

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND
FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO:

THE PENINSULAR FLORIDA DISTRICT
COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD,
INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

BRAVE CHURCH OF MIAMI, INC.,
DAVID STOCKER JR., ELIADA RIVERA,
YARILEND TABOADA, JOSEPHINE LEJUEZ,
and NIVIA PENA,

Defendants.

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, THE PENINSULAR FLORIDA DISTRICT COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD (“PenFlorida”), sues Defendants, BRAVE CHURCH OF MIAMI, INC. (“Brave Church”) and DAVID STOCKER JR. (“Stocker”), as well as ELIADA RIVERA (“Rivera”), YARILEND TABOADA (“Taboada”), JOSEPHINE LEJUEZ (“LeJuez”), and NIVIA PENA (“Pena”) as members of the Board of Directors for Brave Church, and alleges as follows:

Nature of the Action, Parties, Venue, and Jurisdiction

1. This is first and foremost an action to protect the integrity, sanctity and morality of the world’s largest Pentecostal denominational fellowship and its parishioners by preventing Defendant David Stocker Jr. from continuing to wrongfully operate in his ministerial capacity at Brave Church following an investigation and finding by PenFlorida that he is guilty of significant

incidents of gross sexual misconduct and immoral actions. This is also an action for damages for the Brave Church Board of Directors' breaches of their fiduciary duties to the members of the Brave Church congregation in covering up the misconduct of their pastor, failing to protect the congregation and failing to adhere to the bylaws governing the church, all to the detriment of the parishioners who are Assemblies of God members. Furthermore, this is an action to require Brave Church to cede all rights and title to its property in Miami's Westchester neighborhood to Plaintiff as a result of Brave Church's failure to uphold the statements of faith embodied in PenFlorida's constitution. Finally, this is an action to prevent Defendants from wrongfully disaffiliating from PenFlorida and the General Council of the Assemblies of God without adhering to the required contractual procedures for doing so.

2. Plaintiff, THE PENINSULAR FLORIDA DISTRICT COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC. is a Florida not-for-profit corporation with a principal place of business in Polk County, Florida.

3. Defendant, BRAVE CHURCH OF MIAMI, INC. is a Florida not-for-profit corporation with a principal place of business in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

4. Defendant, DAVID STOCKER, JR. is the registered agent for Defendant BRAVE CHURCH OF MIAMI, INC. and, upon information and belief, resides in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

5. Defendant ELIADA RIVERA is a member of the Board of Directors for Defendant BRAVE CHURCH OF MIAMI, INC. and, upon information and belief, resides in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

6. Defendant YARILEND TABOADA is a member of the Board of Directors for Defendant BRAVE CHURCH OF MIAMI, INC. and, upon information and belief, resides in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

7. Defendant JOSEPHINE LEJUEZ is a member of the Board of Directors for Defendant BRAVE CHURCH OF MIAMI, INC. and, upon information and belief, resides in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

8. Defendant NIVIA PENA is a member of the Board of Directors for Defendant BRAVE CHURCH OF MIAMI, INC. and, upon information and belief, resides in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

9. Jurisdiction and venue are proper in Miami-Dade County, Florida because the actions that form the basis for this complaint all took place in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

10. All conditions precedent to this action have occurred, been performed, or were otherwise satisfied by Plaintiff, or have been waived or excused by the actions or inactions of Defendant.

General Allegations

11. The Assemblies of God (the “Assemblies of God” or “AG”) is a group of associated international and national churches which united form the world’s largest Pentecostal denominational fellowship.

12. In the United States, the AG as a collective Fellowship is broken down into various geographical Districts, including Plaintiff, PenFlorida.

13. The General Council of the Assemblies of God (“General Council”), headquartered in Springfield, Missouri, oversees the Districts located within the United States that are part of the AG.

14. Each District of the AG has the ability to charter new member churches as well as credential pastors to serve those churches. Upon reviewing and approving of new member churches as well as new ministers, the General Council will also review and sign off on the same.

15. The Assemblies of God (“AG”) stresses the importance of the local church being led by qualified spiritual leaders. The AG has developed a credentialing regime that is highlighted by the highest credentialing – ordination. Ordination is available to men or women who meet the biblical qualifications proposed for bishops/elders in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.

16. Ordained ministers are those that have: a devotional spirit; love (for God, the ministry, people, 1 Thessalonians 1:3; 1 Timothy 6:11, 12; 1 John 3:16); faith (Romans 12:3-8; 2 Corinthians 3:5, 6; 5:18-20; Ephesians 3:7; 4:11; Colossians 1:23-29; 1 Thessalonians 1:3) humility (Proverbs 15:33; Romans 12:3); convictions (Jude 3); dedication (total commitment to God’s will); a ministerial spirit (an aptitude to give service; to be solicitous over the well-being and growth of people spiritually, morally, socially, etc.); and faithfulness (1 Corinthians 4:1,2 in stewardship of time, spiritual preparation, business matters, etc.).

17. The moral qualifications of all ordained ministers are held to the highest standards. Ministers are those that do not engage in sexual activities with those that they are not married to, who do not deceive, and who do not engage in the use of alcohol. Their moral lives are those that are “above reproach, faithful to [their spouse], temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.” (1 Timothy 3:2-3).

18. Brave Church (formerly Miami Central Bible Church and Central Assembly of God) is and has been a member congregation with the AG within PenFlorida for over 75 years (since 1946), with locations in the Westchester and Brickell neighborhoods in Miami.

19. Brave Church's predecessor entity, the Central Assembly of God, purchased the church in Westchester, located at 1300 SW 87th Avenue, Miami, FL 33174 (the "Westchester Property")¹ on or about February 19, 1965 using the tithes and offerings of those individuals who were members of the congregation on or about the date of purchase. *See* Warranty Deed, attached as **Exhibit A**; *see also* Quitclaim Deed from Central Assembly of God to Brave Church, attached as **Exhibit B**.²

20. These members donated portions of their income toward the purchase of the Westchester Property in order to ensure that the AG would continue to have a presence in Miami.

21. Moreover, since the purchase of the Westchester Property, the parishioners, through their tithes and offerings, have continued to fund and pay for the upkeep and expansion of the church property, as well as other obligations. They have been so successful that the mortgage on the Westchester Property was paid off in full.

22. Over the years, former and current members of the Brave Church congregation have shown a demonstrated interest in perpetuating the ministry not just locally but also nationally and internationally through participation in ministry events with the AG throughout Florida and through support for AG missions internationally.

23. Stocker is the current pastor at Brave Church, a position he has maintained since 2014.

¹ The legal description for the Westchester Property is as follows:

South 548 Ft. of the East 235 Ft. of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9, Township 54 South, Range 40 East, less the East 35 Ft. in Dade County, Florida.

² Upon information and belief, the Brave Church location in Brickell is currently being rented and is not owned by Brave Church.

24. Stocker was granted the credential of certified minister by the Illinois District of the AG on or about October 1, 2002 and transferred into the PenFlorida District in 2004.

25. In 2007, Stocker was granted the credential of a licensed minister by PenFlorida.

26. On or about May 14, 2014, Stocker was granted the credential of an ordained minister by PenFlorida.

27. In January 2022, Stocker was reported to the Presbytery Board of PenFlorida by a woman³ (“Woman #1”) from the Brave Church congregation for sexual misconduct and moral transgression involving sexual misconduct.⁴

28. In a written statement Woman #1 provided to PenFlorida on January 17, 2022, she confessed that she and Stocker went on their first date on April 7, 2019, after which they engaged in sexual relations. *See* Woman #1 Statement, attached as **Exhibit C**.

29. In addition to written statements, Woman #1 provided the Presbytery Board with hundreds of text messages, photographs and videos evidencing the affair and Stocker’s indiscretions. Attached as **Composite Exhibit D** are redacted photographs and text messages demonstrating Stocker’s inappropriate sexual behavior as well as his tendency to use alcohol (which the AG does not condone) and act erratically.

30. Woman #1 also revealed that Stocker was involved in a sexual relationship with at least two other women from the congregation, and indicated that on at least two occasions, Stocker used church funds for his personal use. *See generally* **Ex. C**.

³ The identity of Woman #1 will be kept anonymous for her privacy and safety.

⁴ This was not the first time that Stocker was reported to an AG District, however. In 2007, the Tennessee district also investigated Stocker for allegations of domestic abuse against his now ex-wife, but ultimately did not bring charges against Stocker based on these allegations.

31. According to Woman #1, Stocker, who at the time was separated from his now ex-wife but was still legally married to her, connected with her via social media, and the two began a secretive affair that was on and off for the next couple of years. *Id.*

32. The two traveled to New York City on two occasions, and traveled to California on another occasion, all while continuing to engage in sexual relations. *Id.* For one of these trips, Woman #1 reported that Stocker purchased her flight with the Church's money. *Id.*

33. Woman #1 also revealed that she and Stocker, in order to keep their relationship secret while he was still married (the divorce was finalized in August of 2020), would locally stay in hotels in Miami and Fort Lauderdale. *Id.*

34. Stocker's then wife became suspicious of the affair and conveyed these suspicions to PenFlorida. When PenFlorida confronted Stocker about the affair, he lied and denied it. *Id.*

35. About four (4) months into their relationship, Woman #1 discovered that Stocker was paying particular attention to another woman from the congregation ("Woman #2"). While Stocker denied that the relationship was romantic, Woman #1 learned many months later (around November of 2021) that Stocker had, in fact, been romantically involved with Woman #2 the entire time he had been involved with her—all while still being legally married to his then wife. To date, Woman #2 remains Stocker's girlfriend. *Id.*

36. Meanwhile, around July of 2020, Woman #1 confirmed that Stocker was cheating on her with yet a third woman ("Woman #3"). Upon learning this fact, Woman #1 ended her relationship with Stocker, though the two later rekindled and remained on and off for another year. *Id.*

37. Woman #1 detailed Stocker's issues with alcohol use, which caused him to become aggressive and emotional. These issues were corroborated by other individuals. *Id.*

38. For example, according to a witness who observed Stocker and Woman #2 at a Miami Heat basketball game on November 4, 2021, the two “were so drunk both of them attempted to walk onto the court. The police intervened to stop them and David Stocker Jr. got very angry and aggressively screamed at the police.” Witness statement, attached as **Exhibit E**; *see also* redacted photographs from the Heat game with police, attached as **Composite Exhibit F**.

39. Upon reviewing the information concerning Stocker’s infidelity and other moral failings, the Presbytery Board, along with the Executive Committee for PenFlorida, determined that Stocker was guilty of sexual misconduct.

40. During the investigation, Stocker tried to resign his credentials to PenFlorida and the AG but was denied this request because of the ongoing investigation into the allegations.

41. The Presbytery Board and Executive Committees’ determination was made pursuant to the disciplinary procedures required in PenFlorida’s Bylaws. *See* PenFlorida Constitution and Bylaws at Bylaws Art. VII, attached as **Exhibit G**.

42. These procedures included: (a) an interview with the complainant; (b) an opportunity for the accused minister to be interviewed; and (c) following the investigation, informing the accused minister in writing by certified mail of the charges.

43. Consistent with these procedures, the Bylaws for Brave Church provide that “[t]he discipline of ministers who hold credentials with the Assemblies of God is administered by the District Council and General Council of the Assemblies of God.” Brave Church Constitution and Bylaws at Bylaws Art. I, §4, attached as **Exhibit H**.

44. During PenFlorida’s interview with Stocker, Stocker was asked if he was ever in a relationship with Woman #1. Contrary to the videos, photos, and evidence that the Presbytery had in its possession, Stocker lied and denied it.

45. On or about April 15, 2022, Stocker was informed of the Board and Committees' findings via a certified letter, and it was understood that he was to be dismissed from the Fellowship. *See* April 15 Letter, attached as **Exhibit I**.

46. Specifically, the letter states that:

The charges against David H. Stocker, Jr. are based on the General Council Bylaws, Article X. Discipline, Section 3. Causes of Disciplinary Action, (a) Sexual Misconduct, (1) moral transgression involving sexual misconduct. It is with great sorrow and regret The Peninsular Florida District Presbytery votes for the immediate dismissal of David H. Stocker Jr. as a minister of the Assemblies of God.

47. *Id.* The District Presbytery's vote was made without the necessity of further investigation into claims related to misappropriated church funds, which would have been an additional basis to remove Stocker under PenFlorida's Bylaws.⁵

48. According to the PenFlorida Bylaws, "[d]isciplined ministers shall be required to surrender their ministerial credentials and their current fellowship card to the district office." **Ex. G**, PenFlorida Bylaws at Art. X, §7(d).

49. Relatedly, one of the requirements for a church's affiliation with the AG is to have a "pastor who is a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council and a district council." *Id.* at Art. XI, §1(a)(6).

50. In addition, the Bylaws of the General Council of the Assemblies of God provide: "No minister dismissed by the Assemblies of God may be allowed to pastor or have ministry in an Assemblies of God church. Pastors and district officials should maintain an exchange of

⁵ The Presbytery did not deem it necessary to further investigate the nonsexual failings, though they were significant and severe, because it was determined that Stocker's sexual indiscretions warranted dismissal without more.

information regarding dismissed ministers known to be seeking ministry in our assemblies.” AG Bylaws at Art. VI, §3(b), attached as **Exhibit J**.

51. Thus, without credentials, Stocker is prohibited from continuing his ministerial duties on behalf of Brave Church, let alone any AG affiliated church. Despite this, since receiving notice of his dismissal, he has ignored the rules and regulations he swore to uphold as a faith leader and continues to do so.

52. Indeed, rather than accept the Presbytery Board and Executive Committees’ determination of his guilt and take responsibility for his actions, on April 18, 2022, in a certified letter from Stocker and the Board of Brave Church to PenFlorida, the Board stated:

We the Board of Directors at Brave Church of Miami, Inc. – a sovereign, autonomous, self-governing, and self-determining fellowship – hereby notify you that we have unanimously decided to terminate Brave Church of Miami, Inc’s affiliation with the Assemblies of God General Council and District Council, effective immediately.

April 18 Letter from Stocker and Brave Church, attached as **Exhibit K**.

53. While disaffiliation is permitted under the AG bylaws and PenFlorida Bylaws, there are certain procedures that must be followed in order for this to occur. Neither Stocker nor Brave Church have followed any of those procedures.

54. Specifically, Article X, Section 5(d) of the PenFlorida Bylaws provide that

Preservation of Affiliation. In the event the termination of affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God is under consideration by an affiliated assembly, the pastor or board shall invite the district officers to participate in a specially called business meeting where such matters will be discussed and voted upon for the express purpose of giving the district officers the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation. A decision to disaffiliate shall require a two-thirds vote of the membership, or a more restrictive rule prescribed by the governing documents of the church or district.

Ex. G, PenFlorida Bylaws at Art. X §5(d).⁶

55. The Constitution and Bylaws for Brave Church provide that the Church, “[w]hile maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs . . . shall voluntarily enter into full cooperative fellowship with assemblies of like precious faith affiliated with the Peninsular Florida District Council and The General Council of the Assemblies of God . . . and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoyed by that affiliation.” **Ex. H**, Brave Church Constitution at Art. III, §1.

56. Critically, the Constitution also provides that “[i]t is understood and agreed that **this assembly⁷ shall conform its standards of membership, qualifications for deacons, and requirements in a pastor to those standards which are set by the Peninsular Florida District Council.**” *Id.* at §2 (emphasis added).

57. Similarly, Article I of the Brave Church Bylaws provides that “[a]ctive voting membership in this Church shall be open to all those who possess the following qualifications: . . . Agreement to being governed by the Bylaws of this Church, **and of the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God . . .**”. *Id.* at Art. I §1(h) (emphasis added).

58. In the event that a member church disaffiliates from the AG or otherwise ceases to adhere to the values of PenFlorida and the AG, PenFlorida’s Bylaws grant PenFlorida the right to the property of that member church:

In order to protect the interest of those whose sole purpose in providing or obtaining property was establishing or maintaining of an Assembly of God, in the event that any Peninsular Florida District Assembly of God, either sovereign or district affiliated, shall be so affected by strife, division, or other reasons so that a ruling majority of its members become affiliated

⁶ Article VI, Section 4(d) of the Bylaws for the General Council of the Assemblies of God includes this same provision. *See* AG Bylaws, attached as **Exhibit J**.

⁷ Per the Brave Church Constitution, the “assembly” is defined as Brave Church Miami, Inc. *See id.* at Art. I (“[t]he name of the assembly shall be Brave Church Miami, INC., Miami, Florida”).

with some other organization, or in teaching and practice shall no longer uphold those statements of faith embodied in our constitution; or for any reason a church should cease to function in or on said property, **all rights of said property shall come under the control of the Executive Committee of the Peninsular Florida District Council**

Ex. G, PenFlorida Bylaws at Art. X §9(b) (emphasis added).

59. Notwithstanding Brave Church's agreement to adhere to the procedures of PenFlorida's bylaws, including the above-described disaffiliation procedures and the requirement that member churches be run by credentialed ministers, and notwithstanding the requirement that Brave Church relinquish its right to the Westchester Property upon breaking from the statements of faith embodied in PenFlorida's constitution, Brave Church continues to operate out of the Westchester Property as a unilaterally declared disaffiliated entity and, despite being informed about the results of PenFlorida's investigation into Stocker's conduct, has refused to terminate Stocker as a pastor in contravention of PenFlorida's findings.

60. To the contrary, despite the fact that, following a meeting with PenFlorida's representatives on May 5, 2022, Brave Church expressly agreed that Stocker would no longer preach at the church and would no longer post on social media on behalf of Brave Church, just a few days later on May 7 and May 8, 2022, Stocker posted on social media and lead the church from the stage during a Sunday service.

61. Thereafter, on Sunday, May 15, 2022, Stocker announced that he would be taking a temporary sabbatical from Brave Church for "a few weeks" but would return to pick up where he left off heading into the summer. Thus, clearly at no point in time has Stocker been officially terminated as a pastor for Brave Church.

62. Instead, Brave Church has not only neglected to inform its members about Stocker's loss of his credentials and termination from the Assemblies of God but has also actively

conveyed to members who have confronted the church upon hearing rumors about Stocker's indiscretions that what they have heard is not true.

63. In fact, even when Woman #1 confided in Taboada, one of the Board members for Brave Church, about Stocker's sexual misconduct before making the decision to report him to the Assemblies of God, the Board member actively discouraged her from doing so because "that would ruin his whole life – and a church that he is running." This discouragement was notwithstanding Taboada's full knowledge that what she was advising Woman #1 to cover up was a moral failing of the highest level. *See* Text Messages, attached as **Exhibit L**.

64. Instead of protecting the parishioners, who Taboada had taken an oath as a Board member to put first, she was more concerned about the pastor remaining in power, not even considering for a moment the severe ramifications of having a leader and confessor who lost his moral compass.

65. In addition, on March 27, 2022, while PenFlorida's investigation into Stocker's conduct was nearing a close and shortly before sending the April 18 letter to PenFlorida announcing its disaffiliation, Brave Church substantially amended its Constitution and Bylaws without going through the proper procedures, which require a two-thirds or majority vote, respectively. *See* **Ex. H**, Brave Church Constitution at Art. XIII; Bylaws at Art. XI.

66. The amended Constitution and Bylaws (that were not approved by a two-thirds or majority vote and purportedly were approved by the Board of Directors only) make no reference to the Assemblies of God or PenFlorida, and conveniently prescribe a completely different procedure for disciplinary investigations into the conduct of ministers holding credentials with the AG, which, as mentioned above, Brave Church's Bylaws previously provided were to be

administered by PenFlorida and the General Council. *See* Brave Church Amended Constitution and Bylaws at Art. XIV, attached as **Exhibit M**.

67. As amended, the Constitution and Bylaws provide that a specially appointed “Board of Overseers” comprised of individuals nominated by the pastor himself and approved by the Board of Directors (who are also appointed by the pastor) is to be responsible for disciplinary investigations into pastoral conduct, but only if a separately appointed “Executive Pastoral Team” first determines that an investigation is necessary. *Id.* at Art. XIII.

68. Against this backdrop and armed with a Constitution and Bylaws that the members of Brave Church had no part in approving, Brave Church now claims it is entitled to engage in a separate, ex post facto investigation into Stocker’s conduct.

69. Ultimately, the Board of Directors for Brave Church has demonstrated that it is determined to sweep PenFlorida’s findings under the rug by any means necessary, including through outright lies and deception of the members of the congregation in breach of their fiduciary duties to Brave Church, to PenFlorida, and to the Assemblies of God.

COUNT I – BREACH OF CONTRACT
(against David Stocker, Jr. and Brave Church)

70. PenFlorida incorporates the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 69 above as though fully set forth herein.

71. Stocker, as the pastor of Brave Church, is subjected to the Brave Church Bylaws, including the provision of the Bylaws requiring conformity with the standards for a pastor as set by PenFlorida vis a vis PenFlorida’s Bylaws.

72. Stocker engaged in sexual misconduct with at least three separate women from the congregation, some while he was legally married to another woman and all while he was not married to any of them.

73. Finding sufficient evidence of these transgressions through its discipline procedures, PenFlorida withdrew Stocker's ordination and thus dismissed Stoker as a pastor from Brave Church.

74. Stocker's continuation of his duties despite being uncredentialed as a result of his dismissal—which is being done with Brave Church's knowledge and consent—is a breach of the PenFlorida Bylaws, the AG Bylaws, and the Brave Church Bylaws.

75. Churches affiliated with AG are required to maintain credentialed ministers, and thus, Stocker and Brave Church's breach is a material one.

76. As a result of Stocker's and Brave Church's breach, PenFlorida has been damaged by, among other things, having a stain on its reputation in the community as a result of Stocker's transgressions which, upon information and belief, other members of the congregation are aware of (notwithstanding the complicit Board's best efforts to sweep this under the rug).

WHEREFORE, and for the foregoing reasons, PenFlorida demands judgment in its favor resulting from Stocker and Brave Church's breach of the Brave Church and PenFlorida bylaws requiring Brave Church to be run by a credentialed minister, including but not limited to a mandatory permanent and temporary injunction preventing Stocker from leading Brave Church without credentials, and all other relief this Court deems just and proper.

COUNT II – BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY
(against Rivera, Taboada, LeJuez, and Pena)

77. PenFlorida incorporates the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 69 above as though fully set forth herein.

78. Rivera, Taboada, LeJuez, and Pena, as the individual members of the Brave Church Board of Directors (the "Board") have a fiduciary duty to the members of the congregation who, by virtue of their membership, are in affiliation with PenFlorida and the Assemblies of God.

79. The Board breached its fiduciary duty to the congregants by:
- (1) allowing an uncredentialed minister to continue pastoring at the church;
 - (2) discouraging Woman #1 from reporting Stocker's sexual misconduct that were in violation of the values he and the Board swore to uphold;
 - (3) denying any wrongdoing on the part of Stocker when confronted by individual members of the congregation;
 - (4) amending its constitution and bylaws without the required membership approval for the personal motivations of the Board and Stocker to sweep the allegations about Stocker under the rug; and
 - (5) refusing to adhere to the disaffiliation procedures it agreed to abide by and instead unilaterally disaffiliating from the Assemblies of God.

80. As a result of these breaches, PenFlorida has suffered damages by, among other things, having a stain on its long-standing good reputation in the community and the potential harm to the parishioners the Board is duly bound to protect.

WHEREFORE, and for the foregoing reasons, PenFlorida demands judgment in its favor resulting from the Board's breach, including but not limited to the relief otherwise demanded herein, and all other relief this Court deems just and proper.

COUNT III – BREACH OF CONTRACT
(against Brave Church)

81. PenFlorida incorporates the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 69 above as though fully set forth herein.

82. Brave Church agreed in its Bylaws to adhere to the standards promulgated by PenFlorida, which would include those standards outlined in PenFlorida's Bylaws.

