non-Assemblies 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 attitude 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 misunderstanding. If the minister does not have district approval, he/she shall be expected to refrain from conducting services for the church.

Ministers who violate this principle shall be considered as having opened the door for censure or charge which may necessitate the recall of their credentials.

6. *Assemblies of God Church Attendance.* All Assemblies of God ministers shall faithfully attend and support a local Assemblies of God church. The Credentials Committee reviewing renewals shall make this a prime consideration.
7. *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 the brethren entrusted with this responsibility. The offenders shall be subject to reprimand or, if persisted in, appropriate discipline.

D. Personal Conduct Separate from the World and Above Reproach. It is the responsibility of the minister to set the example and uphold the standard of scriptural conduct.

1. *Nonconformity to the World.* In view of the alarming erosion of national moral standards, we reaffirm our intention of holding up Bible 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 Scripture warns against: participation in activity which 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; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12).

2. *Ethical and Responsible Handling of Personal Finances.* It is expected that ministers shall live within their means and avoid the habit of running into debt which brings reproach upon the cause of Christ.

E. Competent, Efficient, and Effective Ministry. It is expected that any person holding Assemblies of God ministerial credentials shall give evidence of fruitfulness in ministry.

F. Ministerial Ethics and Courtesy

1. *In Relation to Pastors and Assemblies.* All discourteous conduct is disapproved, and all ministers are advised against interfering with pastors and 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 that 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.
2. *In Relation to Privileged Communications.* Assemblies of God ministers are encouraged to respect as sacred and confidential information confided to them while they are functioning in their ministerial capacities as spiritual counselors and are encouraged not to disclose such confidential information except with the permission of the confidant or if required by law.

G. Separation from Unscriptural Alliances

1. *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 whole-hearted 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 unregenerated (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 interpretation 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 Arizona District Council should refrain from identifying themselves with any of the secret orders which we recognize as essentially of the world, worldly; and we advise any who may have identified themselves with such orders to sever their connections therewith (2 Corinthians 6:7). Furthermore, our ministers are requested to use their influence among our lay members to dissuade them from such fraternal affiliations (1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:24-26).

2. *The Ecumenical Movement.* The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of ministers or churches participating in any of the modern, ecumenical organizations on a local, national, or international level in such a manner as to promote the Ecumenical Movement, because:
 - a. We believe the basis of doctrinal fellowship of said movement to be so broad that it includes people who rejected the inspiration of Scripture, the deity of Christ, the universality of sin, the substitutionary atonement, and other cardinal teachings that we understand to be essential to biblical Christianity.
 - b. We believe that emphasis of the Ecumenical Movement to be a variance with what we hold to be biblical priorities, frequently displacing the urgency of individual salvation with social concerns.
 - c. We believe that the combination of many religious organizations into a World Super Church will culminate in the Religious Babylon of Revelation 17 and 18.

(This is not to be interpreted to mean that a limitation may be imposed upon any Assemblies of God minister by participation on a local level with inter-denominational activities.)