83. Pursuant to Article X, Section 9(b) of its Bylaws, in the event that any AG affiliated church no longer upholds the statements of faith embodied in PenFlorida's constitution, "**all rights of said property shall come under the control of the Executive Committee of the Peninsular Florida District Council . . .**" **Ex. G**, PenFlorida Bylaws at Art. X §9(b) (emphasis added).

84. By (1) formally declaring that it is disaffiliating from the AG; and by (2) allowing an uncredentialed minister to continue pastoring, Brave Church has demonstrated that it "no longer uphold[s] those statements of faith embodied in [PenFlorida's] constitution." *Id.*

85. Brave Church's failure to cede its rights in the Westchester Property to PenFlorida under these circumstances is a breach of PenFlorida's Bylaws.

86. Because PenFlorida is the parent church in a hierarchical church structure upon whose theologies, values and teachings a community presence in Miami was established, Brave Church's breach is a material one.

87. The Westchester Property was purchased using the tithes and offerings of members of the congregation who have had a vested interest in continuing the presence of an AG church in the Miami community since 1946 and has continued to be maintained with the subsequent tithes and offerings of future AG affiliated members.

88. The members of the Brave Church congregation whose monies were used to purchase the Westchester Property, as well as the newer members of the Brave Church congregation today, have and continue to participate in ministry events with the AG throughout Florida and the world with the goal of perpetuating the ministry locally, nationally, and internationally.

89. Thus, as a result of Brave Church's breach, PenFlorida has been damaged by the loss of a key, longstanding church property in a major city within its district.

WHEREFORE, and for the foregoing reasons, PenFlorida demands judgment in its favor resulting from Brave Church's breach, including but not limited to a mandatory permanent injunction requiring Brave Church to relinquish any right, title, estate, lien or interest in, to, or against the Westchester Property or any part thereof to PenFlorida, temporary injunctive relief preventing Brave Church from relinquishing any right, title, estate, lien or interest in, to or against the Westchester Property to any other entity or individual pending this litigation, and all other relief this Court deems just and proper.

COUNT IV – INJUNCTION
(against David Stocker, Jr. and Brave Church)

90. PenFlorida incorporates the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 69 above as though fully set forth herein.

91. PenFlorida is seeking both a mandatory permanent and temporary injunction against Stocker and Brave Church to prevent them from disregarding Stocker's dismissal from the Fellowship as a credentialed minister.

92. PenFlorida found that Stocker is guilty of sexual misconduct based on significant evidence that he was sexually involved with at least three separate women from the congregation, all while he was not married to them and some while he was still legally married to his now ex-wife.

93. PenFlorida has a clear legal right to have Stocker and Brave Church adhere to the Bylaws and also has a clear legal right to have its affiliated churches run by credentialed ministers, which, as a result of his sexual transgressions and affairs, Stocker is not.

94. Thus, unless Stocker is permanently removed from the pulpit, PenFlorida will suffer irreparable harm for which there is no adequate remedy at law.

95. The threatened harm to PenFlorida's reputation and values by allowing an uncredentialed minister to continue its affiliation with one of its member churches with the knowledge and approval of Brave Church's Board of Directors outweighs any possible harm to Stocker and Brave Church, who vowed to but failed to refrain from employing a pastor that would engage in this type of conduct as part of his ministerial duties.

96. Stocker's conduct constitutes morally bankrupt behavior, is conduct that is unbecoming of a minister and does not reflect the values associated with PenFlorida or the AG.

97. Entry of an injunction against Stocker and Brave Church will not disserve the public interest in having community churches run by credentialed ministers and protecting parishioners from hypocritical leaders.

WHEREFORE, PenFlorida hereby demands judgment in its favor and against Stocker and Brave Church, requiring them to respect the findings of PenFlorida's investigation, which require his dismissal from the Fellowship.

COUNT V – INJUNCTION
(against Brave Church)

98. PenFlorida incorporates the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 69 above as though fully set forth herein.

99. PenFlorida is seeking both a mandatory permanent and temporary injunction against Brave Church to prevent it from relinquishing any right, title, estate, lien or interest in, to or against the Westchester Property to any other entity or individual.

100. PenFlorida has a clear legal right to have Brave Church adhere to its Bylaws by virtue of its voluntary agreement to enter into a cooperative fellowship with PenFlorida, which includes adherence to the procedures dictated by PenFlorida in its governing documents requiring

any member church who ceases to uphold the statements of faith embodied in Brave Church's constitution or disaffiliates from PenFlorida to cede its rights in property to PenFlorida.

101. Brave Church's Westchester Property was purchased using the tithes and offerings of the parishioners of the church who had a vested interest in continuing the presence of an AG church in the Miami community.

102. The tithes and offerings of future members of the church have continued to maintain and expand the property, as well as cover other obligations.

103. Moreover, the members of the Brave Church congregation have and continue to participate in ministry events with the AG throughout Florida and the world with the goal of perpetuating the ministry locally, nationally, and internationally.

104. If Brave Church is permitted to transfer its rights in the Westchester Property, PenFlorida will suffer irreparable harm to this community presence for which there is no adequate remedy at law.

105. The threatened harm to PenFlorida as a result of Brave Church's actions outweighs any possible harm to Brave Church, who can still operate as a disaffiliated entity out of its Brickell location, which upon information and belief is currently being rented.

106. Entry of an injunction against Brave Church will not disserve the public interest in maintaining the status quo through the continued presence of an AG church in the community.

WHEREFORE, PenFlorida hereby demands judgment in its favor and against Brave Church, requiring Brave Church to refrain from ceding its rights in the Westchester Property to any other individual or entity.

COUNT VI – BREACH OF CONTRACT
(against Brave Church)

107. PenFlorida incorporates the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 69 above as though fully set forth herein.

108. Brave Church agreed in its Bylaws to adhere to the standards promulgated by PenFlorida, which include those standards outlined in PenFlorida's Bylaws.

109. Pursuant to PenFlorida's Bylaws, Brave Church was required to but did not engage in certain procedures before purporting to disaffiliate from PenFlorida.

110. These procedures included prior notice to PenFlorida, a special congregational meeting within the presence of PenFlorida, and a vote of the membership to disaffiliate.

111. This failure was a breach of Brave Church's agreement with PenFlorida.

112. By virtue of its agreement to voluntarily enter into a *cooperative* fellowship affiliated with PenFlorida, this breach was a material one that went to the essence of Brave Church's agreement to adhere to the standards set forth by PenFlorida.

113. As a result of Brave Church's breach, PenFlorida has been damaged by, among other things, the loss of a key, longstanding church community in a major city within its District.

WHEREFORE, and for the foregoing reasons, PenFlorida demands judgment in its favor resulting from Brave Church's breach of the required disaffiliation procedures, including but not limited to an injunction preventing Brave Church from disaffiliating from PenFlorida without following these procedures, and all other relief this Court deems just and proper.

COUNT VII – INJUNCTION
(against Brave Church)

114. PenFlorida incorporates the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 69 above as though fully set forth herein.

115. PenFlorida is seeking an injunction against Brave Church to prevent it from disaffiliating from the fellowship without following the procedures outlined in the PenFlorida Bylaws.

116. PenFlorida has a clear legal right to have Brave Church adhere to its Bylaws by virtue of its voluntary agreement to enter into a cooperative fellowship with PenFlorida, which includes adherence to the procedures dictated by PenFlorida in its governing documents.

117. Brave Church has been in affiliation with PenFlorida since 1946 and has established a community presence in Miami through this affiliation.

118. If Brave Church is permitted to unilaterally disaffiliate, PenFlorida will suffer irreparable harm to this community presence for which there is no adequate remedy at law.

119. The threatened harm to PenFlorida as a result of Brave Church's actions outweighs any possible harm to Brave Church, who is merely looking to follow the philandering Stocker in disregard of its contractual and faith obligations.

120. Entry of an injunction against Brave Church will not disserve the public interest in maintaining the status quo through the continued presence of an AG church in the community.

WHEREFORE, PenFlorida hereby demands judgment in its favor and against Brave Church, requiring Brave Church to follow the proper procedures outlined in the PenFlorida Bylaws with respect to disaffiliation from the Fellowship.

Dated this 24th day of May, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
Counsel for Plaintiff
3250 Mary Street, Suite 102
Coconut Grove, Florida 33133
Telephone: (305) 371-8809
Telecopier: (305) 448-4155

By: /s/Glen H. Waldman

Glen H. Waldman, Esq.

Fla. Bar No. 618624

gwaldman@atllp.com

Trinity Jordan, Esq

Pro Hac Vice pending

Julie Levine, Esq.

Fla. Bar No. 1007991

jlevine@atllp.com

FOR SERVICE OF PLEADINGS:

miamiefiling@atllp.com

EXHIBIT A

4178 and 103

WARRANTY DEED

STATE OF FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA

Warranty Deed

This Indenture, Made this 20th day of January A.D. 1965.

BETWEEN Flagami Baptist Church of Miami, Inc., a corporation

existing under the laws of the State of Florida, having its principal place of business in the County of Dade and State of Florida

and lawfully authorized to transact business in the State of Florida, party of the first part, and

Central Assembly of God -c/o Boris Spaseff, 1741 S.W. 8th St. Miami, Fla, a corporation existing under the laws of the State of Florida, having its

principal place of business in the County of Dade and State of Florida

and lawfully authorized to transact business in the State of Florida, party of the second part.

WITNESSETH: That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Ten (\$10.00) Dollars and other good and valuable consideration Dollars to it in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has granted, bargained and sold to the said party of the second part, its successors and assigns forever, the following described land situate, lying and being in the County of Dade

and State of Florida, to-wit:

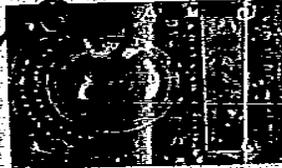
South 548 Ft. of the East 235 Ft. of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9, Township 54 South, Range 40 East, less the East 35 Ft. in Dade County, Florida.

Subject to any and all unpaid taxes, if any.

Subject to restrictions, limitations, reservations, and easements, if any, of record and to the Dade County Zoning Ordinances and the Laws of the State of Florida.

DADE COUNTY

STATE OF FLORIDA DOCUMENTARY STAMP TAX FEB 16 1965 9900



And the said party of the first part does hereby fully warrant the title to said land, and will defend the same against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever.

In Witness Whereof, the said party of the first part has caused these presents to be signed in its name by its proper officers, and its corporate seal to be affixed, and the same to be attested by the Secretary thereof, and the same to be recorded in the Public Records of the State of Florida, in and for the County of Dade, this 31st day of January, 1965.

By [Signature] Trustee
By [Signature] Trustee
By [Signature] Trustee

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of us:
[Signature]
[Signature]
State of Florida,

County of Dade

I Hereby Certify, that on this 31st day of January, A.D. 1965, before me personally appeared the Trustees named above and [Signature] [Signature] respectively of Flagam Baptist Church of Miami, Inc. a corporation under the laws of the State of Florida, to me known to be the persons who signed the foregoing instrument as such officers and severally acknowledged the execution thereof to be their free act and deed as such officers for the uses and purposes therein mentioned and that they affixed thereto the official seal of said corporation, and that the said instrument is the act and deed of said corporation.

Witness my hand and official seal at Miami in the County of Dade and State of Florida the day and year last aforesaid.

[Signature] (Seal)

STATE OF FLORIDA
County of Dade
On this 31st day of January, 1965, at a clock M., this instrument was filed for record and, being duly acknowledged and proven, I have recorded the same on Page of Book in the Public Records of said County.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Circuit Court of the Judicial Circuit of said State, in and for said County.
D.C. Clerk

ABSTRACT OF DESCRIPTION
State of Florida
County of Dade
On this 31st day of January, 1965, at a clock M., this instrument was filed for record and, being duly acknowledged and proven, I have recorded the same on Page of Book in the Public Records of said County.
FEB 16 1965
APRIL 16 1965
RECORDED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS
BOOK 4478 PAGE 106
E. B. WATSON, CLERK
By [Signature]

9900
GSR 25148
FILED IN CONFERENCE
\$5 FEB 16 AM 11:00
CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT
DADE CO. FLA.

EXHIBIT B



CFN 2018R0434741
OR BK 31065 Pgs 4154-4157 (4Pgs)
RECORDED 07/19/2018 13:03:58
DEED DOC TAX \$0.60
HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK OF COURT
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Prepared by:
John P. Joseph, Esquire
Church Legal Center
2429 Central Avenue
Suite 207
St. Petersburg,
Florida 33713

When recorded return to:
Rev. David Stocker, Sr.
37046 S. Fish Camp Road
Grand Island, FL 32735



(Space above this line reserved for recording office use only)

QUIT-CLAIM DEED

1. IDENTIFICATION OF GRANTOR

Grantor's name and address:

Central Assembly of God

Also known as Central Bible
Assembly of God, Inc., now
known as Brave Church of
Miami, Inc.,

A Florida Not for Profit
Corporation
Document Number: 709185

1300 SW 87th Avenue
Miami, FL 33174

The word "I" or "me" as hereafter used means the Grantor.

2. IDENTIFICATION OF GRANTEE

Grantee's name and
address is:

Brave Church of Miami, Inc.,

f/k/a Central Bible Assembly
of God, Inc., or Central
Assembly of God

A Florida Not for Profit
Corporation
Document Number: 709185

1300 SW 87th Avenue
Miami, FL 33174

The word "you" as hereafter used means the Grantee.

3. MEANINGS OF TERMS

The terms "I," "me," "you," "grantor," and "grantee," shall be non-gender specific ((i) masculine, (ii) feminine, or (iii) neuter, such as corporations, partnerships or trusts), singular or plural, as the context permits or requires, and include heirs, personal representatives, successors or assigns where applicable and permitted.

4. DESCRIPTION OF REAL PROPERTY CONVEYED

Property hereby conveyed (the "Real Property") is an undivided interest in the following described land:

South 548 Ft. of the East 235 Ft. of the NE ¼, SE ¼ of NE ¼ of Section 9, Township 54 South, Range 40 East, less the East 35 Ft. in Dade County, Florida.

Subject to restrictions, limitations, reservations, and easements, if any, of record and to the Dade County Zoning Ordinances and the Laws of the State of Florida.

Together with all tenements (property capable of being held with unconditional power of disposition), hereditaments (inheritable interest in property), easements (right to use land of another) and appurtenances (right used with land for its benefit) belonging to or benefiting such property.

Parcel Identification Number is 30-4009-000-0041

5. CONSIDERATION

Good and valuable consideration plus the sum of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) received by me from you.

6. CONVEYANCE OF REAL PROPERTY

For the consideration described in Paragraph 5, I convey, remise (to give up a claim), and quit claim (transfer without warranty) to you any interest I may have in and to the Real Property.

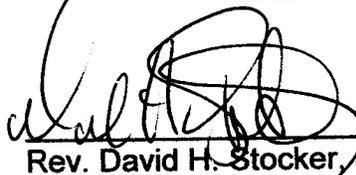
7. HOMESTEAD

I represent and warrant that the Real Property is neither the homestead or residence of myself or a member of my family, nor is the Real Property adjacent to the homestead or residence of myself or a member of my family.

8. PREPARER CERTIFICATE

John P. Joseph, Esquire, prepared this instrument based on the information given to him by the Grantee. He does not render an opinion or guaranty nor warrant the marketability of title nor the accuracy of the legal description as he has not examined the title to the real property.

Executed on July 18, 2018.



Rev. David H. Stocker, Jr.
President
Central Assembly of God

Also known as Central Bible Assembly of God, Inc., now known as Brave Church of Miami, Inc.,

Signed in the presence of:

Signed in the presence of:

Neil Set
Witness Signature

[Signature]
Witness Signature

7/18/18, 2018
Date

7/18, 2018
Date

DAVID STON
Print name of witness

Eliado Rivera
Print name of witness

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 18 day of July 2018, by Rev. David H. Stocker, Jr, who is personally known to me or has produced FL, DL as identification.

[Signature]
Notary Public - State of Florida

Name of Notary: YADIRA MEDINA

Seal:

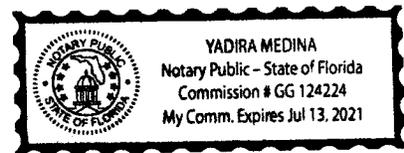


EXHIBIT C

From: [REDACTED]

1/17

Subject: David Stocker Jr- Brave Church

Date: Jan 9, 2022 at 7:16:08 PM

To: rusdebord@aol.com

Hello Reverend,

I spoke to Sheri yesterday on the phone and she gave me your contact information to reach out to you. This is concerning David Stocker Jr from Brave Church.

(see slideshow 1 before reading)

I can discuss anything mentioned in further detail but i am going to condense a very long story to the best of my ability. With what i have proof for.

I met him via instagram in April of 2019. A few months after he made the announcement he was divorcing Christina.

We went on our first date April 7, 2019 in which we had dinner and went back to his apartment and unfortunatly engaged in sex (see attach 1) From then on it was a whirlwind romance (as you can see in the pictures, hopefully you can pause the video to see clearly) I have his initials tattooed on the back of my neck and the day we met (see attach 2). He has my name and the day we met tattooed as well (see attach 3). We traveled alone to NYC twice and to California.. We would stay in hotels in miami & Ft lauderdale but we kept things quiet because he was legally married to Christina. I know Christina had met with Terry R. to tell him David was dating me but David denied it and they had no proof, but she was correct. (see att. 4 &5)

We would both have conviction about having sex but we continued. After about 2 months of us being together he called me drunk, the next day he

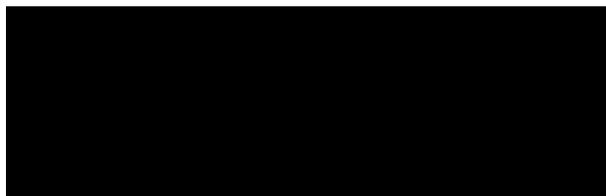
[REDACTED]

apologized and said he was broken from Christina being unfaithful and sometimes would resort to drinking. From that day on the drunk phone calls, text msg voicenotes became more frequent. (see video 1, video 2) (see att. 6, 7,8,10,11)

4 months into the relationship i caught him talking to a girl named [REDACTED] [REDACTED] he then told me she was the niece of a board member that was "crazy" and he needed to be nice to her. He hid her name under "enzo" on his phone because he said he didnt want to upset me.

The whirlwind romance continued, he met my son, hung out with my family, went on vacation with my family and son.(see attch 12) He suddenly had to go to california to preach and was upset i couldnt make it so he went alone. During that time he called me drunk multiple times. When he came back he confessed he had seen [REDACTED] there but they "werent alone" she was with her family and they all hung out and again he needed to be nice because her uncle (freddy gutti) is board member of the church. At this point im sexually involved with him for months, head over heels in love, and very involved at brave, with volunteering and making friendships. His assistant Erica is one of my good friends and so is Yari his board member. I couldn't leave even tho i knew i was in a very toxic relationship.

Fastfoward a couple more months the sex, and alcohol abuse (on his side) continued. Different situations happened where i knew something was terrible wrong things like- example 1: he punched himself in the face in my car with a fist because he said he was tired of hurting me. Example 2: he would have breakdowns crying uncontrollably unlike anything i have ever seen. example 3: he got very drunk at Cine Bistro in City Place Doral. I



raced over there to find him asleep in his car and incredibly intoxicated. I put him in my car (literally) drove him home and made sure he was asleep. the next morning i picked him up with breakfast in hand to go pick up his car and told him he needed to go to rehab.(see attach 14 he started to look very strange)

I then began to confide in my family about our relationship and how toxic it was and a couple days later i found out he was cheating on me with a woman named [REDACTED] Erick Kingsley pastor of Lagoinha Miami Church [REDACTED] can confirm this. David met him and told him he was on dating apps and he had met her and dated her. I found this out while on vacation with my parents (July 2020) and officially broke up with him.

we didnt speak for about two months when this happened. After that started talking again but didnt become officially back together. (His divorce was finalized august 2020) During this time we had sex twice and would kiss and hug if we would see eachother. His alcohol abuse continued because he would send me drunk pictures of himself or text msgs of him at a bar. We both always came to the conclusion that we wanted to be with eachother but couldnt bc there was no trust and bc he needed to quit the alcohol before being around my son.

From then to now we have had a very toxic relationship where if i posted a pic that he thought was "too sexy" for other men to see he wouldnt speak to me for days .. and vice versa if he did something to hurt me even tho we werent together i wouldnt speak to him. but in the end we would always come to the same conclusion that we love eachother and we werent dating anyone else because we wanted to be together. (see attach.9 , 13, 15,16,1,18,19)

In November 2021 he was really pursuing me and even tho he was still calling me drunk late at night i was falling back into the trap. (see attach 20,21) He told me he was single and wanted to meet up. We meet up at coconut grove [REDACTED]

and we walked to each other and he melted into my arms crying saying he loves me and cant live without me. We sat and talked for a while and he was continuously calling me and pursuing me and vice versa. the next day i met him at a tattoo shop while was getting a pistol tattooed on himself he was holding my hand. He told me the tattoo meant " all is fair and love and war" (which ironically means used to describe a situation in which people do not follow the usual rules of behavior and do things that are normally considered unfair)

That night we spoke on the phone and i had realized [REDACTED] was looking at my instagram story constantly and i confronted him about it i said hey why is she always looking at my story ?? you are the only one that would know this answer. He then told me he had spoken to her and they had gone on a few dates. as you can imagine i was in SHOCK. wasnt this the "crazy" "psychopath" that was stalking you ????? i immediately hung up and called her (i had her phone number because she was in my brave life group)

She came over my house and told me he completely denied ever talking to me and nicknamed me " crazy goldilocks" and told me they had been dating for months, they had matching tattoos and she had even traveled to california with his parents and him. She also told me while me and him were together they had been together romantically. So then i realized he had cheated on me twice [REDACTED] and now he was cheating with me on her because the day before we were holding hands.

[REDACTED] confirmed to me she knew about his alcohol abuse.

see a pattern here.. he called christina stocker crazy, he called [REDACTED] crazy, and now [REDACTED] is crazy ! but really we are all just victims of his abuse.

I called him on facetime with her sitting next to me and he answered and when he saw us together he immediately hung up. She left my house and said she was done with him and that he was a deceiving liar. (see attac 21 -

[REDACTED]

this is a text from [REDACTED] after she left my house)

Ever since then i have not spoken to him. I have blocked him everywhere. since then my uncle which is his dentist and a pastor (Raul Molina which knows what has been going on this entire time [REDACTED] told me he posted her on facebook and they are officially back together and that he could NOT BELIEVE IT.

I had dinner with yarilend (his board member [REDACTED] which is (was) a close friend of mine in November showed her everything attached in this email and she asked me not to contact assemblies of God or tell anyone because it was going to start trouble for him. I was beyond shocked at her response !!! in an abusive systems you receive benefits for your loyalty to leaders regardless of the harms they are doing. she did not address the alcohol abuse but about the relationship she said "he is single and going crazy who cares you are beautiful you can have anyone you want" Sadly i have not heard from her since.

In December 2021 i sent erica sanchez (his assistant [REDACTED] (my friend) and megan garrido (worship director/staff) all the proof and what had happened and never heard a single word back. At this point im not surprised he is a narcissistic master manipulator, im sure he talked himself out of it.

I reached out to christina stocker and apologized to her from the bottom of my heart for being like everyone else and believing "she is crazy" because everything she accused him of being is exactly what he is and what he had done to me and will continue doing.

I began to notice that men from the church were watching my instagram stories and then a member of his church named Karla Moreno that knows everything and saw the proof said that he had told his entire security team that i was crazy and jealous of [REDACTED] and needed to be watched out for.

[REDACTED]

Speaking the truth has been completely liberating, i dont have to lie for him anymore, cover up anymore, pick him up drunk anymore because he finally stuck the final "knife in my back" by coming out with [REDACTED] knowing what has happened. Although this situation with [REDACTED] was very painful it's the only thing that would have completely set me free from him. I hear how he is doing damage control now for the ones that know in the church but i want to let you know Christina stocker was completely right when she said he was a cheater and a narcissist. and i more than anyone is shocked that this happened to me. and this will sadly probably happen to [REDACTED] because this is his pattern.

I dont know how this is going to be addressed but i really dont want to hear from him ever again, and i want you to be cautious and know you are dealing with someone that obviously has mental health issues. Noone in their right mind is going to stand up and preach, let alone come out with the girl he cheated on the girl hes been sleeping with since april of 2019 in public knowing my entire family can say something. its just INSANE . but that is him. his mind is complete chaos and full of lawlessness. I am complicit in this because i also continued to support , and love and sleep with him instead of leaving. and that is why i apologized to everyone that knows what's going on because i am very embarrassed. If this goes unsettled and he continues preaching that is fine too. I wanted to put this information in the right hands because i would HATE to see this or worse happen to another woman or single mom.

The attachments are just a small piece of what i have in my phone, i was always taking screen shots of everything because i always had to have proof to defend myself in our next argument and im hoping after this to delete everything and move on.

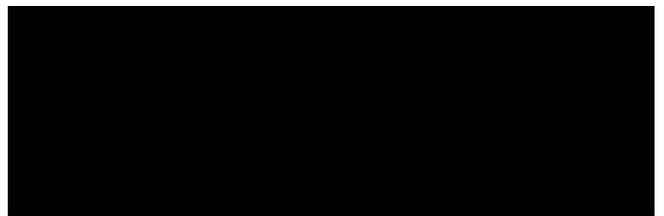
The most ideal situation is you not mention me reaching out to you, so many people from the church know he will not know where it came from. i dont know what he is capable of, this is the man i saw punch himself in the face. but it is up to you.

[REDACTED]

 slideshow1.MP4

feel free to call me if you need to

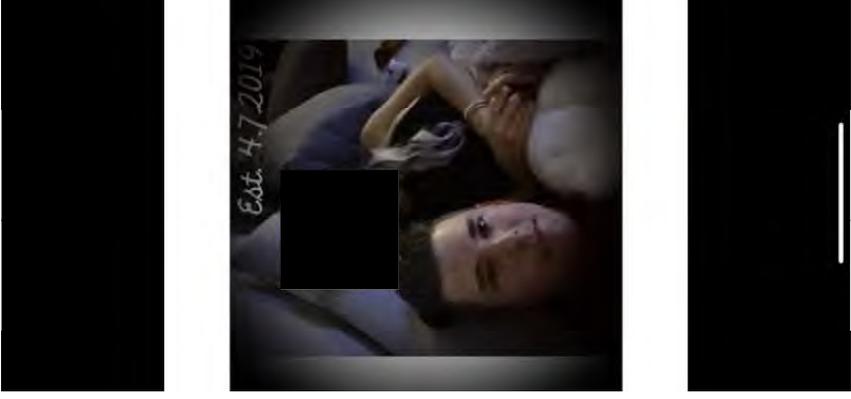
thank you and Sheri for your time! she is very kind !



1/17/2022

EXHIBIT D

Picture from
David and [redacted]'s
first date on
April 7, 2019

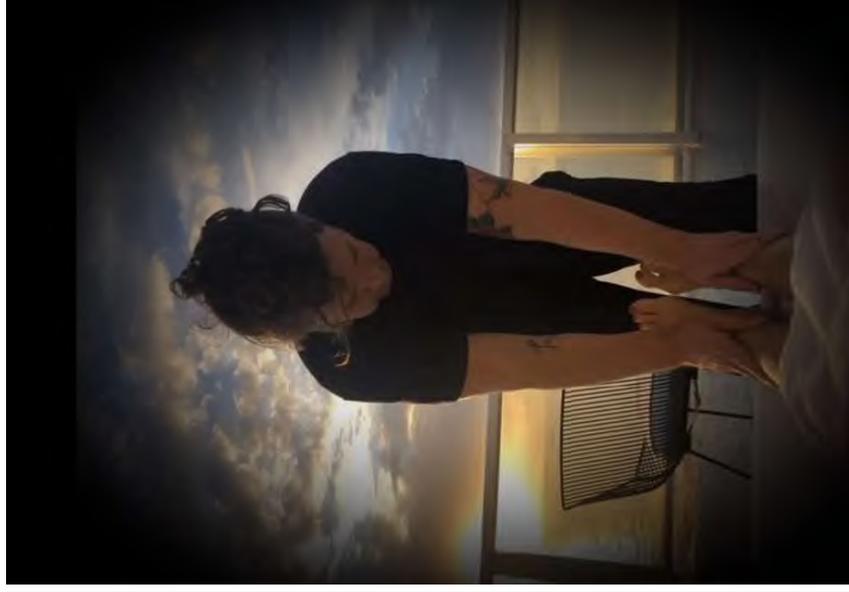


- Photo 1: Matching tattoos commemorating their first date
- Photo 2: David's initials tattooed on the back of [REDACTED]'s neck



David would stay overnight in hotels with [redacted] throughout their relationship.

These are pictures taken at the W Hotel in Fort Lauderdale in May of 2019.



The two also stayed together at the following Florida hotels:

- Ritz Carlton Bal Harbour
- The Edition in Miami Beach
- Marriot in Marco Island
- Marriot in Orlando
- Turnberry in Aventura (twice)

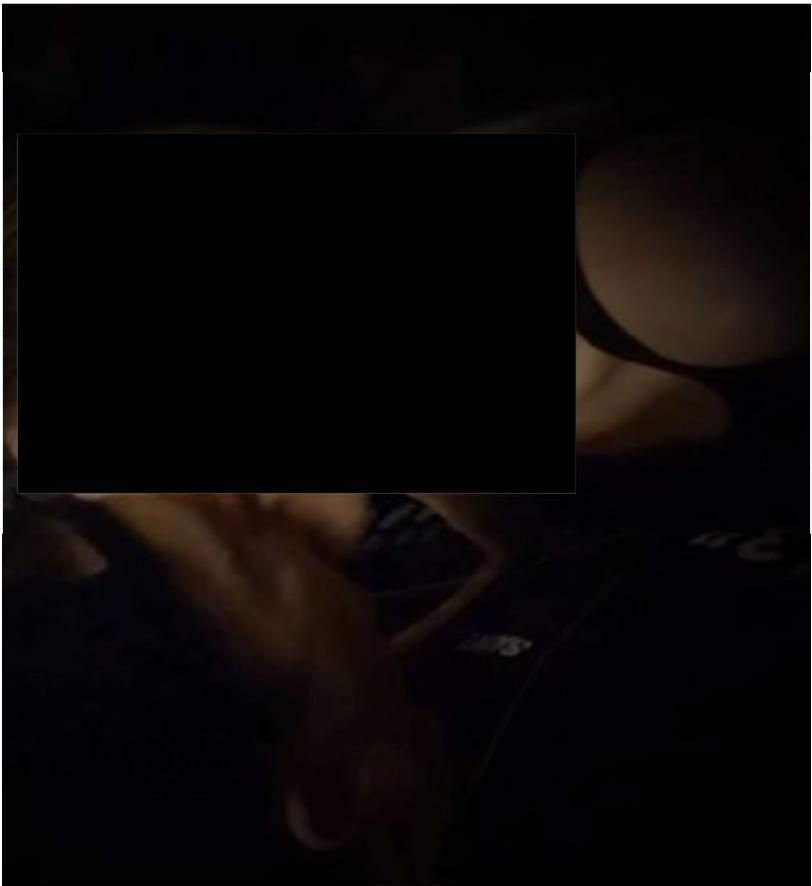
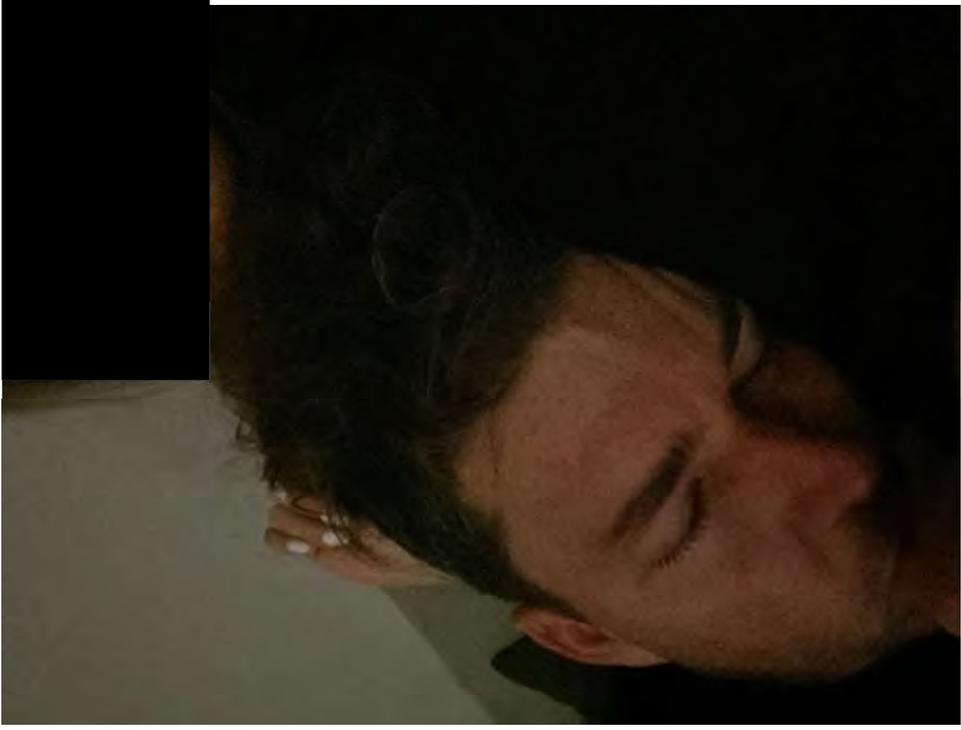
They also vacationed in Key Largo

Pictures from their stays at these hotels are shown in the next few slides.



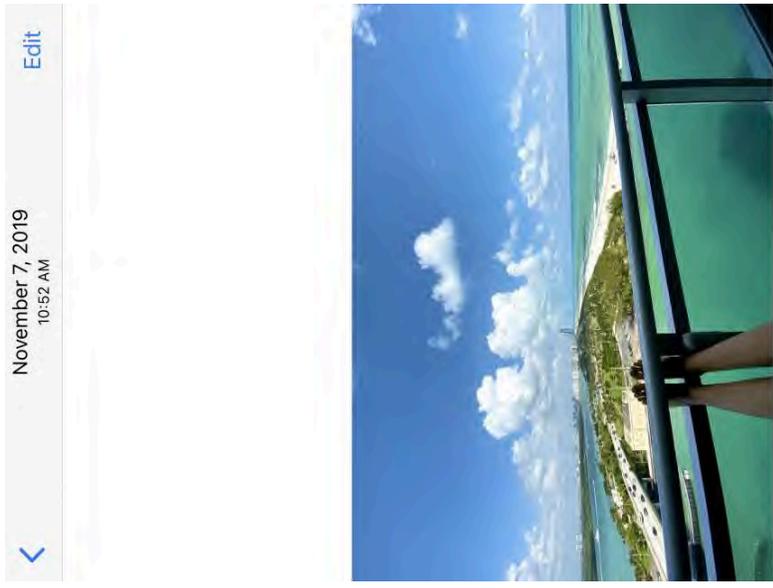
← View video







November 7, 2019
stay at the Ritz
Carlton in Bal
Harbour



Edit

November 7, 2019
10:52 AM



Edit

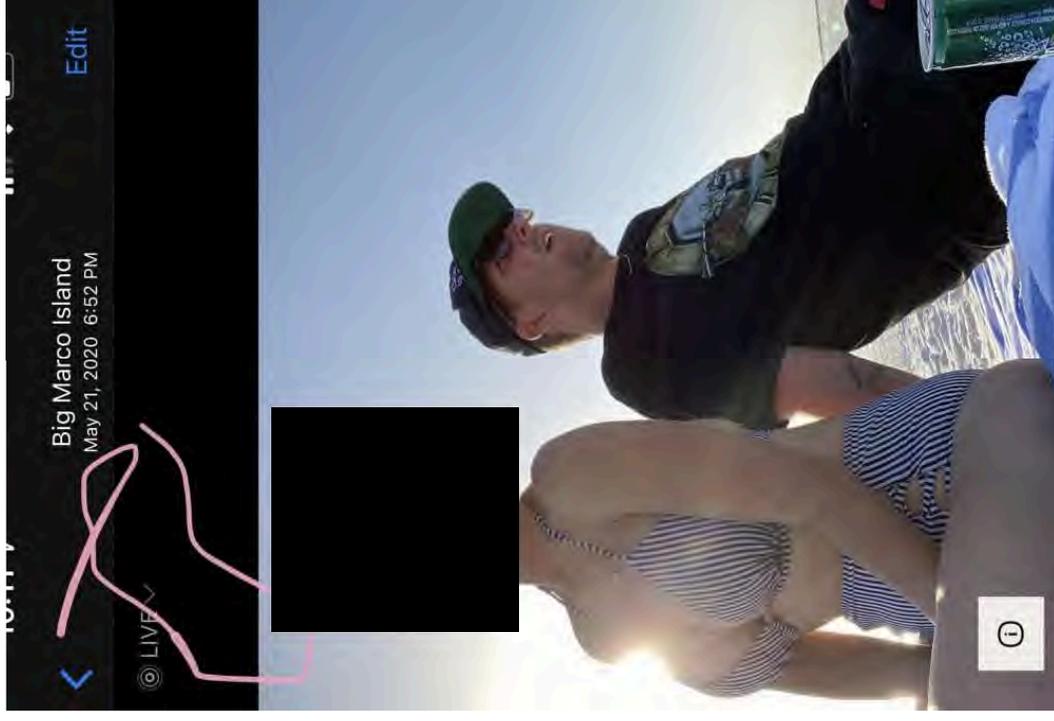
November 7, 2019
10:53 AM



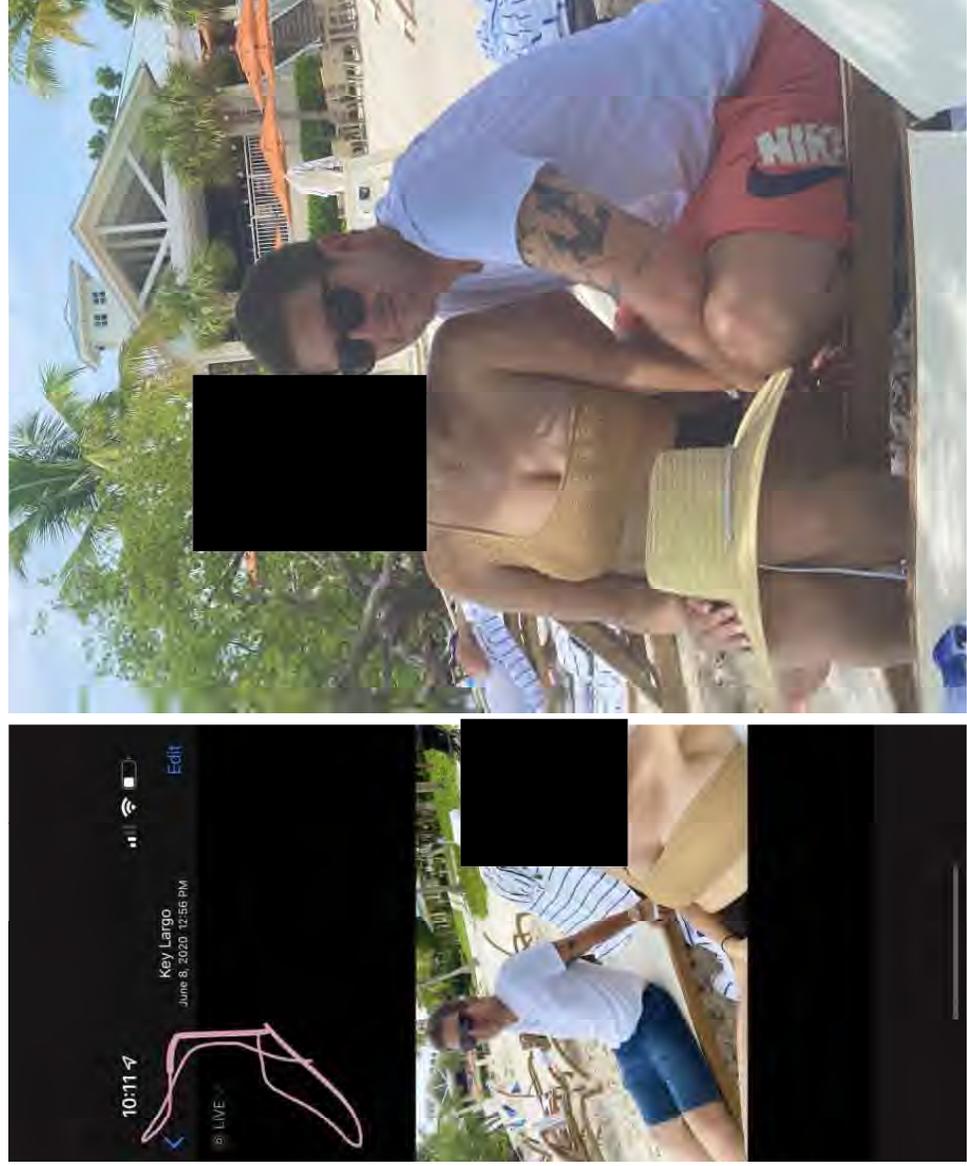
2:29



May 21, 2020 stay at the Marriott in Marco Island

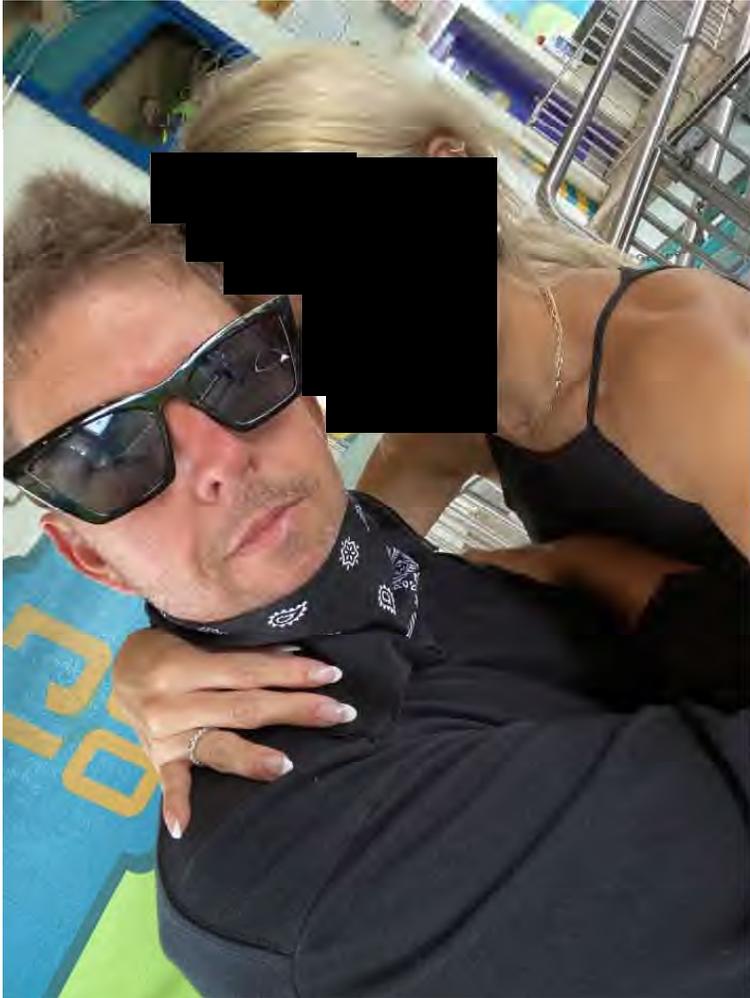
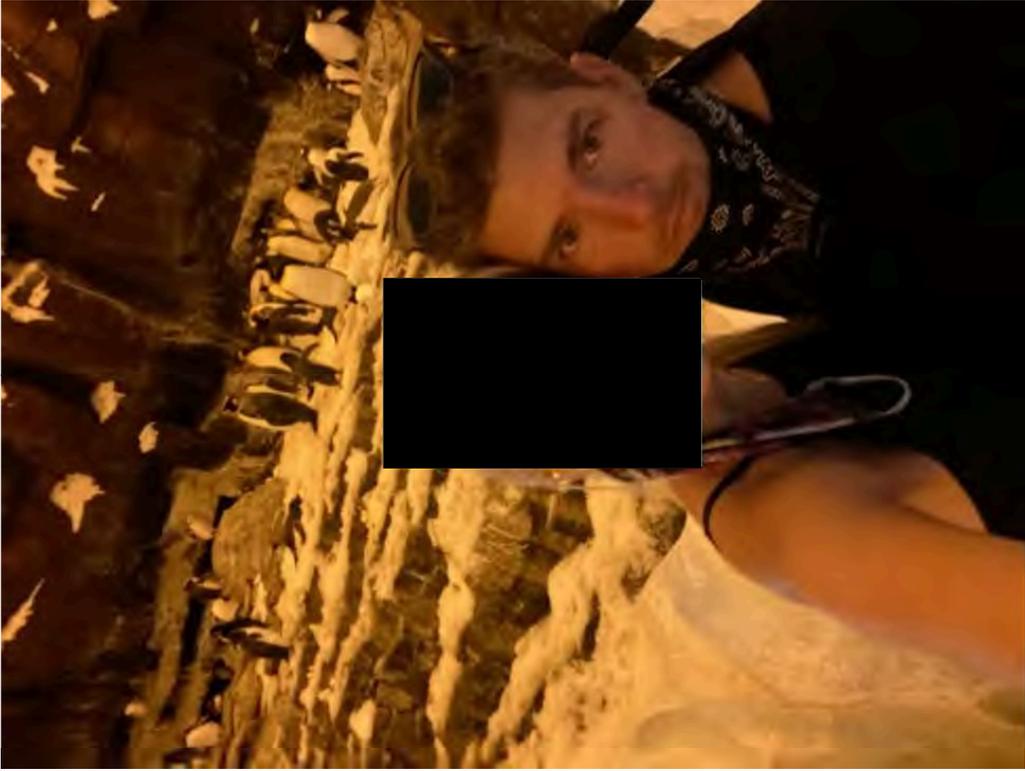


June 8, 2020
Key Largo
Vacation

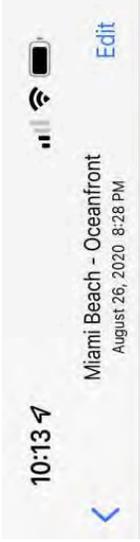




June 19, 2020
stay at the
Marriott in
Orlando



While [redacted] did not stay overnight with David at the Miami Beach Edition, she and David were intimate there



Out of state trips

In addition to their overnight stays and vacations in Florida, David and [REDACTED] took three separate out-of-state vacations:

Trip 1: New York City. The two stayed together alone in a hotel there. [REDACTED] plane ticket was purchased with the Church's credit card.