H. Financial Responsibility

1. *To the General Council Headquarters* (General Council Bylaws Article XX, Section 10, f). Since the work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God in its program of developing the spirit of cooperation and fellowship in U.S. and world fields incurs considerable expense, including the financial support of the executive officers and offices, ordained ministers should recognize their obligation to contribute twenty dollars (\$20) per month from their tithes, or as an offering, and licensed ministers to contribute fifteen dollars (\$15) per month, and certified ministers to contribute seven dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50) per month. All who can are strongly urged to give more than the suggested amount, either personally or through the assemblies they pastor.
2. *To the District Council Headquarters*
 - a. The District Council, in its oversight and development of the district, incurs considerable operational expense. Therefore, it is required that each minister send three-fourths (75%) of his or her ministerial tithes to the district treasurer. Ministers doing secular work shall send twenty-five percent (25%) of their tithe to the district treasurer. A minimum of five dollars (\$5) per month (\$60 per year) to the district for the general fund is required of all ministers even though they may be non-salaried (i.e., student, spouse) or unemployed. Ministers who violate this principle of district support shall be considered as having opened the door for censure. All ministerial support of the district must be received in the District Office during the calendar year for which credit is given.
 - b. A financial report envelope will be sent to each credentialed minister monthly. This envelope is to be used to return the monthly tithe and/or offering to the district.
 - c. *Paying Tithes*
 - (1) According to the Scripture, 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 supports. We disapprove, however, of the teaching that all tithes necessarily should belong to the pastor for his/her support.
3. *Accountability*
 - a. Each minister who has not complied with the financial policy of the General Council and the Arizona District Council shall send a statement of explanation with the annual questionnaire.
 - b. The Arizona District is authorized to make available the information submitted by the general treasurer's office, in its semiannual report of ministers' contributions for the support of headquarters, by any of the following methods: (1) collectively, through district publications; (2) individually, through personal letters; or (3) through any other media selected by the district.
 - c. The Arizona District Presbytery shall carefully analyze the annual report of each minister and, in their knowledge of local situations, determine if there has been voluntary cooperation with the General Council and District Council financial programs.
 - d. Any minister who does not support this district according to district financial policy shall not be eligible to hold a district or sectional office.

I. Leaving a Pastorate

When a pastor resigns an assembly, the district superintendent and presbyter should be contacted so assistance can be given to the assembly in the selection of a pastor.

Section 8. Transfer of Credentials

- A. All credentialed ministers moving into the district, with the intent of making this their headquarters or place of residence, shall file a letter requesting transfer within sixty (60) days with the district secretary of the district of which they are a member.
- B. The district secretary shall automatically transfer all ministers who are in good standing from this district to the district where they have moved to take up the duties of the ministry.

C. Exceptions. Exceptions may be made for the following:

- 1. Ministers moving to serve at general headquarters;
- 2. Those who are retired from active ministry;
- 3. Those who are in the armed forces currently on active duty;
- 4. Those who are serving on the faculties of our schools;
- 5. Students in schools outside of their home districts.

D. Transcript. In order to assist a minister who is transferring into another district, a transcript giving helpful information concerning him/her and his/her spouse should accompany the certificate of transfer.

Section 9. Termination of Credentials (Non-Disciplinary) (General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 11, and General Council Bylaws Article X, Section 7)

A. Categories

- 1. *Resigned.* A minister who has elected to remove himself/herself from the fellowship and against whom there are no charges filed.
- 2. *Lapsed.* Those who elect or fail to renew their credentials by the specified time, (see General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 11).
- 3. *Inactive.* Removal from Ministerial List Due to Insufficient Active Ministry (See General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 6, b, and Section 11, b, (1)).
- 4. *Affiliation with Other Church Organizations.* In the event a minister shall identify with another organization granting ministerial credentials, and shall have received such credentials, he/she shall then be requested by the Arizona District to surrender the Certificate of Ordination and current Fellowship Certificate to the District Office. The same requirement pertains to those holding licensed or certified ministers papers.

B. Responsibility of Credentials Committee

- 1. *Investigation.* Before final action in terminating a minister's credentials shall have been taken by either the Arizona District or General Council Credentials Committee, due investigation shall be made as to whether there is any case of disciplinary action.
- 2. *Approval of Termination.* If the minister shall be found to be in good standing, the termination shall be approved.
- 3. *Cause for Disciplinary Action.* In case the evidence warrants contrary action, the minister shall be advised of the findings, and appropriate disciplinary action shall be taken.
- 4. *Surrender of Credentials.* In all cases of termination, surrender of current credentials of the minister shall be requested by the Arizona District. Credentials of ordained ministers shall be forwarded to the General Secretary's Office. Refusal to surrender said Certificate of Ordination and current Fellowship Certificate shall be considered insubordination and may result in placing a charge against a minister.
- 5. *Subsequent Dismissal* (General Council Bylaws, Article X. Discipline, Section 9, a, (3).) Should evidence come to light following a minister's resignation, or the lapse of his or her credentials, of conduct occurring prior to his or her resignation or lapse of credentials that would constitute grounds for disciplinary action under Article X, Section 3, of these Bylaws, the district at its discretion may request the General Council

Credentials Committee to change that minister's status from lapsed or resigned to dismissed. The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation. All rights of appeal will apply.