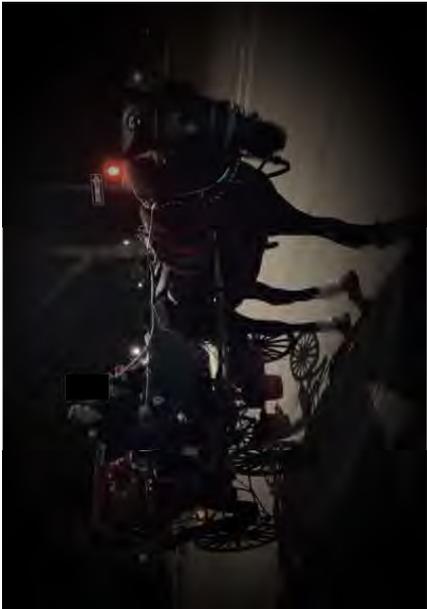
Trip 2: New York City. David and [REDACTED] stayed at SIXTY LES. The hotel was purchased with the Church's credit card.

Trip 3: San Francisco/San Diego. Again, David and [REDACTED] stayed together alone in an AirBnb and a hotel.

Pictures and videos from these vacations are shown in the next few slides.

New York City: May
28, 2019







Best day everrrr

TRANSACTION DETAIL (continued)

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
07/26	CHASEPAY WITH ELLIE PAYMENT FROM CONTEMPORANEA, XAVIER BISCARDI@CFCF	21.00
07/26	Card Purchase With Fin. 07/26 Public Square Man 150 Downtown Sola FL Card	17.88
07/26	Card Purchase With Fin. 07/26 Target T 1200 S Fnd Downtown Bldg FL Card	38.93
07/26	CHASEPAY WITH ELLIE PAYMENT FROM CHASE VAZQUEZ WIC08LIMTY11	500.00
07/26	CHASEPAY WITH ELLIE PAYMENT FROM CHASE VAZQUEZ WIC08LIMTY11	112.00
07/26	CHASEPAY WITH ELLIE PAYMENT FROM CONTEMPORANEA, XAVIER BISCARDI@CFCF	90.00
07/26	CHASEPAY WITH ELLIE PAYMENT FROM CHASE VAZQUEZ WIC08LIMTY11	28.00
07/26	Card Purchase 07/26 Uber Technologies Inc 686-576-1289 CA Card	-1.00
07/26	Card Purchase 07/26 Uber Technologies Inc 899-376-1038 CA Card	9.97
07/26	Card Purchase 07/26 Aquana Suite Surti/Downtown Bldg FL Card 540E	10.81
07/26	Card Purchase 07/27 Downtown Bldg Rental Downtown Bldg FL Card	-1.00
07/26	Card Purchase With Fin. 07/27 Target T 1200 S Fnd Downtown Bldg FL Card	37.11
07/26	Card Purchase With Fin. 07/27 Walgreens Store 1041 Downtown Bldg FL Card 5505	16.58
07/26	Card Purchase With Fin. 07/27 The Flight Mktg Adventures FL Card 5505	29.27
07/26	Card Purchase 07/26 Marriotts Suzanne Downtown Bldg FL Card 5505	9.40
07/30	Card Purchase 07/30 Bookwise/6403 Chcek 8779577615 CA Card	24.99
07/30	Card Purchase 07/30 Uber Technologies Inc 899-376-1038 CA Card	-1.00
07/30	Card Purchase 07/30 Uber Technologies Inc 899-376-1038 CA Card	34.95
07/30	Card Purchase 07/30 Uber Technologies Inc 899-376-1038 CA Card	4.77
07/30	Card Purchase 07/30 Bookwise/6403 Chcek 8779577615 CA Card	-1.00
07/30	Recurring Card Purchase 07/30 Visa/1 Visa/1 Wt Fl 888-6488711	-14.00
07/30	Card Purchase 07/30 American Air/0120806851 Fort Worth TX Card	441.69
07/31	Card Purchase 07/30 American Air/0120806851 Fort Worth TX Card	-18.48
07/31	Card Purchase 07/30 Huggan Des 1414 Miami FL Card 8505	-14.44
07/31	Card Purchase 07/30 Uber 100E	95.33
07/31	Card Purchase 07/30 Bar Bldg Pkwy 1 Collins New York NY Card	-3.59
08/01	Card Purchase 07/30 Mt. Olive Bldg Mt. Olive CA Card 8908	4.63
08/02	Card Purchase 08/02 South USA 877.170.1181 NY Card 5505	9.98
08/02	Card Purchase 08/02 Starbucks 800-252-7583 WA Card 5505	-17.00
08/02	Recurring Card Purchase 08/01 Visa/1 Visa/1 Wt Fl 888-6488711 CA Card 5505	-10.00
08/02	ATM Cash Deposit 08/02 USAA SW 301 St Miami FL Card 5505	40.00
08/02	Card Purchase Return 08/02 American Air/0120806851 Fort Worth TX Card 5505	18.48
08/02	CHASEPAY WITH ELLIE PAYMENT FROM CONTEMPORANEA, XAVIER BISCARDI@CFCF	22.00
08/02	CHASEPAY WITH ELLIE PAYMENT FROM CONTEMPORANEA, XAVIER BISCARDI@CFCF	20.00
08/02	Card Purchase 08/02 Starbucks 800-252-7583 WA Card 5505	-10.00
08/02	Card Purchase With Fin. 08/02 SunTimes 122 Miami FL Card 5505	42.98

New York City: July 30, 2019

Hotel: Sixty Les →

David visited C3 Williamsburg
Church while [REDACTED] stayed in
their hotel room.

← [REDACTED] bank statement with
charges from the trip. The hotel
room is not on her statement as
David paid for the room with the
Church's credit card.



San Francisco and San Diego: November 24, 2019

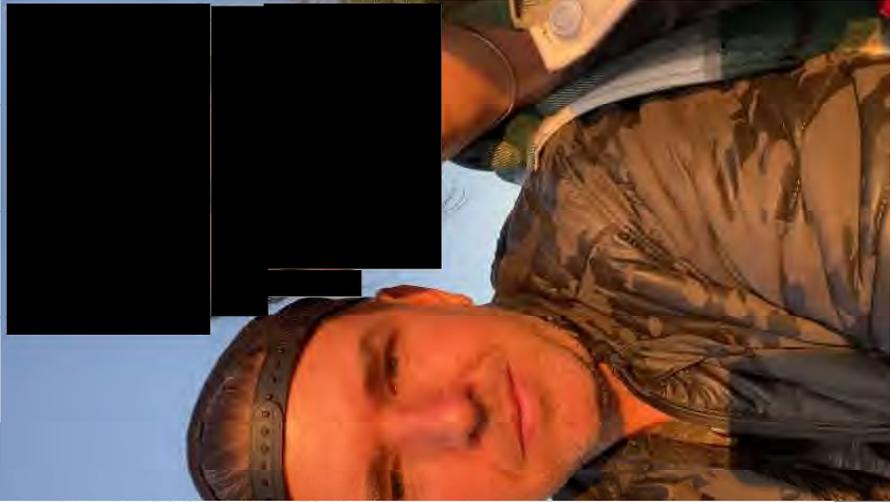
View video on this slide 

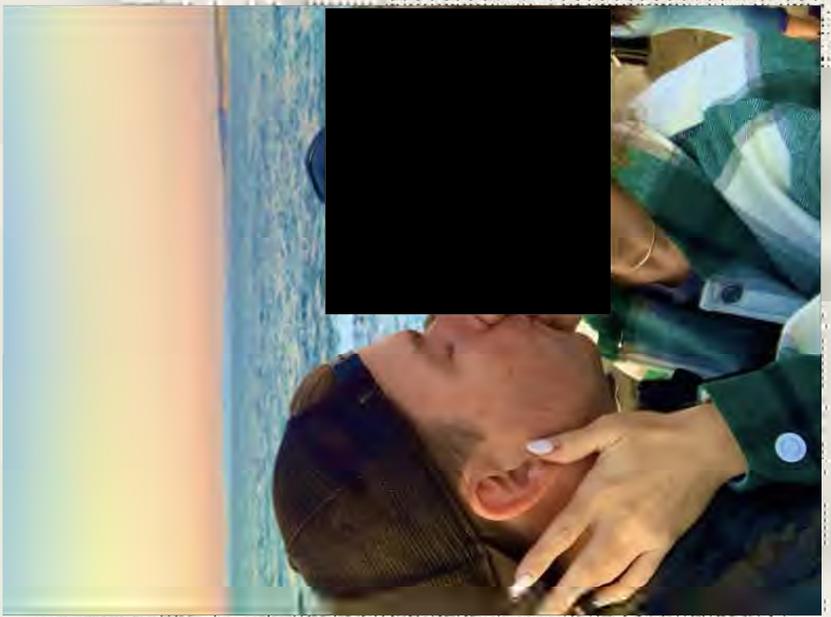
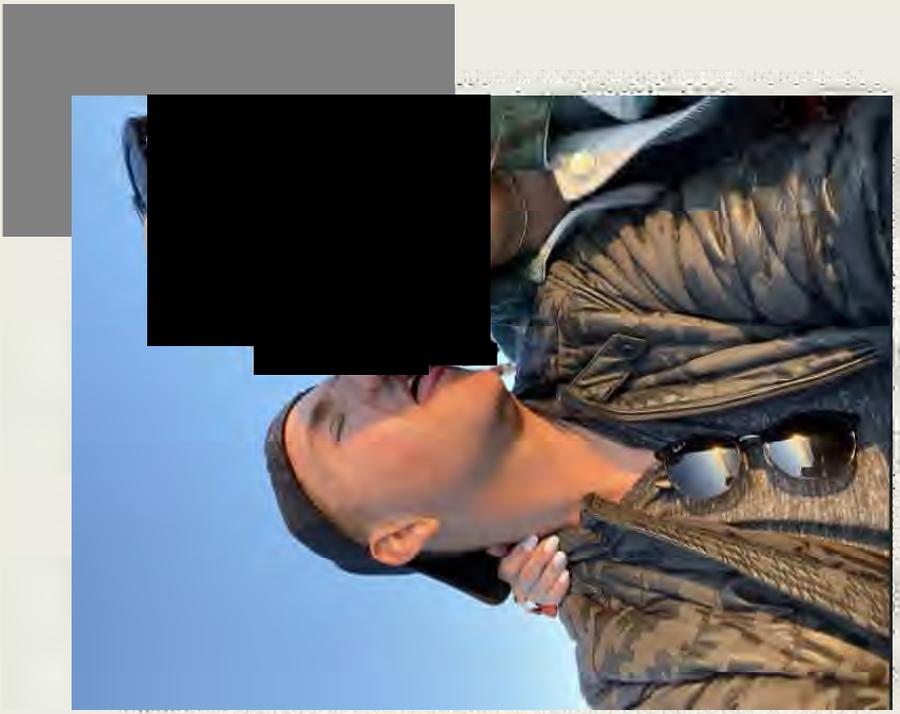


Two videos on this slide



← View video





The AirBnB
David and [REDACTED]
stayed at in
San Francisco



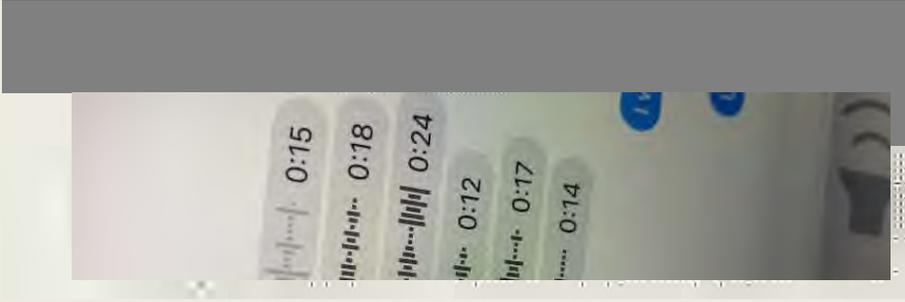
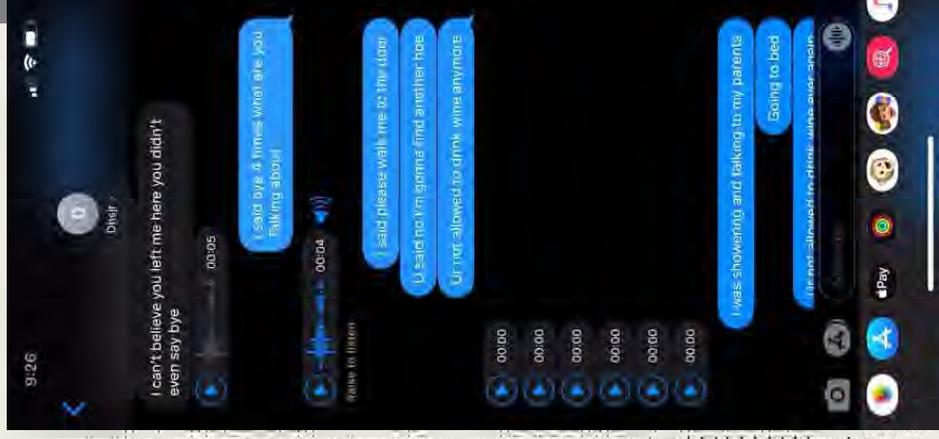
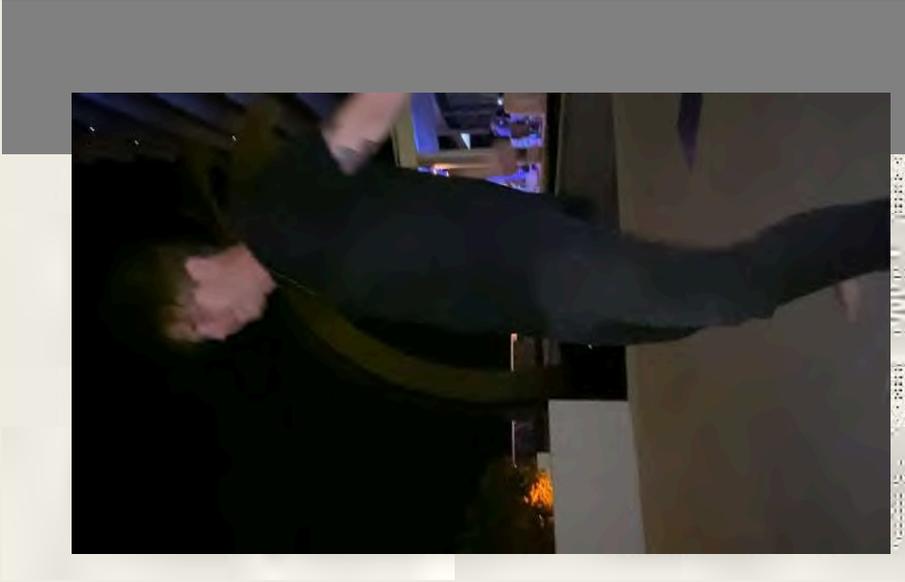




Pictures of [redacted] and David during their COVID-19 quarantine



Video and audio of David while intoxicated



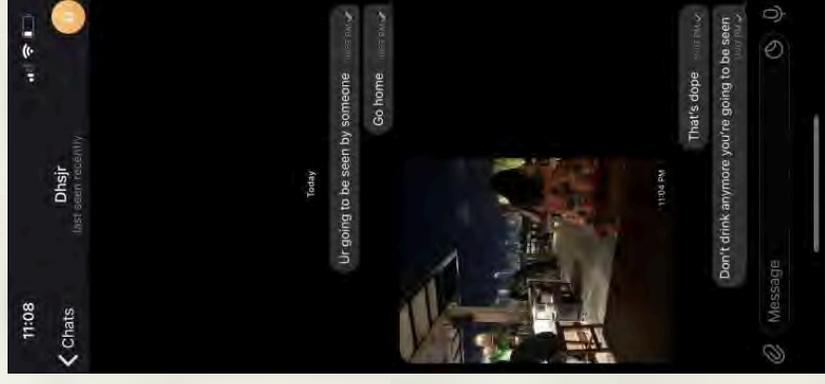
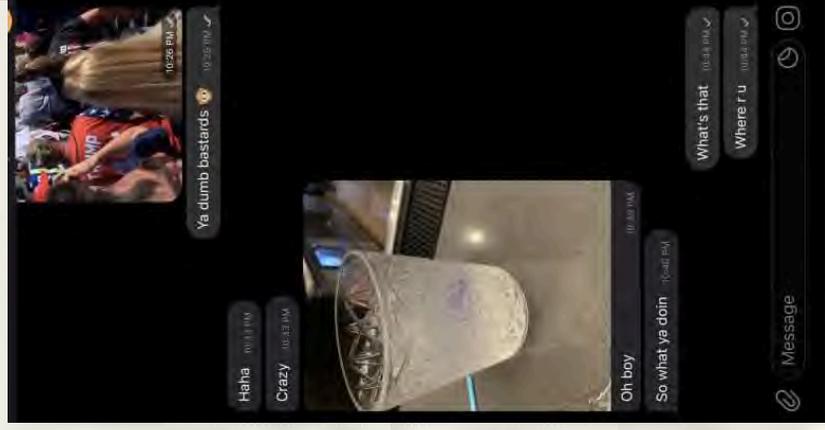
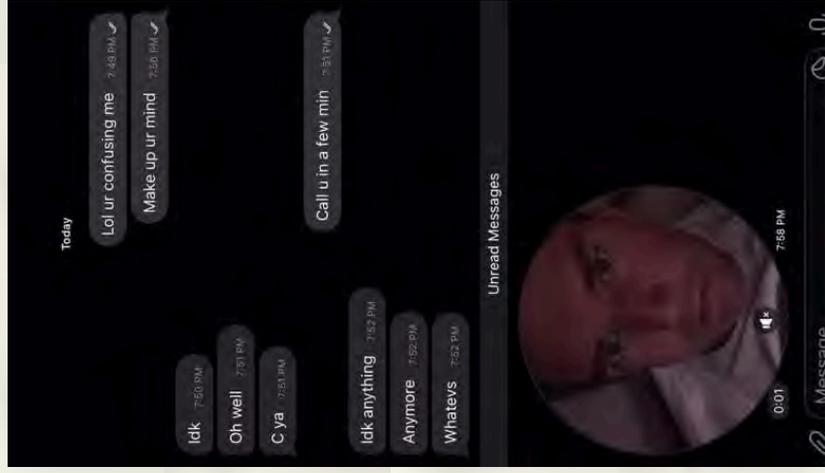
Places [REDACTED] picked David up from because he was too drunk to drive

- City place doral
- Bougainvillea's Old Florida Tavern Bar

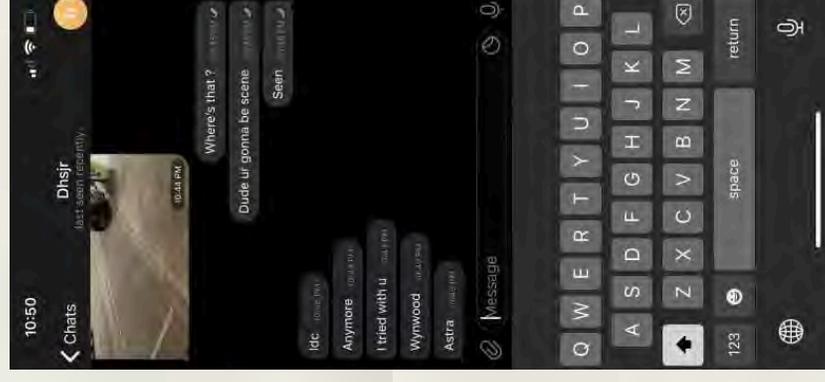
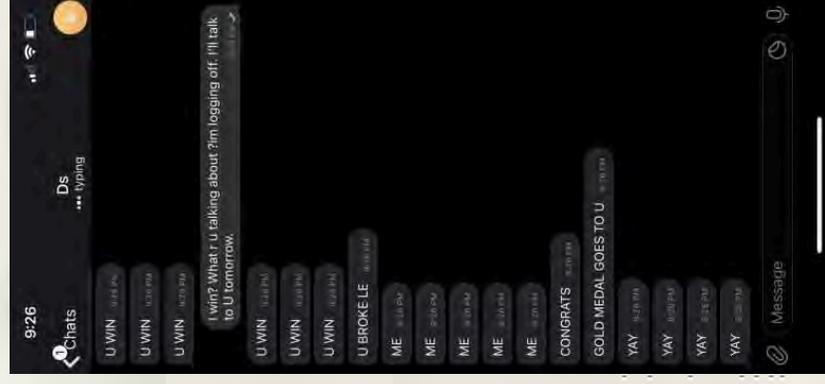
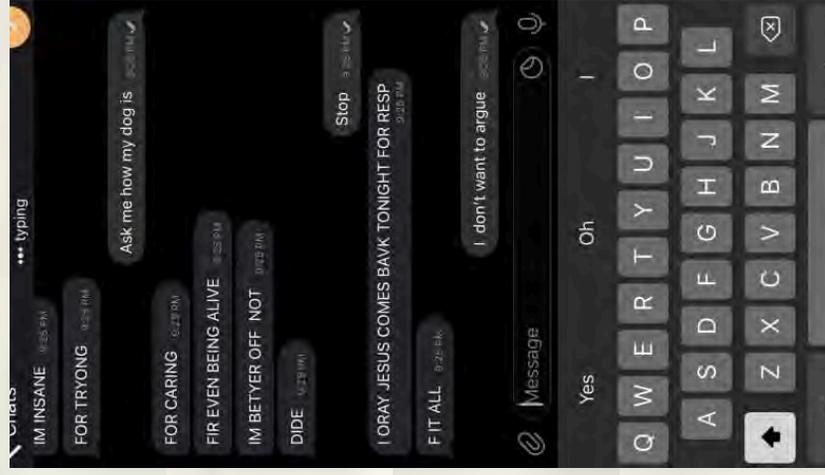
He gets drunk at:

- Tanuki on Miami Beach
- Astra Rooftop in Wynwood
- GoPuff Liquor Downtown Dadeland (very often)
- Makoto Bal Harbour

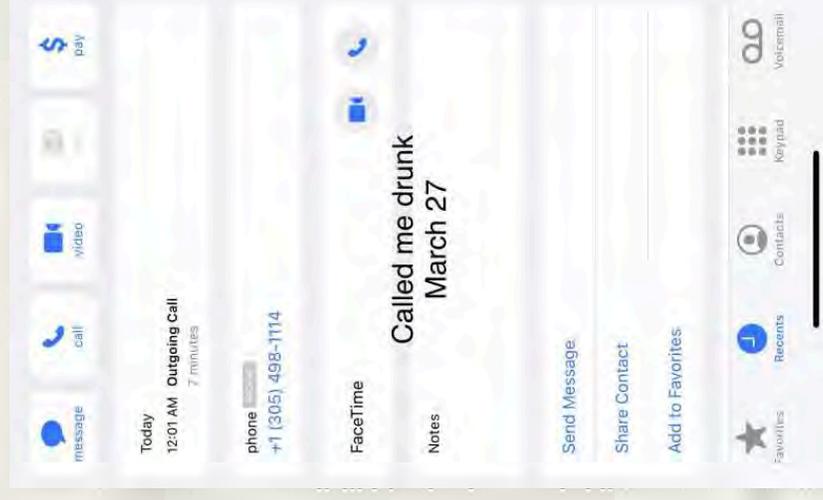
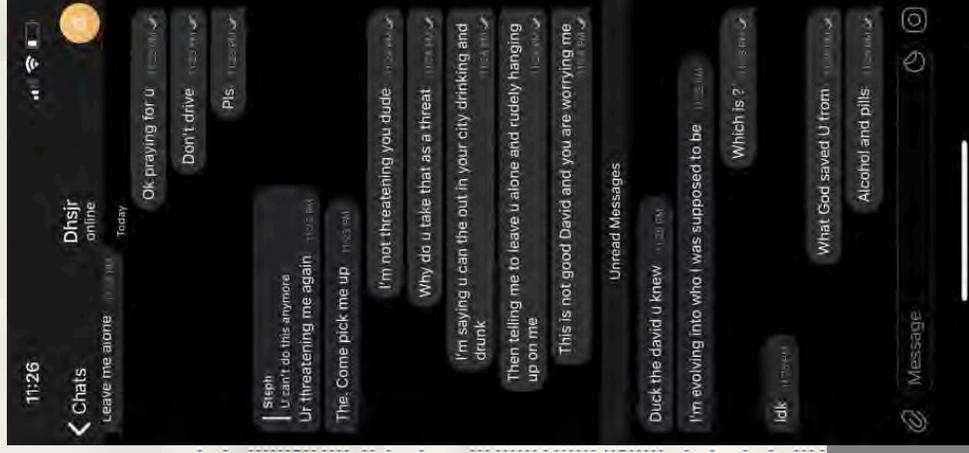
Proof of alcohol abuse

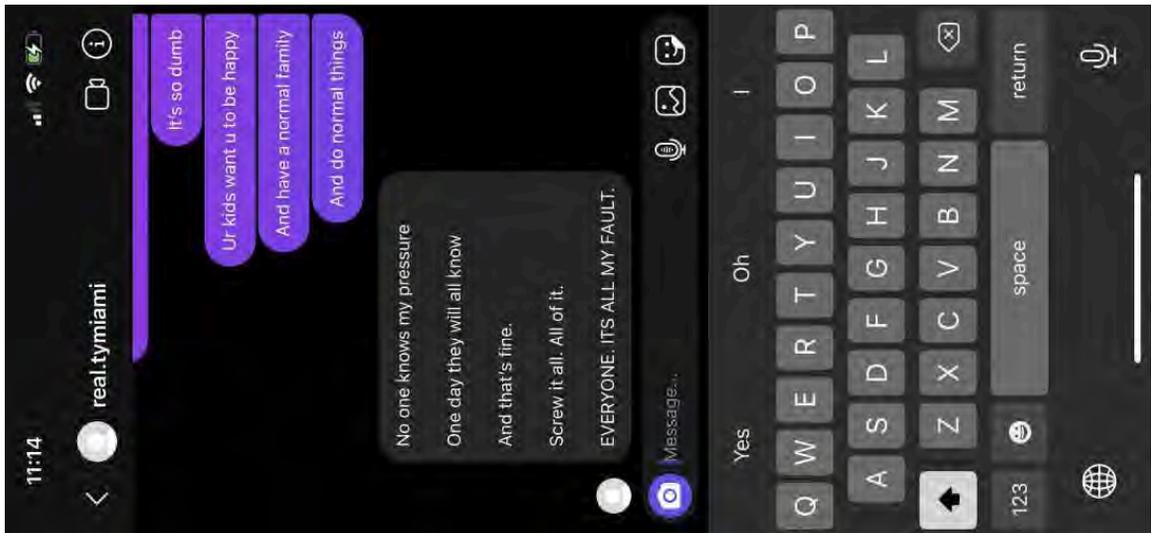
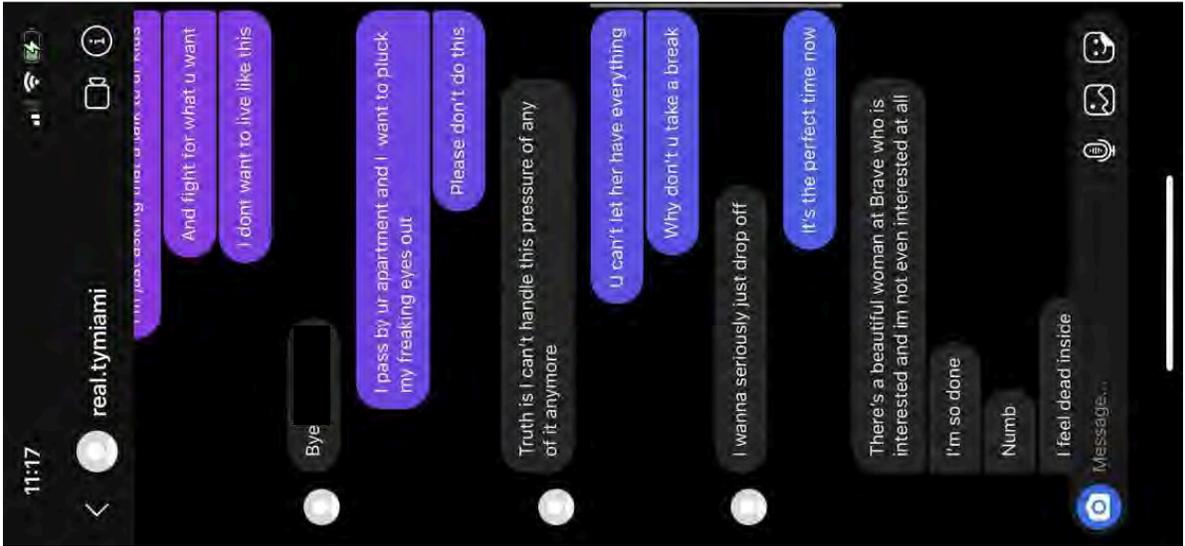
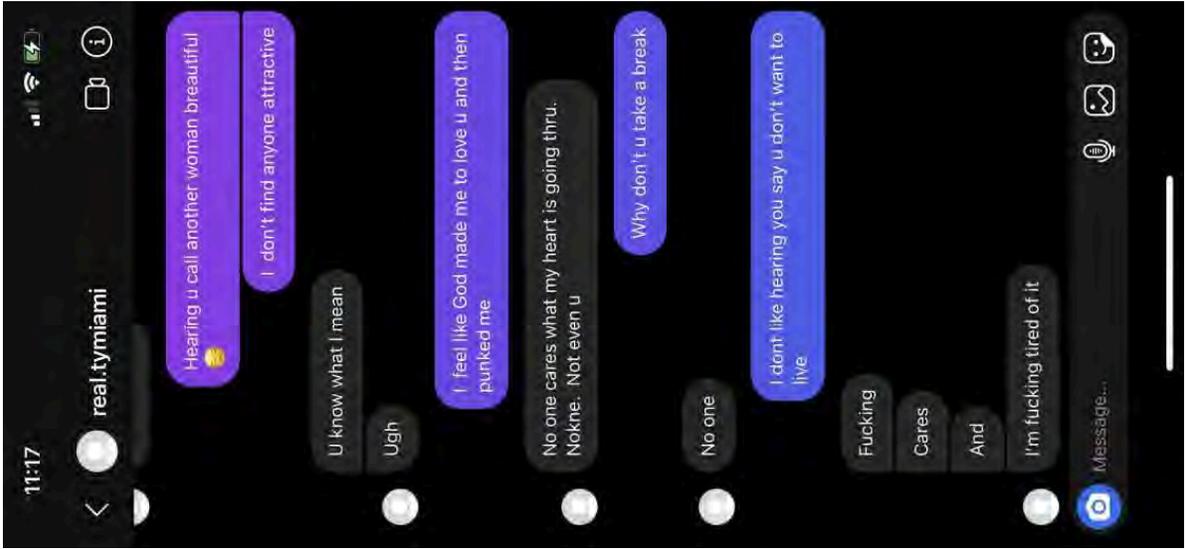


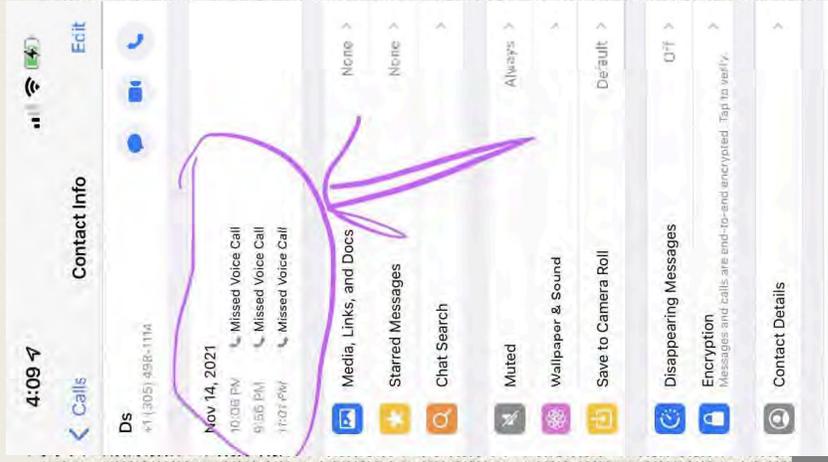
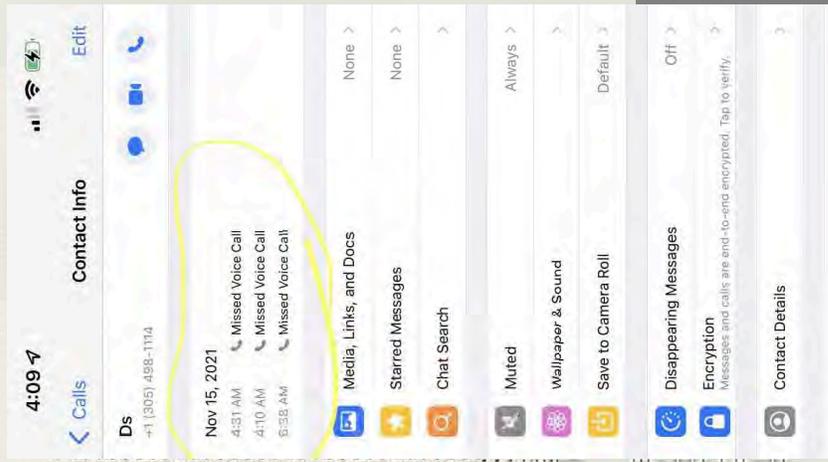
Proof of alcohol abuse and erratic behavior continued



Proof of alcohol abuse and erratic behavior continued

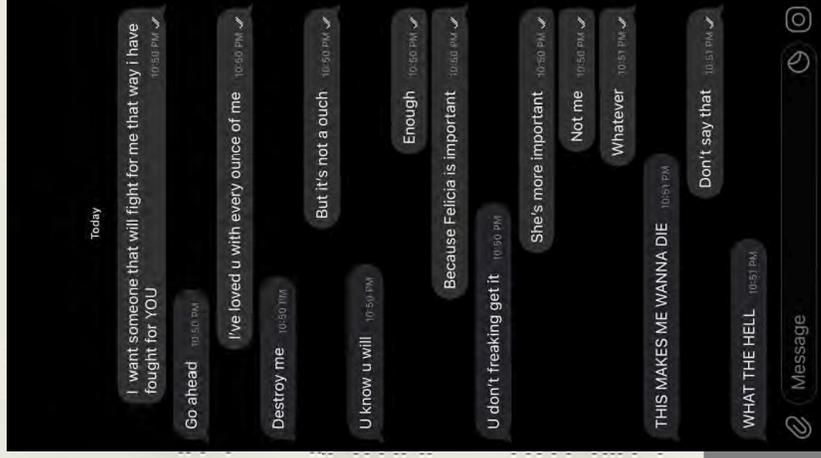
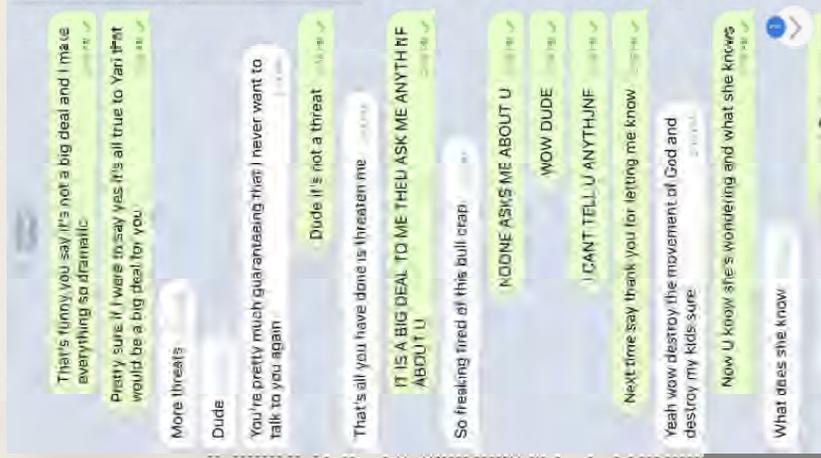




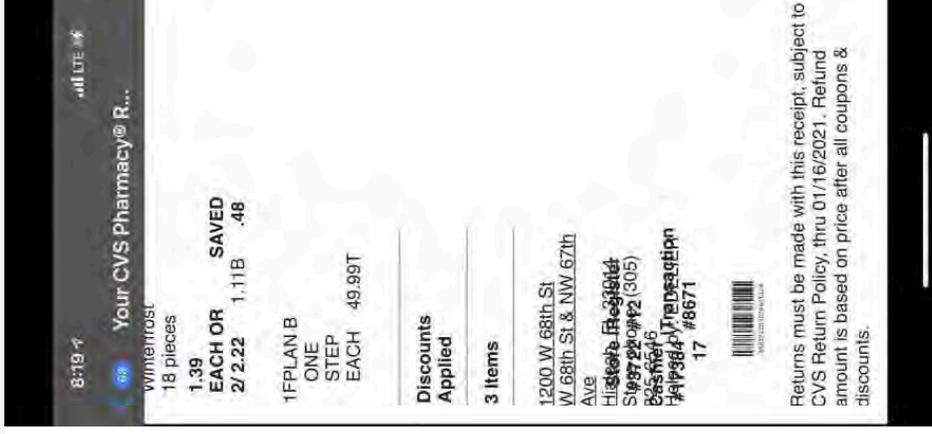


Endless amount of drunk phone calls in the middle of the night

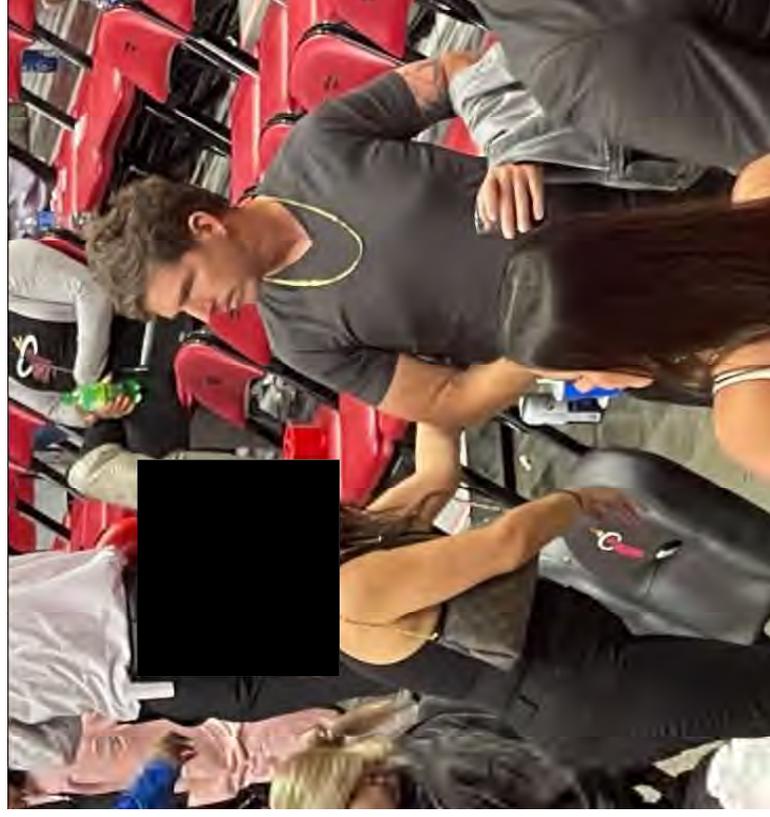
David admitting his career would be ruined if he were exposed



In late November 2021, [REDACTED] learned that David had been dating another woman, [REDACTED], at the same time as her. After learning this information, [REDACTED] reached out to [REDACTED], who sent her evidence of their relationship, including a receipt for Plan B



██████████ also provided additional evidence of David's alcohol abuse



2/11/22

To whom it may concern,

I [REDACTED] witnessed
 & David Spoker Jr
 drank alcoholic drinks while at
 the Miami Heat Game on 11/4/21.
 They were so drunk both of them
 attempted to walk onto the court.
 The police intervened to stop them
 & David Spoker Jr got very
 angry & aggressively screamed at
 the police. I witness this
 with my entire family present.

Best Regards

[REDACTED]

This evidence
 was later
 corroborated
 by direct
 witnesses

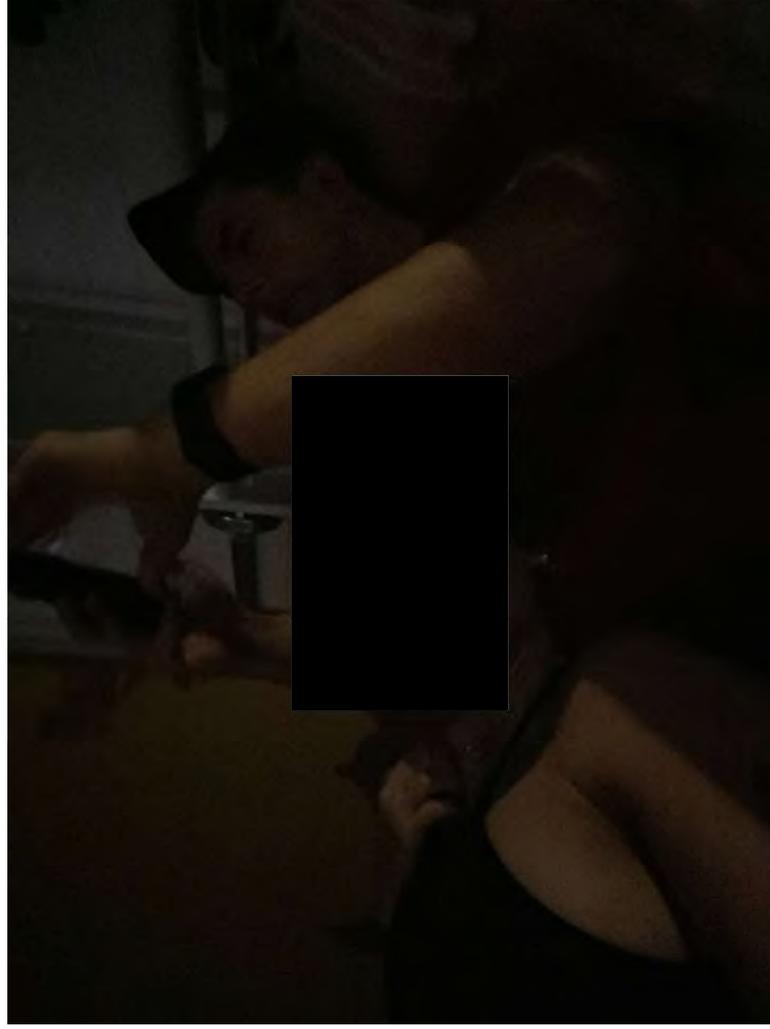
Brave Church
staff members
[REDACTED] told
about her
relationship
with David
(written
messages in
next slide)

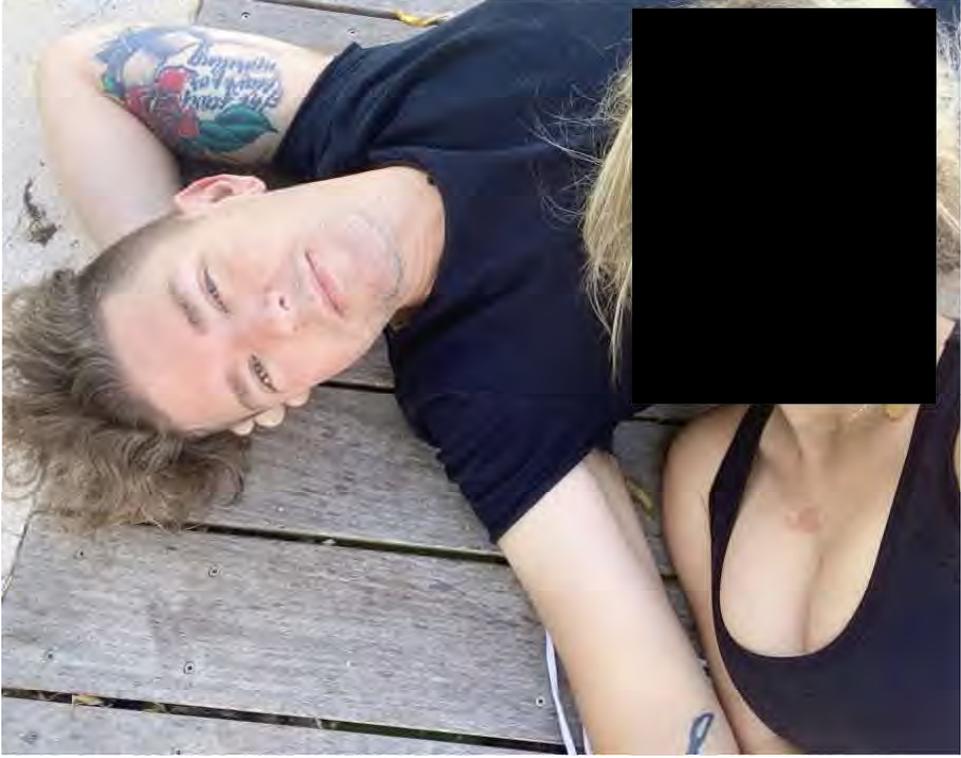
Yarilend (board member). She said she
was sorry for his behavior but never
spoke to [REDACTED] again.

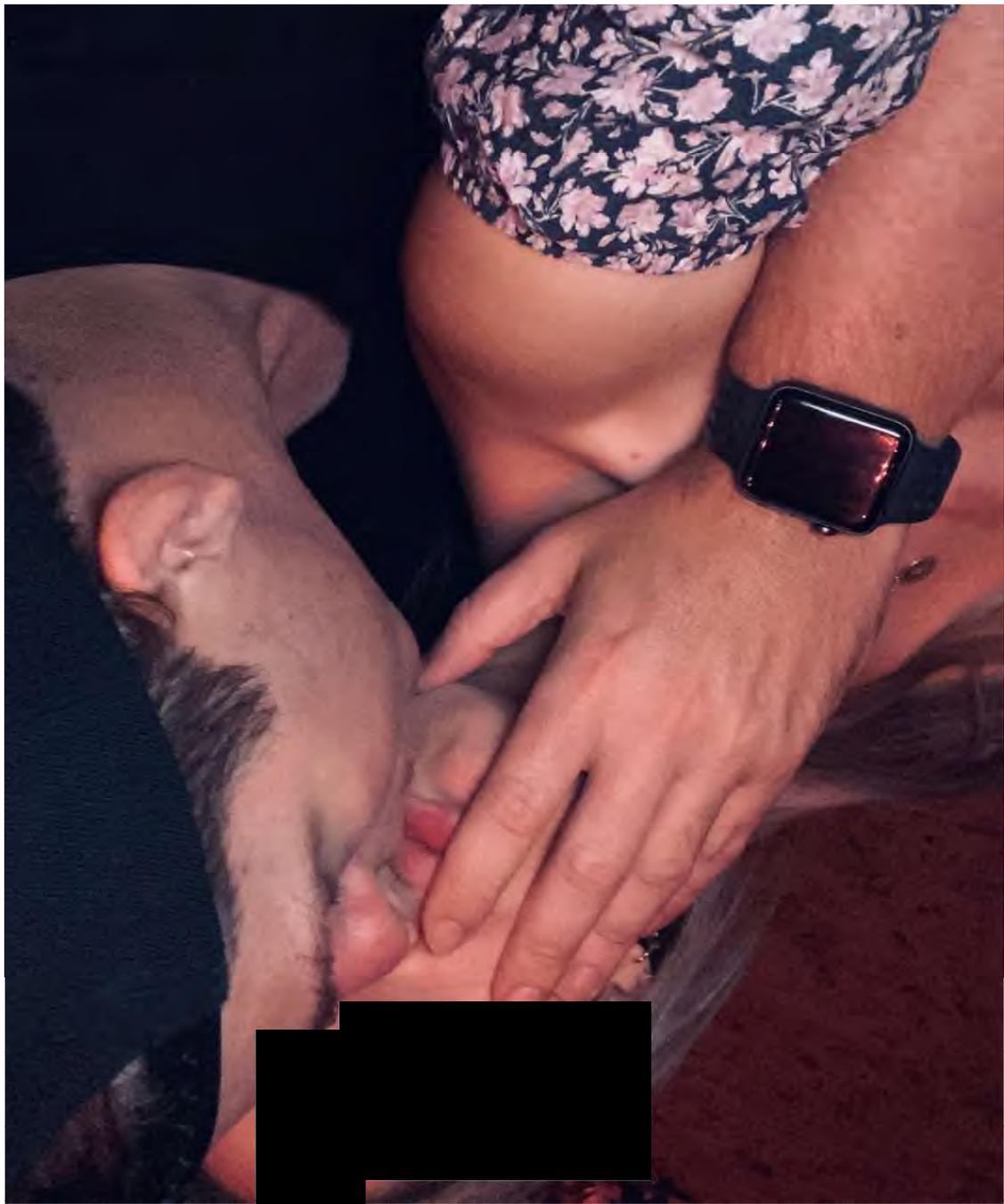
Erica Sanchez (David's personal
assistant who has now been promoted
to a pastor). She blocked [REDACTED].