6. *Notification of Action.* It shall be the responsibility of the Arizona District officary to notify the office of the general secretary of actions taken in the termination of ordained, licensed, and certified ministers, and to fill out and send to that office a Ministerial Status Report form. All information pertaining to the disciplinary action taken against a minister shall be preserved for future reference in the office of the Credentials Committee of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.
7. *Publication of Termination.* The names of ordained ministers who are "lapsed" or who have "resigned" shall be so indicated and published in the Ministers Letter from the general headquarters.

Section 10. Senior Ministers (See General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 7)

In respect and honor to those ministers who have given years of service to the fellowship, senior status shall automatically be given to all credential holders who have reached the age of sixty-five (65), whether they continue in full-time ministry or not.

- A. The term senior-active shall be used for credential holders who continue to serve three-quarters to full-time in the ministry.
- B. The term senior semi-retired shall be used for credential holders who continue to be active, but for half time or less.
- C. The term senior-retired shall be used for those who have ceased to engage in any regular appointed ministry.
- D. There shall be a Retired Ministers Fellowship under the direction of the district superintendent. The director of said fellowship shall be appointed by the district superintendent and ratified by the Presbytery Board. A committee shall be appointed by the director and ratified by the Executive Presbytery Board.

Section 11. Divorce and Remarriage

A. Local Church Standards. Since it will be largely the responsibility of the minister to maintain scriptural standards, this section is included under Article XII, Section 9 and 10.

1. *Membership for Those Having Marriage Entanglements Previous to Conversion.* There are now among Christian people those who became entangled in their marriage relations in their former lives of sin who do not see how these matters can be adjusted. We recommend that these persons 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.
3. *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 marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15).

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/she walks in light of God's word (1 Corinthians 7:15,27,28).

4. *Local Church Leadership.* We recommend that divorced and remarried believers be restricted from serving in the office of deacon (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:12), except when the divorce occurred prior to conversion, because of marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or because of the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15).

B. Standards for the Ministry

1. *Annulments, Marriage Dissolutions, and Divorces.* The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant's annulment of a former marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials; or, in the case of a divorce or a dissolution, whether the circumstances would more appropriately be classified as calling for an annulment; or if 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). In those cases involving pre-conversion divorce, marital unfaithfulness, or abandonment, they shall be decided on an individual basis just as those that deal with annulment are decided. The application must be accompanied by clear and satisfactory evidence of an illegal marriage through deception or fraud, or that the divorce did occur prior to one's conversion, or for a former spouse's unfaithfulness, or for abandonment. Appeals from the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the Presbytery Board. Appeals from the decisions of the said Presbytery may be made to the General Council Executive Presbytery (General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2, j).
2. *Performing Marriage Ceremonies.* We disapprove of any Assemblies of God minister performing a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former companion is still living, unless his/her case is included in the exceptional circumstances described in General Council Bylaws Article IX, Section 5, b. Any minister of our fellowship, who performs a ceremony for such a disapproved marriage, unless he/she has been innocently deceived into doing so, may be dismissed from the fellowship.

We realize that the remarrying of such persons included in the exceptive circumstances as stated could violate the conscience of a minister, and if this should be the case, the minister should not be expected to perform such ceremonies.