Megan Garrido (worship pastor). She
too blocked [REDACTED].

Additional photographs of David and [REDACTED] romantic relationship..

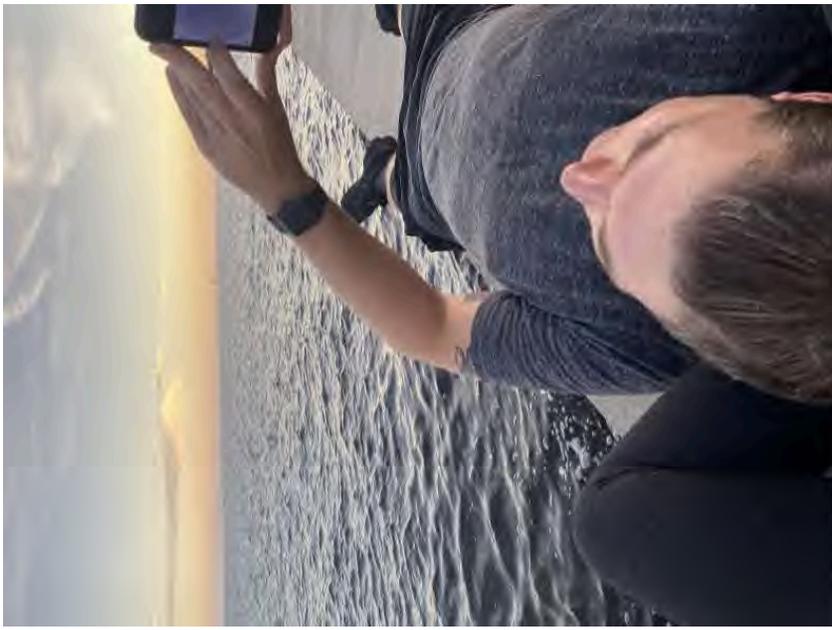














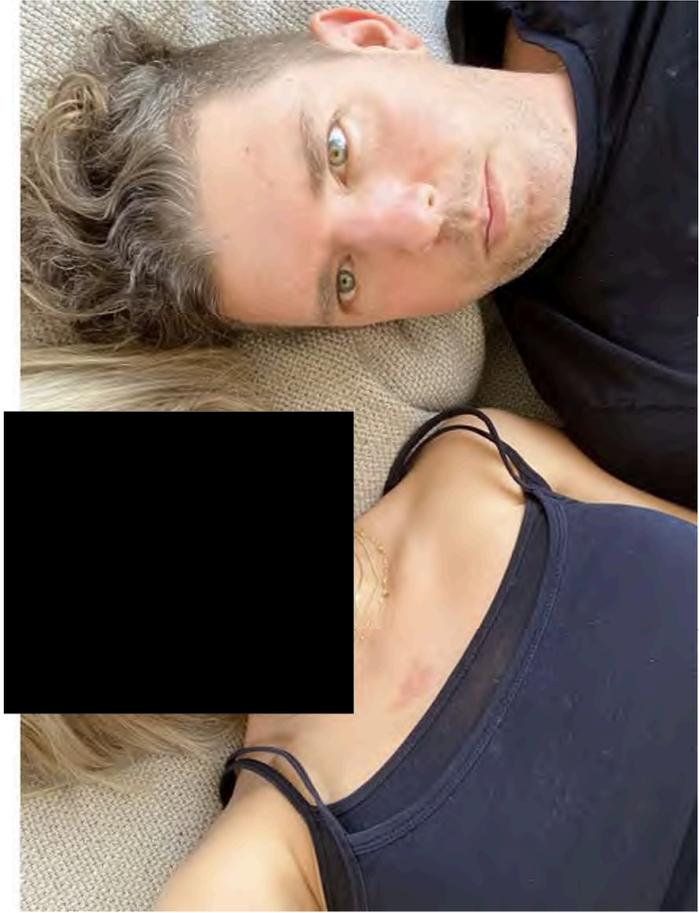






EXHIBIT E

2/11/22

To Whom it may Concern,

I [REDACTED] witnessed
[REDACTED] + David Stoker JR
drink Alcoholic drinks while at
the Miami Heat Game on 11/4/21.
They were so drunk both of them
attempted to walk onto the court.
The police intervened to stop them
+ David Stoker Jr got very
ANGRY + Aggressively. screamed at
the police. I witness this
with my entire family present.

Best Regards,
[REDACTED]

EXHIBIT F











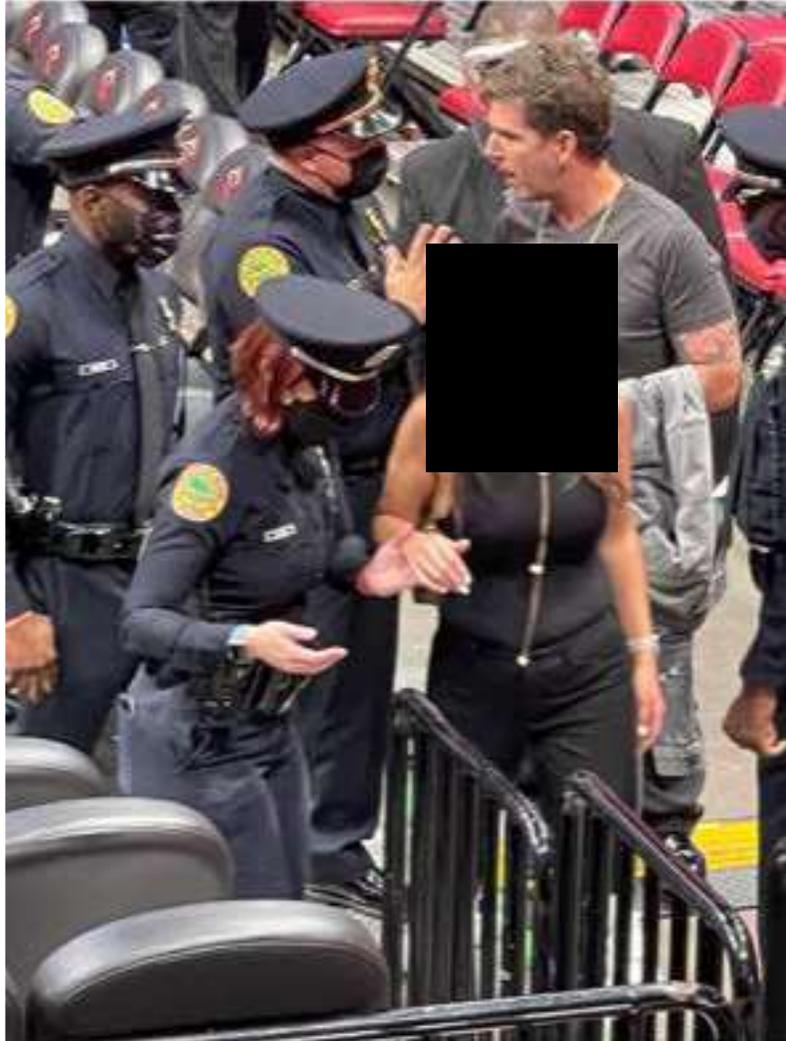


EXHIBIT G

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
of The Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc.

Adopted at its Eighth Annual Session, October 3-6, 1932; Revised at its 34th Annual Session, February 16-18, 1959; 49th Annual Session, May 14-16, 1974; 54th Annual Session, May 15-16, 1979; 75th Annual Session, May 8-10, 2000; 79th Annual Session, May 3-5, 2004; 80th Annual Session, May 2-4, 2005; 81st Annual Session, May 8-10, 2006; 82nd Annual Session, May 7-9, 2007; 83rd Annual Session, May 5-7, 2008; 85th Annual Session, May 3-5, 2010; 86th Annual Session, May 9-11, 2011, 87th Annual Session, May 14-16, 2012; 88th Annual Session, May 13-15, 2013, 89th Annual Session, May 12-14, 2014, 91st Annual Session, May 16-18, 2016, 93rd Annual Session, May 21-23, 2018 and revised at its 94th Annual Session, May 20-22, 2019

CONSTITUTION

CONSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION

WE BELIEVE:

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

(1) to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world, (2) to be a corporate body in which man may worship God, (3) to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and (4) to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world.

That The Peninsular Florida District Council of 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, which enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs, adding a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God, and enabling them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ.

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

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the body shall be *The Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God*. It shall be incorporated as a nonprofit religious organization under the laws of the State of Florida.

ARTICLE II. TERRITORY

It shall include the work of the Assemblies of God in that portion of the State of Florida lying east and south of the Suwannee River, and the Virgin Islands. For efficiency and to expedite the work, the district shall be divided into fellowship sections.

ARTICLE III. NATURE

The Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God is a cooperative fellowship, based upon mutual agreement voluntarily entered into by its membership.

ARTICLE IV. PRINCIPLES FOR FELLOWSHIP

The Peninsular Florida 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 the principles of unity, fellowship, cooperation, and equality. It recognizes that adherence to those principles will enable it to achieve the priority reason for being, and to maintain conditions under which it can, as a Fellowship, demonstrate those principles and their consequent development.

ARTICLE V. PREROGATIVES

The prerogative of The Peninsular Florida District Florida Council of the Assemblies of God shall be:

- a. To encourage and promote the evangelization of the world.
- b. To encourage and promote the worship of God.
- c. To encourage and promote the edification of believers.
- d. To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like precious faith.
- e. To respond to human need with ministries of compassion.
- f. To supervise all the activities of the assemblies in their prescribed field in accordance with the rights conferred by Article X of the General Council Constitution.

- g. To establish and maintain such subdivision departments and institutions as may be necessary for the propagation of the gospel and the work of this Pentecostal fellowship.
- h. To establish churches and provide for their development.
- i. To examine and approve candidates who qualify as certified ministers and licensed ministers. Applications of approved candidates shall be endorsed by the district and forwarded to the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God for issuance of the appropriate credentials. The district council shall also have the authority to examine and ordain ministers after having received approval from the General Council Credentials Committee. Any certain extent of academic education shall never be a requirement for credentials, but it shall be required of applicants that they take such courses and pass examinations as may be prescribed by the district council in agreement with the General Council Credentials Committee.
- j. To approve all scriptural teachings, methods, and conduct, and to disapprove all unscriptural teachings, methods, and conduct. As the creature of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, it is subordinate thereto, and cannot be authorized in any way to violate the principles of The General Council of the Assemblies of God Constitution and Bylaws. In the prosecution of the work in its prescribed field, the district council shall be expected to keep vigilant watch against any violation of the principles of spiritual unity and cooperative fellowship to which the Assemblies of God Fellowship is especially and unalterably dedicated.
- k. To elect its own officers and committees, to arrange for its own meetings, and to govern itself.
- l. Incidental to, or in connection therewith, shall have the right to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of such property, real or chattel, as may be needed for the prosecution of its work.

ARTICLE VI. TENETS OF FAITH

This district council adopts the Statement of Fundamental Truths adopted by the General Council as revised in 2009, as follows:

STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

1. The Scriptures Inspired

The Scriptures, both 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; John 8:17, 18).

(e) The Title, Lord Jesus Christ

The appellation *Lord Jesus Christ* is a proper name. It is never applied in the New Testament either to the Father or to the Holy Spirit. It therefore belongs exclusively to the **Son of God** (Romans 1:1-3, 7; 2 John 3).

(f) The Lord Jesus Christ, God With Us

The Lord Jesus Christ, as to His divine and eternal nature, is the proper and only Begotten of the Father, but as to His human nature, He is the proper Son of Man. He is, therefore, acknowledged to be both God and man; who because He is God and man, is "Immanuel", God with us (Matthew 1:23; 1 John 4:2, 10, 14; Revelation 1:13, 17).

(g) The Title, Son of God

Since the name *Immanuel* embraces both God and man, in the one person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that the title *Son of God* describes His proper deity, and the title *Son of Man*, His proper humanity. Therefore, the title *Son of God* belongs to the order of eternity, and the title *Son of Man* to the **order of time** (Matthew 1:21-23; 2 John 3; 1 John 3:8; Hebrews 7:3; 1:1-13).

(h) Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ

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

(i) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

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

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

Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only the **express duty** of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is an **unspeakable joy** in the Holy Spirit to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the godhead except those which express relationship (see paragraphs b, c, and d) and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22,23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; 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 individual 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 worshiped 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, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on earth for one thousand years (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27-30; Revelation 1:7;19:11-14;20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37:21, 22; Zephaniah 3:19, 20; Romans 11:26, 27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-8; Micah 4:3, 4).

15. The Final Judgment

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

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

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

ARTICLE VII. RELATIONSHIPS

Section 1. To the General Council and Other District Councils

The Peninsular Florida District Council, and other district councils, are an integral part of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a nonprofit religious corporation with the National Leadership and Resource Center in Springfield, Missouri, and is subordinate and amenable to the said General Council as prescribed in its constitution and bylaws and has a cooperative working relationship with other district councils in matters of mutual concern.

Section 2. To the Fellowship Sections

The Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God shall carry on its activities through its district offices and fellowship sections.

Section 3. To Local Assemblies

The local assemblies and ministers of the district council, which are in full fellowship with the district council, shall recognize and be subject to the district council.

ARTICLE VIII. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the District Council shall consist of the following:

Section 1. General Council Ministers

All ministers holding accredited Fellowship Certificates from the General Council and having their permanent residence within the territory of the district, and whose Certificates of Fellowship have been approved by the District Council Credentials Committee.

Section 2. Church Delegates

Each assembly, having been set in order in the Fellowship, shall have the right of representation in the District Council by lay delegates. Representation shall be based on the membership roll of the assembly. Those assemblies having a membership of one hundred or less shall be entitled to one lay delegate. Assemblies having more than one hundred members shall be entitled to two lay delegates. Each lay delegate shall have a letter from the pastor or secretary certifying the appointment and will present same to the Roster Committee of the District Council in session.

Section 3. Spouse of District Officers

Spouses of full-time district officers shall be allowed to register and vote in the District Council as delegates-at-large.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Sessions

The District Council shall meet annually. The exact time and place of such meeting shall be determined by the District Presbytery, and the announcement of the same shall be published not later than one month prior to the time of meeting.

Section 2. Special Sessions

- a. Special sessions of the District Council may be called, upon agreement of a majority of the District Presbytery.
- b. The right of initiative in the calling of special sessions of the District Council shall be granted to any ordained minister of the District Council when the occasion demands. A statement setting forth the reasons for the special session and signed by not less than a majority of the ordained ministers in the district may be considered sufficient reason for a call of a special session; such statement is to be filed with the District Presbytery, who shall respond to the summons and issue a call for a special session.

ARTICLE X. DISTRICT OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers Designated

a. The Executive Committee

Members: The superintendent, the assistant superintendent, the secretary, and the treasurer shall constitute the District Executive Committee.

b. Trustees

The District Executive Committee shall act as a board of trustees for the corporation. Said trustees of the corporation shall hold in trust all property of The Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., including all local and church properties of district-affiliated assemblies except where title to property is conveyed to the trustees of a local church. The District Executive Committee shall have the power to negotiate and execute loans and mortgages, sell, buy and or lease property, for the corporation or for local church properties of district-affiliated assemblies held in trust by said trustees or the corporation; provided, however, in all transactions involving the entire District Council, the District Executive Committee must obtain the approval of the District Council in session or the District Presbytery during the interim between District Council sessions, and, in all transactions involving local district affiliated assemblies or new U.S. Missions efforts whose properties are held in trusteeship by the Peninsular Florida District Council, the District Executive Committee must obtain the approval of the Sectional Executive Committee in the section in which the transaction is to be executed.

c. Executive Presbyters

The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the district superintendent, assistant superintendent, executive secretary, executive treasurer, the general presbyter of the General Council, a northern executive presbyter of Sections 1-5, a central executive presbyter of Sections 6-11, and a southern executive presbyter of Sections 12-17, and shall carry out its duties as outlined in the Bylaws, Article III, Section 7.

d. General Presbyters

The district shall be represented on the General Council Presbytery by three ministers, according to provisions of the General Council Constitution and Bylaws.

e. District Presbyters

One presbyter shall be elected from each section and shall represent that section and the district in the performance of his duties as outlined in the Bylaws. These, with the above-named executive officers, the general presbyters, treasurer, and the district youth director, shall constitute the District Presbytery.

Section 2. Honorary Presbyters

Ministers of high esteem who have served on the Presbytery for fifteen years or more, and have reached the age of sixty, may be chosen as honorary presbyters. The District Presbytery shall serve as a nominating committee for this honor and shall submit names for consideration to the

District Council for election. A two-thirds vote shall be required for election. Honorary presbyters shall be extended the courtesy of attending and offering counsel at all regular sessions of the District Presbytery.

Section 3. Nominee for General Council Executive Presbyter

The Peninsular Florida District Council shall nominate one minister from its district to be presented to the General Council as a nominee from its area to serve on the Executive Presbytery of the General Council.

ARTICLE XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

All true believers who uphold the doctrines and principles of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, associating themselves in local bodies as assemblies, shall have the right of recognition by the District Council. They shall be classified as follows:

Section 1. Sovereign Assemblies Responsibilities

Local assemblies, which have matured sufficiently to accept their full share of responsibility for the maintenance of scriptural order, shall be entitled to recognition as sovereign. They shall be set in order by the District Presbytery and shall be amenable to the district in doctrine, conduct, and all other matters which affect the peace and harmony of the Fellowship. They shall have the right to choose their own pastors, elect officers, hold property through either trustees or a corporate name, discipline members, and transact all other business pertaining to their life as local churches. They shall conform to the standard of membership that shall be determined by agreement with the District Council. They shall support the district organization financially and morally.

Section 2. District Affiliated Assemblies

Groups which have been brought into being as a result of evangelistic efforts or other means, and which are still in a formative state, may be recognized as district affiliated assemblies. They shall be under the general supervision of the Sectional Committee which shall provide for pastoral care until such time as they give evidence of sufficient maturity to warrant recognition of sovereignty.

ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

In the event this District Council shall cease to function for the purposes herein set forth, then all property, real or chattel, and all assets remaining after satisfying debts and obligations, shall revert to the parent body, The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Missouri nonprofit corporation, with the National Leadership and Resource Center 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 there from for the extension of the work of the Assemblies of God.

In the event of cessation of this District Council, its board of trustees 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 XIII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any regular or special session of the District Council, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted to the District Presbytery first for consideration. The amendment shall receive a majority vote of the District Presbytery or have at least ten signatures of ordained ministers of the District Council. The District Council shall provide written notice of the proposed amendments by regular or electronic communication to each member of District Council at least thirty days prior to the time of meeting. A two-thirds vote of all members present and voting shall be necessary for adoption.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. PARLIAMENTARY ORDER

Section 1. Rules of Order

The work of the District Council shall be governed by parliamentary procedures as set forth in the current edition of *Roberts' Rules of Order Newly Revised*, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

Section 2. Courtesy of the Floor

Visiting ministers from other districts and others may be granted this consideration at the discretion of the chair or by action of the body.

ARTICLE II. OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Executive Officers

The executive officers of the District Council shall be the superintendent, assistant superintendent, secretary, and treasurer, and except as hereinafter provided, shall be elected at its annual session, according to the manner of election provided.

Section 2. Qualifications**a. Executive Officers**

All officers shall be chosen from the membership of the District Council. They shall be ministers who have been fully ordained, of mature experience and ability, and shall have been members of the district for at least two consecutive years immediately prior to such election. They shall be deemed fully cooperative in all matters, including finances.

b. General Presbyters

The general presbyters for the district shall consist of the superintendent and two other ordained ministers of the district, one of whom shall be an ordained pastor of a church within the district and shall meet the same qualifications as the executive officers as stated above.

c. Presbyters

- (1) **District Presbyters** – The qualifications for district presbyters are the same as those for executive officers.
- (2) **Female Presbyter** – The ordained female who meets all the qualifications to serve as a District Presbyter for a two-year term as presbyter at large, shall be a member of the Peninsular Florida District for two years prior to election, and shall be currently involved in active ministry within the district
- (3) **Presbyter Under 40 Years of Age** – The ordained minister under the age of 40 at the time of election who meets all the qualifications to serve as a District Presbyter for a two-year term as presbyter at large, shall be a member of the Peninsular Florida District for two years prior to election, and shall be currently involved in active ministry within the district.

d. Nominee for General Council Executive Presbyter

The Peninsular Florida District at its annual meeting prior to General Council session shall nominate two ministers, one of whom is not an elected full-time district official, to be presented to the General Council as nominees from its area for nonresident executive presbyter. The nominees must be ordained ministers of mature experience and ability, whose lives and ministries are above question. There is no minimum residence requirement, and the incumbents are not disqualified as long as they remain in the area. They shall be elected by a two-thirds vote. The term of officer for the nominee for General Council Executive Presbyter shall be four years.

e. Other District Officers

- (1) Treasurer: The District Presbytery, serving as a nominating committee, shall be entrusted with the responsibility of making careful investigation concerning the qualifications and general fitness of available candidates for this strategic post and shall select by secret ballot one or more names to be presented to the District Council in session.
- (2) Youth director, assistant Youth director, and secretary: See Article XIV, Section 4.
- (3) Christian Education director: See Article XV, Section 3, paragraph a.
- (4) Men's Ministries director: See Article XVII, Section 4.
- (5) Women's Ministries director: See Article XVI, Section 4.
- (6) U.S. Missions director: See Article XI, Section 3, paragraph e.
- (7) Senior Adult Ministries director: See Article XXII, Section 2.
- (8) Music Ministries director: See Article XXIV.

f. Other Sectional Officers

The assistant presbyter and the sectional secretary shall meet the same qualifications as the sectional presbyter.

Section 3. Nominations and Elections**a. Procedure – District**

All candidates for district office, except Treasurer, shall be nominated by secret ballot at the District Council and elected by two-thirds of all votes cast. Only those candidates receiving 15 or more votes on the nominating ballot shall be considered nominated. In case of vacancy, the District Presbytery may offer a minimum of two nominees. If a candidate receives two-thirds of the ballots cast on the first (1) electoral ballot, that ballot shall be considered electoral and that candidate shall be declared elected. If no candidate is elected on the first (1) electoral ballot cast that ballot shall be considered a nominating ballot, and the next ballot shall be considered the first (1) electoral ballot. If no election has been reached after the second (2) electoral ballot, only the two candidates receiving the most votes shall remain in consideration. If there is no election after the fourth (4) electoral ballot, the fifth (5) electoral ballot shall be by simple majority, producing

an election.

b. Procedure – Executive Presbyters

There shall be three District Executive Presbyters. Presbyters serving Sections 1 through 5 shall be eligible nominees for the northern executive presbyter. Presbyters serving Sections 6 through 11 shall be eligible nominees for the central executive presbyter. Presbyters serving Sections 12 through 17 shall be eligible nominees for the southern executive presbyter. Election shall be by two-thirds vote at the appropriate District Council.

c. Procedure – Section

Each section shall meet at least thirty days before the annual session of the appropriate District Council to elect a presbyter to be ratified by the District Council and elect the assistant presbyter and sectional secretary. All sectional officers except the presbyters shall be elected by a majority vote. If a candidate receives two-thirds of the ballots cast on the first (1) electoral ballot, that ballot shall be considered electoral and that candidate shall be declared elected. If no candidate is elected on the first (1) electoral ballot cast, that ballot shall be considered a nominating ballot, and the next ballot shall be considered the first (1) electoral ballot. If no election has been reached after the second (2) electoral ballot, only the two (2) candidates receiving the most votes shall remain in consideration. If there is no election after the fourth (4) electoral ballot, the fifth (5) electoral ballot shall be by simple majority, producing an election. The district department head in conjunction with the Executive Committee and Sectional Committee shall appoint the sectional departmental representatives.

(a) **Female Presbyter** - Each Section shall have the right to nominate a female, who meets all the qualification requirements stated in the district Constitution and bylaws, at its biennial Sectional Council. Those nominees shall be reviewed by the Presbytery who shall then present one or more names to the District Council as nominees eligible for election. The nominating process shall first be accomplished at the Sectional Councils held biennially.

(b) **Presbyter Under 40 Years of Age** - Each Section shall have the right to nominate a minister under 40, who meets all the qualification requirements stated in the district Constitution and bylaws, at its biennial Sectional Council. The election shall occur at District Council of the same year. Nominees shall be reviewed by the Presbytery who shall then present one or more names to the District Council as nominees eligible for election. The individuals elected by the District Council shall not continue to serve after the District Council following their 4^{0th} birthday.

d. Voting Constituency

All accredited ministers and official delegates from churches of the district constitute the voting constituency.

Section 4. Terms of Office

a. District Officers

Tenure of office shall be four years for all executive officers and department heads. Tenure of office shall be two years for general presbyters and department executive committee members.

b. Executive Presbyters

Tenure of office shall be two years for executive presbyters.

c. Sectional Officers

Tenure of office shall be two years for presbyters and all sectional officers and representatives.

d. Effective Date

Term of office shall begin thirty days after election.

e. Election Separation of District Officers

Election of executive officers shall be accomplished in a rotation of one officer each year for four years in this order: secretary, superintendent, treasurer, and assistant superintendent.

f. Definition

A District Council "year" may be more or less than a normal twelve-month year depending on the time of the annual District Council, as determined by the District Presbytery.

Section 5. Vacancies

a. District Superintendent

In the event of a vacancy of the office of superintendent, the District Presbytery shall be empowered to call a special session of the District Council for the purpose of electing a successor.

b. Other District Officers

In the event of a vacancy of any other officer and/or presbyter, the position shall be filled by appointment of the District Presbytery or by election at a specially called session of the Sectional or District Council for the purpose of electing a successor.

c. Sectional Officers

In the event of a vacancy in the office of sectional assistant presbyter, or sectional secretary, the position shall be filled by appointment of the District Presbytery.

d. Sectional Representatives

The office of any sectional representative may be filled by appointment by the Executive and Sectional Committees and the proper department head.

ARTICLE III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Superintendent

- a. Shall preside at all sessions of the District Council and of the District Presbytery and shall receive all communications addressed to those bodies.
- b. Shall be head of the District Council office, shall supervise the work of that office during the interim between sessions of the District Council, and shall have oversight of the entire office staff and shall delegate their responsibilities.
- c. Shall act as president of the district corporation in all legal matters and serve as a district trustee.
- d. Shall have general oversight of all of the work of the District Council and shall administer discipline in all cases when requested to do so by the District Presbytery.
- e. Shall oversee all the departments: Youth, Women's Ministries, Men's Ministries, U.S. Missions, World Missions, Finance, etc., and in consultation with the department heads shall coordinate the plans and promotions of all district operations.
- f. Shall serve as a general presbyter by virtue of his office and shall represent the district at all sessions of the General Council and of the General Presbytery.
- g. Shall administer district emergency funds for member ministers according to policy.
- h. Shall be chairman of the District Executive Committee and District Executive Presbytery and shall preside at their meetings.
- i. Shall be executive editor of all district and departmental publications.
- j. Shall perform any other function usual and customary for the presiding officer, or such as may be directed by the District Presbytery or the District Council.
- k. Shall be an ex officio member of all committees.

Section 2. Assistant Superintendent

- a. Shall assist the superintendent.
- b. Shall perform all the duties of the superintendent in the event of the superintendent's absence or incapacity.
- c. Shall assist the superintendent in the supervision of the work on the field and shall perform any other functions under the supervision of the superintendent, or such as may be directed by the District Presbytery or the District Council.
- d. Shall act as vice president of the district corporation in all legal matters and serve as a district trustee.
- e. Shall be a member of the District Executive Committee, the District Executive Presbytery, and the District Presbytery.
- f. Shall serve on the editorial staff of the official district publication.
- g. Shall be an ex officio member of all committees.
- h. Shall be given the privilege of attending all or part of the Sectional Councils.

Section 3. District Secretary

- a. Shall make and keep true records of the proceedings of the District Council and shall publish the same as approved and directed by the District Presbytery, the District Executive Presbytery, and the District Executive Committee.
- b. Shall assist the superintendent in the work of the district.
- c. Shall keep a record of all ministers and churches affiliated with the District Council, with such information being kept in the files and available to all district officers.
- d. Shall act as secretary at meetings of the District Council, the District Presbytery, the District Executive Presbytery, and the District Executive Committee.
- e. Shall act as secretary of the district corporation in all legal matters and serve as a district trustee.
- f. Shall be a member of the District Executive Committee, the District Executive Presbytery, and the District Presbytery.
- g. Shall perform such other functions as are customary to this office, under the supervision of the superintendent, or as may be directed by the District Council, the District Presbytery, the District Executive Presbytery, or the District Executive Committee.
- h. Shall serve as managing editor of the official district publication.
- i. Shall be an ex officio member of all committees.
- j. Shall make the necessary arrangements to have the new yearbook in the mail to district ministers within ninety days after the close of each annual District Council.

Section 4. Executive Officers

- a. They shall serve as trustees of the Peninsular Florida District. They shall be empowered to supervise and have general oversight of all departments. They shall be authorized to act for the corporation in all matters that affect its interests while the District Council is not in session.
- b. They shall have the right and duty of interpreting policy originating in the legislation of the District Council or the District Presbytery. Such interpretations shall stand as final, unless reversed at any meeting of the body in which the legislation originated.
- c. They shall have the right to buy, take, lease, or otherwise acquire, own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of real property, personal and mixed, tangible and intangible of whatsoever kind, trust, deed, mortgages, debentures, and notes; and to enter into contracts, all as may seem expedient and proper in the furtherance of the work of the District Council provided such transactions have been approved and authorized according to the district Constitution Article X, Section 1, paragraph b.
- d. They shall hold in trust such funds as may be committed to them as trustees or dispose of the same as may be directed.
- e. They shall be authorized to purchase or dispose of securities as need requires in an effort to strengthen the financial position of the corporation.

- f. All properties of the corporation shall be bought, taken, held, sold, transferred, mortgaged, leased, assigned, or conveyed in the corporate name upon authorization by the executive officers, as trustees thereof, and any two of the four shall be authorized to execute and sign all documents pertaining to such transactions previously authorized according to the district Constitution, Article X, Section 1, paragraph b.
- g. In all matters of importance, the executive officers shall communicate with the members of the District Presbytery before final action shall be taken. The executive officers shall be amenable to the District Presbytery.
- h. The executive officers shall also at their discretion call business meetings of the District Presbytery when deemed advisable.
- i. Any member of the Executive Committee, or any other elected officer of this district, with the exception of District Superintendent may serve other than full time at the discretion of the District Presbytery and District Council.
- j. The Superintendent should serve in a full-time capacity and shall not hold a pastorate or any other staff ministry position or serve in any dual capacity. The Superintendent shall serve all boards, executives, General Council, District or college committees, as it has been accustomed to fulfill the position as the chief executive officer of this district.

Section 5. District Treasurer

- a. Shall act as custodian of the District Council funds.
- b. Shall see that an accurate record is kept of the receipts and disbursements of district and departmental funds and shall conduct the work of that office according to accepted methods of business.
- c. Shall issue a monthly statement of receipts and disbursements of district funds to the district executive officers; report regularly to the District Presbytery in its meetings; give a summary statement of receipts and disbursements in the official district publication; and provide a complete annual financial report without a listing of ministerial giving to the District Council, Sectional and District Presbytery. The books of the Financial Department shall be fully audited at the close of the year by an outside accredited auditing firm and such outside audit shall be included in the financial report.
- d. Shall perform such other functions as are customary to this office under the supervision of the superintendent, or as may be directed by the District Council, the District Executive Presbytery, the District Presbytery, or the District Executive Committee.
- e. Shall be a member of the District Executive Committee, the District Executive Presbytery, and the District Presbytery.
- f. Shall be an ex officio member of all committees.

Section 6. General Presbyters

- a. General Presbyters elected by the Peninsular Florida District Council shall be members of the District Presbytery and the District Executive Presbytery and shall attend all District Presbytery meetings. General Presbyters appointed by the General Council of the Assemblies of God who are resident within the District may serve on the District Presbytery by invitation of the Executive Committee and vote of the District Presbytery.
- b. They shall represent the district at all sessions of the General Presbytery.
- c. They shall assist the superintendent in any and all ways necessary to promote harmony, fellowship, and development of the district program.

Section 7. District Executive Presbytery

The District Executive Presbytery shall interpret and facilitate the decisions of the District Presbytery and assist the District Executive Committee, district department heads, and sectional presbyters.

Section 8. District Presbytery

a. District Presbytery

The District Presbytery shall have general oversight of the activities and departments of the district during the interim between District Council sessions, unless the District Council shall make other provisions. It shall be authorized to act for the Fellowship in all matters that affect its interest while the District Council is not in session. The District Presbytery shall have authority to recommend credential applicants to the General Council Executive Presbytery for the following ministerial credentials: certified minister, licensed minister (both preaching ministry and specialized ministry), and ordained minister. It shall make reports to the District Council of its activities in behalf of the Fellowship as may be directed. It shall provide for its own meetings, it shall act as a court of appeal, and its decisions shall be final, unless reversed by the District Council, or a further appeal is made to the Executive Presbytery of the General Council. A majority present at any meeting of the District Presbytery shall constitute a quorum. In the event a presbyter is unable to attend the presbytery meeting; the assistant presbyter shall represent the section and be given the privilege of discussion and the right to vote.

b. Sectional Presbyter

The sectional presbyter shall be head of all sectional functions in one's respective section. Any pastor or assembly desiring advice or aid shall appeal to the presbyter of its section, who will investigate, and if possible, bring about an adjustment. In the event the presbyter is unable to satisfactorily settle a matter, it shall be referred to the superintendent, and if necessary, to the District Presbytery for final disposition.

c. Assigning of Portfolios

The District Presbytery shall review and assign all department portfolios in its first meeting following the annual District Council. Assignments may be made of persons other than those employed in the district office.

Section 9. Cooperation between Districts

Whenever possible, every effort will be made to cooperate with ethnic districts within the Southeast that serve ministers and churches sharing

the same geography as Peninsular Florida. In matters of relationship, fellowship, transfers of ministers and churches, strategies of evangelism and missions, communication shall be established between the officers and presbyteries of the respective districts for the mutual benefit of the districts, ministers, and churches, and the purpose of advancing the kingdom of God on this peninsula.

ARTICLE IV. FELLOWSHIP SECTIONS

Section 1. Purpose

The district shall be divided into fellowship sections. They shall promote district department activities, afford opportunity for ministerial fellowship and counsel, and promote interassembly fellowship.

Section 2. Boundaries

Where it is at all feasible, each section should include a minimum of ten churches and when the number reaches more than thirty, the District Council may give consideration to divide that section. The present sections are:

- a. Section 1: North Jacksonville Area – Nassau County and that part of Duval County north of the St. John's River.
- b. Section 2: South Jacksonville Area – Clay, Putnam, and St. John's counties, and that part of Duval County south of the St. John's River.
- c. Section 3: Gainesville Area – Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Gilchrist, Suwannee, Union, and Levy counties.
- d. Section 4: Ocala Area – Citrus, Lake, Marion, and Sumter counties.
- e. Section 5: Daytona Beach Area – Brevard, Flagler, and Volusia counties.
- f. Section 6: Orlando Area – Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties.
- g. Section 7: Dade City Area – Dade, Hernando and Pasco counties.
- h. Section 8: Clearwater Area – Pinellas County.
- i. Section 9: Tampa Area – Area north of Hwy 60 and west of Interstate 75.
- j. Section 10: Hillsborough County Rural Area (not in Section Nine).
- k. Section 11: Lakeland Area – Northwest Polk County.
- l. Section 12: Avon Park Area – Southeast Polk, Highlands, Hardee, and Glades counties.
- m. Section 13: Sarasota Area – West Charlotte, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties.
- n. Section 14: Fort Myers Area – Collier, East Charlotte, DeSoto, West Hendry, and Lee counties.
- o. Section 15: West Palm Beach Area – Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, East Hendry, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie counties.
- p. Section 16: Fort Lauderdale Area – Broward County.
- q. Section 17: Miami Area – Dade and Monroe counties.
- r. Section 99: U.S. Virgin Islands and British Virgin Islands.

Section 3. Ethnic and Language Fellowships

When a language or ethnic group ten (10) congregations whose membership is comprised by individuals who are predominately of that ethnicity or language culture and which can qualify as Sovereign Assemblies, and are pastored by a credentialed individual of the same language and ethnicity, the District Presbytery, at the recommendation of the Executive Presbytery, may authorize a fellowship for the group, which shall exist for the purpose of exchanging information, facilitating evangelism, and establishing new churches. The fellowship shall remain amenable to the district and its leadership in all matters of policy, doctrine, and ministry. A leader elected by the fellowship may be nominated by the District Presbytery to the District Council for election as a Presbyter.

ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees

Standing committees shall be established and appointed as necessity may indicate. They shall be appointed annually by the superintendent with ratification by the District Presbytery. The term of office shall be for two years and shall begin with the first presbytery meeting after the annual District Council in the year in which presbyters are elected. They shall include committees deemed necessary in the future.

Section 2. Special Committees

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

ARTICLE VI. THE MINISTRY

Section 1. Ministry Described

Christ's gifts to the Church include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (Ephesians 4:11), exhorters, administrators, leaders, and helpers (Romans 12:7, 8). We understand God's call to these ministry gifts is totally within His sovereign discretion without regard to gender, race, disability, or national origin. In terms of maturity of ministry, three classifications of ministry are recognized, viz., the ordained minister, the licensed minister, and the certified minister. A fourth classification of ministry, a local church credential, may be provided by a local General Council affiliated church as described in Article VI, Section 2, paragraph b (2). An applicant for ministerial recognition must give testimony to having experienced the new birth (John 3:5) and to having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4. The Spirit-filled life will enable one to fulfill the fourfold mission of the church (Article V, number 10, of the General Council Constitution).

Section 2. Qualifications

a. General Qualifications. The following qualifications pertain to all applicants for ministerial recognition:

- (1) **Salvation.** Testimony to having experienced the new birth (John 3:5).
- (2) **Baptism in the Holy Spirit.** Testimony to having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues according to Acts 2:4. The Spirit-filled life will enable a minister to fulfill the fourfold mission of the church (General Council Constitution, Article V, number 10).
- (3) **Evidence of call.** Clear evidence of a divine call to the ministry, evidenced by a personal conviction, confirmed by the work of the Spirit and the testimony of fellow ministers.
- (4) **Christian character.** A blameless Christian life and a good report of those who are without (Titus 1:7; 1 Timothy 3:7).
- (5) **Doctrinal position.** A thorough understanding of and agreement with our doctrinal position as contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.
- (6) **Assemblies of God polity.** A satisfactory working knowledge of the principles, practices, and purposes of the Fellowship through a study of the General Council and District Council Constitution and Bylaws.
- (7) **Voluntary cooperation and commitment to the Fellowship.** An active loyalty to our constitutional agreements, a cooperative spirit, and a readiness to seek and receive the counsel of older mature Christians and those in positions of authority.

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

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

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

- (8) **Basic education requirements.** Any level of formal academic achievement (diploma or degree) shall not be a requirement for credentials; however, credential applicants shall meet the following criteria:
 - (a) All applicants are required to be interviewed by the District Credentials Committee and, in preparation for the interview, pass a standard exam approved by the General Presbytery whereby they demonstrate knowledge of the Bible, Assemblies of God doctrines, and ministerial practices; and either
 - (b) Successfully complete equivalent training to that indicated in paragraph (3) below, preferably, in an endorsed Assemblies of God postsecondary school; or in a seminary, college, Bible college, or school approved by the District Credentials Committee consistent with criteria established by the General Council Credentials Committee; or
 - (c) Successfully complete courses, prescribed by the General Presbytery, offered in correspondence through Global University of the Assemblies of God, or pass the final examinations in the prescribed courses; or
 - (d) Be recommended by a District Credentials Committee as qualifying for credentials through self-study and ministerial experience. Such candidates shall have a proven and fruitful ministry of substantial duration. Requests from a district for such a candidate shall be presented to the General Council Credentials Committee and may be granted on a case-by-case basis.
- (9) **Mandatory screening.** All applicants for ministerial credentials shall be screened through a designated screening agency established by the Executive Presbytery. Said screening shall be done by the District Council prior to the submission of the application to the office of the general secretary.
- (10) **Marriage status.** We disapprove of any married persons holding ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God if either marriage partner has a former spouse living, unless the divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15), except as hereinafter provided.
- (11) **Ecclesiastical annulments and marriage dissolutions.** The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant qualifies for an ecclesiastical annulment. In such cases, there must be clear and satisfactory evidence of deception, fraud, or other conditions which have a profound impact preventing the creation of a valid marriage union, unknown at the time of marriage by the applicant. The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant qualifies regarding a former marriage when the termination of that marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the Fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials; or if a former marriage ended prior to conversion. In those cases involving pre-conversion divorce, they shall be decided on an individual basis just as those that deal with ecclesiastical annulments. Appeals from the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the General Presbytery.
- (12) **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 meet the qualifications for ministerial credentials are eligible for whatever grade of credentials their qualifications warrant. They have the right to administer the ordinances of the church and are eligible to serve in all levels of church ministry, and/or district and General Council leadership.
- (13) **Ministers from other organizations.** If a minister from another reputable body desires to affiliate with the Assemblies of God, the credentials committees of both the General Council and the district councils are under no obligation to accept the applicant's previous ministerial status, but will judge each candidate on his or her own merits as to the level of credentials to be granted according to General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2, paragraph m.

b. Specific Qualifications

- (1) **Residency requirements of applicants.** Applicants for all credentials must be residents of or hold credentials in the district where they make application and appear before its credentials committee.

- (2) **Local church credential.** 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 nontransferable (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.
- (3) **Certified minister.**
- (a) *General requirements.* They shall show promise of usefulness in the gospel work. They shall devote full or part time to Christian ministry and, at the discretion of the District Credentials Committee, may remain under the supervision of a pastor or a ministry coach or mentor. They shall show evidence of a divine call and be actively engaged in some aspect of ministry and proclamation of the gospel, except in case of ill health or advanced age.
 - (b) *Pastoral requirements.* In the event a certified minister is serving in a position as the pastor, he or she shall be expected to advance to the ministry license level within two years of acceptance of the pastorate. This shall not apply to any minister who has reached the age of sixty-five or older, or whose certificate has been issued on a provisional basis. Any exceptions shall be at the discretion of the District Credentials Committee.
 - (c) *Exception for provisional issuance.* A Certificate of Ministry may be issued on a provisional basis to a person who has not met all the credentialing requirements but who is deemed by the District Credentials Committee to be essential to the continuity of a church or a ministry. The reason for such a provisional issuance must be ministry driven, and the justification for its use is terminated when the minister ceases to be involved in the ministry for which it was initially granted unless the minister accepts another qualifying assignment. Other limitations are:
 - 1. The ministry certificate on a provisional basis will be issued for one year and shall not be renewed more than two times.
 - 2. A person who has been granted the Certificate of Ministry on a provisional basis must meet the qualifications for a ministry certificate within a three-year period.
- (4) **Licensed minister.** Qualifications for license shall include clear evidence of a divine call, character and preparation suitable for that calling, practical ministry experience, and an evident purpose to devote one's life in service to the proclamation of the gospel.
- (5) **Ordained minister.** Qualifications for ordination are outlined in the New Testament (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9). In addition:
- (a) Applicants must be twenty-three years of age or older.
 - (b) They must have met all the requirements in making application and in completing the prescribed application form.
 - (c) No person may be ordained to the ministry until he or she has shown evidence of a divine call, has held a ministry license, and has been actively engaged in ministry and proclamation of the gospel for at least two full consecutive years immediately prior thereto.
 - (d) *Residency requirements of applicants.* Applicants must be residents of or hold credentials in the district where they make application and appear before its credentials committee. District councils are required to refrain from approving any applicant for ordination who may have been licensed in another district, until such licensed minister shall have been a member of the district in which he or she is seeking ordination at least one year. Applicants who have not been a member of the district where they apply for ordination for two full consecutive years must meet the requirements and secure the endorsement of the officers of the district in which they were previously licensed, as well as the district of their residence.
 - (e) *Exceptions to requirements.* The General Council Credentials Committee, upon request by a district credentials committee and where exceptional circumstances exist, may waive the requirements for an applicant holding a ministry license for two full consecutive years or being a member of the district in which he or she is seeking ordination for at least one year.
 - (f) In order to maintain active status, ordained ministers shall be engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel except for cases of disability, retirement, or other valid circumstances as determined by the general secretary.

Section 3. Application for Ministerial Recognition

a. Procedure – Initial

Applicants may be interviewed by the district board at meetings provided for credential interviews, provided they have (a) complied with the procedure outlined below, (b) the approval of their Sectional Committee, (c) specific instructions from the district secretary, appropriate fee, and (d) completed the written examination.

- (1) Each applicant for ministerial recognition shall obtain from the district office an application form which, when completed, shall be mailed to the district secretary not later than thirty days prior to the applicant's interview. The appropriate nonrefundable processing fee shall be mailed with the application.
- (2) The district secretary shall obtain the necessary letters of recommendation for the applicant and shall send a copy of the application form together with a copy of the reference letters to the presbyter of the section where the applicant resides and shall mail to applicant a synopsis of the credentials questionnaire at least thirty days prior to the applicant's interview.
- (3) Applicants shall seek approval of the committee of their section who shall report its recommendations to the district office. Upon instruction from the district secretary, applicants shall present themselves for an interview and final decision by the Executive Presbytery.

b. Mandatory Screening for All Credential Applicants

All applicants for credentials with the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God and all those advancing in their credential levels shall be required to submit to a mandatory screening through an agency designated by the Executive Presbytery. The cost of the screening shall be included in the application fee for the credentials.