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

Section 12. Abuses of Stewardship

A. Tithing

1. *Duty.* We recognize the duty of tithing and urge all our people to pay tithes to God. In tithing, the ministers ought to be examples.
2. *Purpose.* 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. 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/her support.
3. *Discipline for Violators.* All offenders guilty of the practices expressed in the foregoing paragraphs shall be subject to discipline.

B. Solicitation of Funds. The purpose of this bylaw 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.

1. *Authorization Required.* 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.
 - a. Local. Leaders in local projects shall have unquestioned freedom in local church or communities.
 - b. District. Projects or institutions of national scope must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

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

2. *Improper Use of Mailing Lists*. 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.

3. *Discipline for Violators*. 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 of holding title to such properties by the ministers of the Assemblies of God, through private ownership, corporation of sole, closed corporation, or any other type of ownership where initiative of action or final authority is not vested in a corporation of the whole. 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 taking into consideration equity that the titleholder may legitimately have attained. A disregard of this principle and recommendation shall seriously affect the relation of the Assemblies of God members involved in such ownership.

Arizona Revised Statutes § 10-11901, *et seq.*, defines a "Corporation Sole" as a corporation formed and controlled by a single person holding title to church assets in conformity with its constitution, canon, rites, or regulations of the religion. It is generally acknowledged that the "Corporation Sole" is widely (but not exclusively) used by the Bishops and Archbishops of the Catholic Church as a mechanism to hold title to church property.

While the phrase "Corporation of the Whole" is not defined in Arizona's Nonprofit Corporate Code, it is the opinion of legal counsel retained by the Arizona District in 2006 that:

1. The distinction between these two types of corporations is that a "Corporation Sole" is generally owned or controlled by one person while a "Corporation of the Whole" is more broadly controlled by the entire religious body or its representatives; and,
2. The phrase "Corporation Sole" does not apply to subsidiaries, related or affiliated companies, joint ventures, or to "Support Organizations" as defined by Section 501 (c) (3) or Section 509 (a) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Thus, it is hereby officially stated as the policy and intention of the Arizona District that these Bylaws and the Constitution shall be interpreted to authorize the use of one or more subsidiaries, joint ventures, related, affiliated or similar legal entities, or of "Support Organizations" as defined by the Internal Revenue Code to hold title to district property.

ARTICLE XIII. DISCIPLINE

(See General Council Bylaws Article X)

District Action

Section 1. The Nature and Purpose of Discipline (See General Council Bylaws Article X, Section 1).

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.

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.

Section 2. Causes of Disciplinary Action (See General Council Bylaws Article X, Section 3).

Violation of Assemblies of God principles as stated in these Bylaws may give cause for disciplinary action by the Credentials Committee. Among such causes for action shall be:

- A. Any conduct unbecoming to a minister or indiscretions involving morals.
- B. General inefficiency in the ministry.
- C. A failure or inability to represent our Pentecostal testimony correctly.
- D. A contentious or non-cooperative spirit.
- E. An assumption of dictatorial authority over an assembly.
- F. An arbitrary rejection of district counsel.
- G. A declared open change in doctrinal views.
- H. Immoral, unethical or illegal practices related to personal, church, or ministry finances (General Council Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, j).
- I. A marriage in violation of our stand on marriage and divorce (G.C. Article IX, B, Section 5, d and e).
- J. Violations of ministerial courtesy (G.C. Article IX, B, Section 8).
- K. Ministry without prior approval in a non-Assemblies of God church (G.C. Article IX, B, Section 9).
- L. An improper attitude toward those dismissed from the fellowship (G.C. Article IX, B, Section 10).

ARTICLE XIV. MISSIONS

A. District Arizona Missions

Section 1. Authorization

There shall be an Arizona Missions program in the Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Purpose

To evangelize by establishing and developing new churches with the focus of revitalizing existing churches in the Arizona District.

B. National U.S. Missions

Section 1. Authorization

Assemblies of God Missions of the General Council has given the supervision of the Native American work in the Arizona District into the hands of the Arizona District Council.

Section 2. Purpose

Evangelization of the Native Americans in the Arizona District.

C. World Missions

Section 1. Authorization

There shall be a World Missions Program in the Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Purpose

To develop and promote the World Missions Program in the Arizona District.

ARTICLE XV. DEPARTMENTS AND MINISTRIES

1. Departments

Section 1. The District Presbytery shall have oversight of all departments and ministries.

Section 2: Each department shall have a director appointed by the district superintendent and ratified by the district presbyters.

Section 3. All personnel, duties, committees, salaries and budgets shall be established in the Arizona District Operations Manual.

2. Ministries

A. TEEN CHALLENGE

Section 1. Authorization

There shall be a Teen Challenge program of Arizona authorized by the Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God. It shall be under the general supervision of the District Presbytery.

Section 2. Personnel

A. Teen Challenge Director of Arizona. The director shall be nominated by the Teen Challenge Board of Directors and elected by the District Presbytery. The term of office shall be for two (2) years. The director shall be elected on odd number years.

B. Teen Challenge Board of Directors. The Teen Challenge Board of Directors shall be selected in accordance with such guidelines as are approved by the District Presbytery, and shall be authorized to make appointments and supervise the Teen Challenge work of Arizona in accordance with guidelines approved by the District Presbytery.

Section 3. Qualifications

It is recommended that the Teen Challenge director shall be an ordained minister in good standing with the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 4. Constitution and Bylaws

The Teen Challenge ministries shall be governed by the Teen Challenge Constitution and Bylaws. All Constitution and Bylaws changes must be approved by the District Presbytery.

B. WESTERN BIBLE COLLEGE

Section 1. Authorization

Western Bible College shall be subject to the Constitution and Bylaws of both the General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Arizona District Council. It shall be under the general supervision of the District Presbytery.

Section 2. Personnel

A. President of Western Bible College. The president shall be nominated by the College Board of Directors and elected by the District Presbytery. The term of office shall be for two (2) years. The president shall be elected on even number years.

B. Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall be selected in accordance with such guidelines as stated in the Western Bible College Constitution and Bylaws and shall be authorized to make appointments and supervise the college in accordance with guidelines approved by the District Presbytery.

Section 3. Qualifications

It is recommended that the Western Bible College President shall be an ordained minister in good standing with the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 4. Constitution and Bylaws

The college shall be governed by the Western Bible College Constitution and Bylaws. All Constitution and Bylaws changes must be approved by the District Presbytery.

C. AMERICAN INDIAN COLLEGE

Section 1. Authorization

The Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God, Assemblies of God U.S. Missions of the General Council, and member districts of the Southwest Region, in recognition of the need to establish and maintain a strong witness of the gospel to the American Indian tribes, have formed a corporation to own and control the American Indian College in Phoenix, Arizona. The American Indian College is approved by the Arizona District Council as a district affiliated corporation.

Section 2. Personnel

This school shall be operated in accord with the accepted policies of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and the several district councils of the Southwest Region under the immediate supervision of a Regional Board of Directors.

Section 3. Finance

All contributions made to the approved budget of the American Indian College shall be given World Ministries church giving credit.

ARTICLE XVI. DISTRICT PROPERTIES

Section 1. Headquarters Building

- A. The Arizona District headquarters shall be in Phoenix where offices for all departments shall be maintained.
- B. The Arizona District headquarters and all other real or personal property used by the Arizona District ("District Property") may be liened, encumbered, alienated, optioned, owned or leased by the Arizona District as specified by the District Presbytery. The past actions of the Arizona District in (1) purchasing the headquarters in a separate limited liability company, Arizona Assemblies of God Real Estate Holding Company, LLC, and then leasing office space from that company; (2) forming Main Street Development, LLC, and acquiring properties in that name; and (3) entering into, and operating under, other subsidiaries, related or affiliated companies, joint ventures, or "Support Organizations" as defined by Section 501(c)(3) or Section 509(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code are hereby ratified and affirmed.
- C. The superintendent shall be in charge of the District Office and shall delegate all responsibilities.

Section 2. Campground

- A. Granite Hills Retreat and Conference Center (and other campgrounds, retreats, or similar facilities as may be acquired from time to time) may be owned and/or operated by the Arizona District or by a separate

corporation, limited liability company, or other legal entity. If it is owned or operated by a separate legal entity apart from the Arizona District, then it shall at all times be subject to the spiritual and ecclesiastical control of the Arizona District. If it is owned or operated by a legal entity having a Board of Directors, then the members of the Board of Directors shall be subject to the approval of, or appointed by, the District Presbytery.

Section 3. Arizona Missions (or Dependent Church) Properties

- A. All real or personal property used by the Arizona District or by Arizona Missions or by dependent churches may be optioned, owned, leased, mortgaged, sold, or otherwise alienated by the Arizona District as specified by the District Presbytery. For example (but not in limitation of its powers), the District Presbytery may authorize the use of one or more related, affiliated or similar legal entities, including, but not limited to, subsidiaries, joint ventures, or “Support Organizations” (as defined by the Internal Revenue Code) to hold title to district real and/or personal property or to otherwise promote and protect the activities of the Arizona District or of the local church(s).
- B. The district superintendent and the district secretary-treasurer may serve as trustees of local church property or may make other appropriate arrangements, including, but not limited to, trusts, options, leases, deed restrictions, etc., to hold title to, or grant use rights for, the property until it is deeded or leased to the local assembly by authorization of the District Presbytery.
- C. The District Presbytery retains full and independent discretion and control over the determination of the time at which, and the conditions under which, a local church has been “set in order” as a General Council church. The phrase “set in order” refers to prayerful determination of spiritual and ecclesiastical issues based on the application of the scriptures to the particular circumstances of each local church. One of the conditions for being “set in order” is the absence of outstanding third party claims against the local congregation and the absence of outstanding claims against the Arizona District and/or the General Council (including, but not limited to, their respective officers, agents and directors) arising from the local congregation. Nothing contained herein shall create a lien, equitable claim, or other legal or equitable right on the part of a third-party claimant to require transfer of any interest in the property from the Arizona District (or from any other owner of the property being used by the local church) to the local church. A local congregation may request the Arizona District’s assistance in causing a transfer of title to the property which it uses for worship to its local church, but the local church has no enforceable, legal, or equitable right to require a transfer.
- D. When the District Presbytery determines, in its sole and absolute ecclesiastical, theological, and scriptural discretion, that a church is ready to receive title to real property (or a long term lease thereof), then the deed transferring title (or the lease granting long term use rights) to the property to the local church (whether from the Arizona District or otherwise), shall contain this “Reversionary Clause”:

“If the Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God or its successor (the “Arizona District”) determines in its sole and absolute ecclesiastical, theological, and scriptural discretion that the grantee has ceased to be an Assemblies of God church in “good standing” with the Arizona District or its successor for a period of not less than 45 days after notice to the grantee and opportunity to cure, then the real property shall forthwith revert to the grantor upon recording of a “Declaration of Default and Failure to Cure” in the office of the local recording authority stating that the Arizona District, or its successor, has determined that the grantee is no longer in good standing with the Arizona District. This provision may be waived in writing by the grantor.”

ARTICLE XVII. FINANCES

Section 1. General Fund

A. Ministerial Support

(Article XII, Section 7, H, 1 & 2.)

B. Church Support

(Article XI, A. Section 10.)

ARTICLE XVIII. RETIREMENT PROGRAM

Section 1. Ministers Benefit Association

- A. The retirement program provided by the General Council of the Assemblies of God, the Ministers Benefit Association (MBA), shall be made available through the District Secretary's Office.
- B. Churches are encouraged to provide a retirement benefit for their ministers by contributing regularly to the MBA retirement program.

Section 2. Contribution by the District

- A. The senior pastor of churches contributing two percent (2%) of the General Fund to the District Administrative Fund in any calendar year shall have five percent (5%) of that amount sent annually to MBA from the District General Fund in his/her name.
- B. In order for such contributions to MBA to be made by the district, the ministers involved must first furnish the district secretary with their present MBA account number or a completed application for an MBA account no later than December 31, annually.
- C. Full-time elected officers of the district shall have ten percent (10%) of all the tithe they pay the district sent annually to MBA in their name.

ARTICLE XIX. PUBLICATIONS

The district superintendent or a person so appointed shall oversee the preparation and publication of a district paper to be known as Arizona Vision. This publication shall be produced electronically and/or hard copy and distributed on a regular basis.

ARTICLE XX. SUSPENSION OF BYLAWS

The Arizona District Council in session may suspend the bylaws for priority of business, procedure of business, and admission to meetings. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote shall be required.

ARTICLE XXI. DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

In the event this District Council shall cease to function for the purpose herein set forth, then all property, real or chattel, and all assets remaining after satisfying debts and obligations shall revert to the parent body, THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, a Missouri not-for-profit corporation, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri. The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall have full authority to sell such property and to use the proceeds derived for the extension of the work of the Assemblies of God.

In the event of cessation of this District Council, its Board of Trustees (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.

ARTICLE XXII. AMENDMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS

Section 1 Amendments

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any regular meeting of the District Council, provided the proposed amendment has been submitted first to the District Presbytery for consideration, and a copy mailed to each member of the District Council at least thirty (30) days prior to the time of meeting. A simple majority vote shall be necessary for adoption.

Section 2. Resolutions

Resolutions dealing with the bylaws to come before the District Council should be submitted to the District Office for the attention of the Resolutions Committee chairman, signed by its author, at least thirty (30) days prior to the District Council. All resolutions shall be mailed to the voting constituents at least ten (10) days prior to the first day of the District Council. Exceptions to this procedure would be resolutions declared emergency resolutions by the Resolutions Committee. A simple majority vote shall be necessary for adoption.

Section 3. Emergency Resolutions

The District Executive Presbyters and/or the District Presbyters may present an emergency resolution to the Council in session as deemed necessary.

CROSS REFERENCE

BYLAWS of the ARIZONA DISTRICT COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

(Constitution data incorporated into the Bylaws of the Arizona District Council of the Assemblies of God, forming one document.)

ARTICLE I. NAME – Changed to ARTICLE 1. NAME and TERRITORY, Section 1, Name, page 1

ARTICLE II. TERRITORY – Changed to ARTICLE 1. NAME AND TERRITORY, Section 2, Territory, page 1

ARTICLE III. NATURE – Moved to ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP, 1 Membership, Section 1. Nature., page 6.

ARTICLE IV. PREROGATIVES – Moved to ARTICLE III. PREROGATIVES, page 1

ARTICLE V. PRICIPLES FOR FELLOWSHIP – Moved to ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP, Section 2., Principles for Fellowship, page 6.

ARTICLE VI. STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS – Moved to SECTION IV. STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS, page 2.

ARTICLE VII. RELATIONSHIPS – Moved to ARTICLE V. RELATIONSHIPS, page 6.

ARTICLE VIII. MEMBERSHIP – Moved to ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP, 1. Membership, page 6.

ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS – Moved to ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS, NOMINATIONS, AND ELECTIONS, 1 Officers, page 7.

ARTICLE X. MEETINGS – Moved to ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP, 2. Meetings, page 7.

ARTICLE XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES – Moved to ARTICLE XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES, A. All General Council Affiliated Assemblies and District Affiliated Assemblies, page 14.

ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION CLAUSE – Moved to ARTICLE XXI, DISSOLUTION CLAUSE, page 38.

ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS – Moved to ARTICLE XXII. AMENDMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS , page 39.

Updated 07/22/2010