Section 4. Renewals

All credentials expire annually, and renewals are subject to approval of the Credentials Committee, an appropriate fee, and the following conditions.

a. Ordained

To qualify for renewal, an ordained minister must:

- (1) Maintain "active" ministry (see paragraph e below).
- (2) Submit to the district secretary a completed renewal request on the forms provided for this purpose.

b. Licensed

To qualify for renewal, a licensed minister must:

- (1) Maintain "active" ministry (see paragraph e below).
- (2) Submit to the district secretary a completed renewal request on the forms provided for this purpose.
- (3) Meet the Sectional Committee at the designated date prior to Sectional Council or give a written report, at the discretion of the Sectional Committee, in advance of the committee meeting. Problem cases will be referred by the Sectional Committee to the District Presbytery.

c. Certified

To qualify for renewal, a certified minister must:

- (1) Maintain "active" ministry (see paragraph e below).
- (2) Submit to the district secretary a completed renewal request on the forms provided for this purpose.
- (3) Meet the Sectional Committee on the designated date prior to Sectional Council, or give a written report, at the discretion of the Sectional Committee, in advance of the committee meeting. Problem cases will be referred by the Sectional Committee to the District Presbytery.

d. Ministerial Support

Each minister is expected to tithe income, both ministerial and secular. They shall support district administration monthly with 70 percent of that tithe. (See General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 8, paragraph c, for special provisions for missionaries.)

e. Ministerial Status

- (1) **Active ministry.** The official list of all credential holders shall be compiled by the General Council Credentials Committee and published for the convenience of the Fellowship; with the understanding it is not to be used for purposes of solicitation. This official list shall be revised annually and shall contain the names of those who are engaged in active ministry and whose credentials have been renewed by the issuance of a fellowship card for the current year.
- (2) **Inactive or disabled ministers.** All credentialed ministers who shall withdraw from active ministry or shall cease to engage in pastoral, evangelistic, or other full-time ministry, shall be expected to notify the district office, which shall inform the general secretary who shall then be authorized to transfer the names of such persons to the inactive list, unless the district of which said person is a member requests otherwise by letter.
 - (a) *Definition.* All ministers who have not been actively engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel over a period of one year shall have their names placed upon the inactive list for the following year.
 - (b) *Removal of inactive ministers from ministerial list.* When a minister is inactive for two or more consecutive years, his or her name shall be eliminated from the ministerial list, unless the credentials committee of the district of which said person is a member requests otherwise by letter.
 - (c) *Exceptions.* This shall not apply to those whose inactivity has been caused by infirmity; or those engaged in other aspects of full-time ministry such as National Office or district workers, educators, ministers of music, ministers of youth, and ministers of Christian education; or those who have reached the age of sixty years; or those ministers who have had twenty-five years of approved service as credentialed ministers, or those whose spouse is disabled or has retired, giving them little opportunity for public ministry.
 - (d) *Ministers with disabilities.* Ministers with permanent disability or illness, which prevents them from engaging in active ministry, shall be indicated as disabled. The credential status of the minister shall remain unchanged. The annual renewal of his or her credentials shall take place in the regular manner. Ministers with disabilities thus approved by their district shall not have further obligation of financial support to the General Council.
- (3) **Restoration 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 endorsement by the district officary.
- (4) **Senior ministers.** 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, whether or not they continue in full-time ministry.
 - (a) *Terminology*
 1. The term *senior-active* shall be used for credential holders who continue to serve more than half-time in the ministry.
 2. The term *senior-semiretired* shall be used for credential holders who continue to be active, but for half-time or less.
 3. The term *senior-retired* shall be used for those who have ceased to engage in any regular appointed ministry.
 - (b) *Guidelines*
 1. Senior-Retired Ministers Financial Responsibilities. The senior-retired ministers shall be free to distribute as they desire the portion of their tithes previously paid to the District Council.
 2. Reports. Senior-active and senior-semiretired ministers shall continue to file their annual reports and pay the General and District Councils a portion of their tithes in the regular manner. Senior-retired ministers shall file an abbreviated report to maintain a correct address file for mail and insurance purposes.

Section 5. Advancement**a. Ordination**

- (1) Recommendation for ordination shall originate with the Sectional Committee at the annual credential renewal interview and be approved by the Executive Committee in time for the January Presbytery.
- (2) All requirements and the appropriate fee shall be fulfilled prior to the sectional interviews.
- (3) The General Council Executive Presbytery constitutes the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and has the authority to give recognition as approved ordained ministers to those endorsed and recommended by the Peninsular Florida District Council to the General Council Credentials Committee.

b. Licensed

- (1) Advancement to license may be considered by the District Executive Committee and the Sectional Committee at the annual credentials renewal when certified ministers are interviewed. They must have held certified minister credentials for one year before advancement to license.
- (2) The recommendation of the interviewing committee at the credentials renewal shall be considered by the Credentials Committee at their next scheduled meeting. The Credentials Committee shall make the final decision upon the applicant's file.
- (3) All requirements and the appropriate fee shall be fulfilled prior to the sectional interviews.

Section 6. Fellowship Certificates

Fellowship certificates of all ministers expire December 31 each year.

Section 7. Reinstatement of Credentials

Those ministers whose credentials have lapsed as a result of failure to renew must complete a reinstatement application form.

Those ministers who have withdrawn credentials, with no charge against them, may be considered for reinstatement by completing a reinstatement form, and upon the approval of their Sectional Committee may be required to meet with the District Presbytery for consideration.

Those ministers who have withdrawn for reasons of doctrine, or practices incompatible with Assemblies of God principles, or those who have been under discipline, but who qualify for restoration of credentials according to the minimal time lapse required by the General Council, shall follow the procedures outlined in the district Bylaws, Article VI, Section 3, paragraph a.

Section 8. Ministerial Relations

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.

All ministers holding credentials shall be amenable to both the District Council and to The General Council of the Assemblies of God in matters of doctrine and conduct.

a. District Affiliation

All credentialed ministers shall be expected to affiliate with the District Council within the boundaries of which they reside, and to work in cooperation with the same. In the case where a minister resides in one district but pastors a church located in another district; the minister shall be required to be a member of the district in which the church is located. Ministers shall be expected to cooperate with other district councils in which they may labor temporarily.

b. Transfers

When ministers take up residence in another district, a certificate of transfer and appropriate fee shall be issued within sixty days by the district of which they are a member, unless there are definite charges pending. The certificate of transfer shall be accepted by the district into which the minister moves. Exceptions may be made for ministers moving to serve at the Assemblies of God National Office, for those who are retired from active ministry, for those who are in the armed forces currently on active duty, for those who are serving on faculties of Assemblies of God schools, for those who are appointed U.S. missionaries retaining membership in their home districts, for ministers having membership in one district and a mailing address only in another district, for students in schools outside of their home district, for church planters involved in transdistrict ministry, or for those serving in a non-Assemblies of God institution providing:

- (1) They have a regular scope of ministry which reaches beyond district boundaries.
- (2) Both districts agree to the exception.
- (3) The institution is acceptable to both districts.
- (4) The general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and any district officer, may share information in a minister's file that pertains to the minister's fitness for ministry with any other district officer. The term "minister's file" includes files maintained for both credentialed ministers and applicants for ministerial credentials. This provision shall also apply to designees of the general secretary or district officer.

In order to assist ministers who are transferring into another district, a transcript giving helpful information concerning them and their spouse should accompany the certificate of transfer.

c. Change of Address

It is expected that all ministers keep the district office informed as to their present address. When change of address is made, the district secretary should be notified of the change by mail.

d. Ministers Leaving Pastorates

It is advised that no District Council pastor or evangelist shall leave a church unprotected without a shepherd to guide its destiny. The pastor or evangelist shall first communicate with the sectional presbyter and follow the instructions given. It is further advised that if a church pastorate becomes available, a non-council minister shall not be recommended to the church, nor shall a novice be left in charge

of an assembly, nor a layman except upon the approval of the district superintendent.

e. 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 doctrinal deviations as outlined in General Council Bylaws, Article IX, B.

f. Reciprocity between International Fellowships of the Assemblies of God

Reciprocity shall be respected between the Peninsular Florida District Council and international fellowships of the Assemblies of God for the purpose of transferring ministerial credentials within the following criteria:

- (1) The international fellowship shall be in harmony and cooperation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God in the United States of America.
- (2) The transferring minister holds a current and valid letter of recommendation from the executive committee of his or her national church.
- (3) There is acceptable equivalency between our governing bodies.
- (4) The transferring minister has successfully completed a course on history and polity of the Assemblies of God in the United States of America.
- (5) The transferring minister has completed the same forms as U.S. applicants. When possible, the forms may be in the language of the applicant and can be accepted at the discretion of the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God in the United States.

Section 9. 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.

ARTICLE VII. DISCIPLINE

Section 1. District Action

a. The Nature and Purposes of Discipline

Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible. The aims of discipline are that God may be honored, that the purity and welfare of the ministry may be maintained, and that those under discipline may be brought to repentance and restoration. Discipline is to be administered for the restoration of the minister while fully providing for the protection of the spiritual welfare of local assemblies. It is to be redemptive in nature as well as corrective and is to be exercised as under the dispensation of mercy.

b. The Relationship between the District and General Council Credentials Committee

The Executive Presbytery of the General Council is the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God (General Council Constitution, Article X, Sections 4 and 6). It shall have the final authority in matters of doctrine and the personal conduct of all ministers. District actions related to the termination of credentials or the remedial discipline of restoration are to be in the form of recommendations to the General Council Credentials Committee.

c. Causes of Disciplinary Action

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

- (1) Any moral failure involving sexual misconduct.
- (2) Any moral or ethical failure other than sexual misconduct.
- (3) General inefficiency in the ministry.
- (4) A failure to represent our Pentecostal testimony correctly.
- (5) A contentious or noncooperative spirit.
- (6) An assumption of dictatorial authority over an assembly.
- (7) An arbitrary rejection of district counsel.
- (8) A declared open change in doctrinal views.
- (9) Immoral, unethical, or illegal practices related to personal, church, or ministry finances.
- (10) A marriage in violation of our stand on marriage and divorce. (See General Council Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 1.)
- (11) Violation of ministerial courtesies. (See General Council Bylaws, Article IX, Section 8.)
- (12) Ministry without prior approval in a non-Assemblies church. (See General Council Bylaws, Article IX, Section 9.)
- (13) An improper attitude toward those dismissed from the Fellowship. (See General Council Bylaws, Article IX, Section 10.)

d. Right of Initiative

- (1) **Authority.** Occasions sometimes arise which make it necessary to deal with ministers who, for some reason, seem to have reached the place where, in the opinion of the brethren, endorsement can no longer be given. Credentials Committees which have the authority to ordain ministers and to recommend them for credentials also have the right to withdraw their approval and to recommend the recall of credentials.
- (2) **Prior right of district.** The officary of the district in which an alleged offense is reported to have occurred shall be recognized as having the prior right of initiative in matters of discipline.
- (3) **Responsibility of district of affiliation.** If the district in which an alleged offense is reported to have occurred for some reason cannot take action, the General Council Credentials Committee shall refer the matter, together with the facts and supporting

instruments, to the district with which the minister is affiliated.

- (4) **Responsibility of General Council Credentials Committee.** In the event a district fails to take action within ninety days after a matter has been referred to it, it shall be the responsibility of the General Council Credentials Committee to see that action is initiated.

e. Investigation of Reports or Complaints of Alleged Violations or Confession of Violations of Assemblies of God Principles

(1) Within the districts of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Reports or complaints of alleged violations of Assemblies of God principles (Article IX, paragraph a) or confessions of such by a minister shall be investigated. When an alleged offense is reported to have occurred, it is at the discretion of the district superintendent to investigate the report personally or to appoint a representative(s) to conduct an investigation to determine the source and validity. It is the responsibility of the district superintendent to safeguard the church, the minister, the district, and the Fellowship. In the event such reports or complaints against a minister are filed with the General Council Credentials Committee, they shall be referred to the district in which the offense occurred for investigation. A copy shall be sent to the district with whom the minister is affiliated.

- (a) *Interview with the complainant(s).* The person(s) involved shall be interviewed in order to ascertain the facts in the case and the reasons underlying the persistence of the reports or complaints.
- (b) *Interview with the accused minister.* The accused minister(s) shall be given an opportunity to be interviewed to discuss the complaints received in the hope that the matter can be resolved.
- (c) *Signed complaints.* In the event the investigation so warrants, signed complaints shall be filed with the district office by the complainant(s) describing the alleged violation(s).
- (d) *Conditions for ministry during investigation.* Conditions of continuing ministry may be subject to restriction during the time of investigation at the discretion of the appropriate district officers on the basis of evidence at hand and the nature of the alleged offense. Such conditions are subject to review in three-month intervals until such investigation have been completed, resulting in either clearing the person of the allegations or the filing of formal charges.

(2) Outside the United States. In case the alleged misconduct occurs outside the United States in an area under the general oversight of Assemblies of God World Missions, that division shall take the initiative to file complete data with the district of the minister's affiliation. Any hearing affecting that individual's ministerial credentials shall be held in the district of the minister's affiliation. Assemblies of God World Missions shall convey all information available to the said district as follows:

- (a) *Report to district of affiliation.* At the earliest date after Assemblies of God World Missions receives a report of misconduct, such report shall be conveyed by telephone and by letter to the superintendent of the district with which the minister is affiliated.
- (b) *Confidential file.* A confidential file shall be submitted to the superintendent, conveying to him all information as it becomes available to Assemblies of God World Missions. A final complete file shall be prepared under the direction of the field director of the field involved and shall be presented to the district superintendent for use in any action the district may take.
- (c) *Additional information.* When, in the judgment of Assemblies of God World Missions or the district involved, basic information is lacking (which information may be available at the site of the alleged misconduct), arrangements may be made for the gathering of such.

f. Preparation and Filing of Charges

If after due investigation it is determined that charges should be made, proper charges shall be prepared and filed in the district office. If no one appears to sign the charges, members of the district officary making the investigation may file charges based on the evidence in their possession. The person against whom charges have been filed shall be informed in writing by certified mail of the charges made in keeping with General Council Bylaws, Article X, Section 6.

g. District Hearing and Discipline

(1) **District hearing.** In the event the reports or complaints cannot be dealt with privately to the satisfaction of all concerned, the superintendent of the district in which the alleged offense is said to have occurred, or the superintendent of the district with which the minister is affiliated, shall arrange for a hearing by the District Credentials Committee for the accused minister. The minister shall be required to appear at the hearing in the hope the matter can be resolved.

(2) **Forfeiture of rights of accused.** A hearing shall not be considered as final disposition of the case until the accused is present and is allowed all rights and privileges granted herein. However, an accused member may be found guilty of charges and disciplined if the accused refuses to appear at the hearing, or if proof is found of willful neglect on the accused part to take advantage of one's rights and privileges.

(3) Discipline.

- (a) *Cause for discipline.* A minister who has been found guilty of violating any of the Assemblies of God principles set forth in Article VII, Section 1, paragraph c, either by a confession of the minister involved or by deliberation of the District Presbytery, shall be subject to disciplinary action.
- (b) *Determination of discipline.* It shall be the responsibility of the Credentials Committee to determine whether the circumstances of the case merit restoration or dismissal. The Credentials Committee shall weigh decisions on:
 - 1. the basis of the offense itself;
 - 2. the manner and thoroughness of repentance;
 - 3. the attitude of the offending minister toward the discipline; and
 - 4. the willingness manifested to cooperate.
- (c) *Administering discipline redemptively.* If the District Presbytery determines that guilt has been established, discipline shall be administered prayerfully and in the fear of God, in accordance with the Scriptures, and as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of this ecclesiastical body (Bylaws, Article VII, Section 1, paragraph a).

- (4) **Surrender of credentials.** Disciplined ministers shall be required to surrender their ministerial credentials and their current Fellowship Card to the district office. In the event of restoration, the credentials shall be held in the district office. In the event of dismissal, the district office shall forward the credentials to the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Refusal to surrender the ministerial credentials and current Fellowship Card may result in placing an additional charge against the minister.

h. Restoration

Recognizing that the underlying principle involved in discipline is redemptive, and that a person's conscience frequently brings one to judgment and confession, and that justice can sometimes be best served with mercy, an effort should be made to lead the offending minister through a program of restoration, administered in brotherly love and kindness. The following provision for restoration shall apply.

- (1) **Basis.** Those found to have violated any of the Assemblies of God principles (Article VII) may request a program of restoration as an alternative to dismissal. Granting such request shall be at the discretion of the District and General Council Credentials Committees.
- (2) **Period of time.** The program for restoration shall continue for not less than one year except when the violation involved misconduct defined in Article VII, in which case it shall continue for not less than two years.
- (3) **Procedure and requirements.** The following procedures shall be used by the District Presbytery in determining the specific requirements for restoration for the individual minister.
- (a) *Restoration requirements.* The specific terms and conditions of the restoration program as recommended by the district Credentials Committee are to be forwarded to the General Council Credentials Committee for approval. After such approval they shall be given to the minister.
1. Suspension. The minister shall be considered to be under suspension during the entire period of restoration.
 2. Extent of Ministry. The extent to which ministry may be permitted, if any, shall be determined by the District Presbytery, subject to the approval of the General Council Credentials Committee. Certain offenses may not require complete cessation of ministerial activities, although some restrictions or limitations may be warranted.
 3. District Membership. The minister shall not be permitted to transfer his membership to another district during the period of restoration.
 4. Publication. While the minister's credentials are in a state of suspension, his name shall not be removed from the ministerial roster, nor shall his disciplinary status be published in either the General Council or District Council official publications.
 5. Credentials Renewal. The minister shall renew his credentials annually in the regular manner.
 6. Supervision. In the event his ministerial activity has been terminated, the minister must become established in a local church working under the supervision of a pastor or presbyter.
 7. Reports. The minister must submit reports quarterly to the district superintendent.
 8. Ministerial Benefits. During the program of restoration, the minister shall continue to be eligible for benefits such as ministers group insurance and Assemblies of God Financial Solutions.
 9. Program Administration. The approved restoration program shall be administered by the District Presbytery.
- (b) *District progress reports.* The District Credentials Committee shall submit to the General Council Credentials Committee on February 1 and August 1 of each calendar year a progress report relative to the restoration of ministers under discipline.
- (c) *Completion of restoration.* When the restoration program has been satisfactorily completed, the suspension shall be lifted, and the minister shall be restored to good standing.
- (d) *Transfer of information.* A restoration information form for district use, prepared and distributed by the general secretary, shall be completed by the district in which the restoration occurred when the restored minister requests a transfer to another district. The completed restoration form shall accompany the Certificate of Transfer to another district. A disciplined minister shall, as a condition of entering a restoration program, sign a Limited Disclosure Agreement approved by the General Presbytery allowing the basis of his restoration program to be disclosed by the district superintendent or district secretary of a transferring district. The information shall be preserved for future reference in the files of the district in which the restoration occurred and the General Council (General Council Bylaws Article X, Section 8, paragraph b, number 4).
- (4) **Eligibility in special circumstances.**
- (a) *Previous restoration.* In the event a minister has completed a prior restoration program, and is again found to be in violation of Assemblies of God principles, the District Presbytery shall first obtain permission from the General Council Credentials Committee before recommending a second restoration program as prescribed in this Article, Section 1, paragraph h.
- (b) *Previous dismissal.* In the event a minister who has been dismissed requests reinstatement, the District Presbytery shall first obtain permission from the General Council Credentials Committee before submitting an appropriate restoration program as prescribed in General Council Bylaws, Article X, Section 8. The minister shall not be eligible for reinstatement until the requirements for restoration have been completed. Consideration may also be given to a minister if, in the opinion of the Credentials Committee, the minister has satisfactorily fulfilled the remedial requirements of such restoration.

i. Referral for Action to the General Council Credentials Committee

- (1) **District recommendation.**
- (a) *Restoration.* When a minister is to be placed in a restoration program in accordance with Article X, Section 8, of the General Council Bylaws, the District Presbytery shall forward to the General Council Credentials Committee the specific charges and recommended terms of restoration. The District Presbytery shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district affiliation.
- (b) *Dismissal.* When a minister has been found guilty of violating any of the Assemblies of God principles as set forth in Article VII,

Section 1, paragraph c, and it is determined that restoration is not feasible or fails, a minister's credentials are to be terminated by dismissal. The District Presbytery shall forward to the General Council Credentials Committee the specific charges and its recommendation for dismissal. The District Presbytery shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district affiliation.

- (c) *Subsequent dismissal.* 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 VII, Section 1, paragraph c, 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 affiliation. All rights of appeal will apply.
 - (d) *Credential Absolution.* Should a district where a dismissal occurred determine, after careful investigation, that a dismissed minister has completed remedial restoration followed by faithful service for many years, it may request the General Council Credentials Committee to lift a dismissal and clear the minister's name by changing his or her credential status from dismissed to resigned.
- (2) **General Council Credentials Committee action.** The General Council Credentials Committee shall consider the recommendation of the District Presbytery and shall concur if in its judgment the District Presbytery was justified in the action taken. If the General Council Credentials Committee does not concur, it may remand the case, together with its recommendations, back to the District Presbytery for review and reconsideration. The District Presbytery shall report the results of its recommendation to the General Council Credentials Committee for final disposition.
 - (3) **General Council to hold information.** All pertinent information relating to the disciplinary action taken against a minister shall be preserved for future reference in the office of the General Council Credentials Committee.
 - (4) **Final disposition.** The general secretary shall notify the minister and the district(s) involved of the final disposition of the case.

j. Right of Appeal

- (1) **Filing of appeal to the General Council Credentials Committee.** The right of appeal applies to all actions of discipline and termination of credentials other than lapsing or resigning on the initiative of the minister. An accused minister shall have thirty days from the date the notification of the General Council Credentials Committee decision was mailed to appeal to the General Council Credentials Committee. The minister shall be apprised officially of this right at the time notification is given to the minister of the decision of the General Council Credentials Committee. The appeal is to be sent to the office of the general superintendent, and must include new exculpatory information, with copies sent to the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation and any other districts involved. The decision of the General Council Presbytery shall be final.
- (2) **Consideration of appeal by the General Council Credentials Committee.** The General Council Credentials Committee may respond to the appeal in one of the following ways:
 - (a) *Remanding of case to the District.* If in the judgment of the General Council Credentials Committee, justice has not been served, the case shall be remanded to the District Presbytery for review of its recommendation to the General Council Credentials Committee for final disposition.
 - (b) A district may appeal a decision of the Executive Presbytery to the General Council Presbytery. The decision of the General Council Presbytery shall be final.
 - (c) *Denial of appeal.*
 - 1. Forfeiture of Right of Appeal. No appeal shall be granted by remanding the case to the District Presbytery if proof is found of willful neglect on the part of the accused to take advantage of available rights and privileges during the district hearing (see General Council Bylaws Article X, Sections 5-7).
 - 2. Insufficient Grounds. The General Council Credentials Committee shall have the prerogative to determine whether there is sufficient cause to grant an appeal and remand the case to the district.
 - 3. Right of Appeal to the General Presbytery. A disciplined minister whose appeal has been denied by the General Council Credentials Committee may appeal to the General Presbytery. An accused minister shall have thirty days to appeal to the General Presbytery from the date the notification of the General Council Credentials Committee decision was mailed. The appeal is to be sent to the office of the general superintendent and should include any new or exculpatory information not previously considered, with copies sent to the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation and any other district involved. The decision of the General Presbytery shall be final.

k. Reinstatement

- (1) A disciplined minister shall have the right to apply for reinstatement of his credentials, according to the provisions for such set forth in Article VI, Section 7. This provision shall apply to disciplinary action taken by either the General Council Credentials Committee or the General Presbytery.
- (2) A minister shall not be considered to have exhausted the avenues of remedy provided by the Constitution and Bylaws of this ecclesiastical body until application for reinstatement has been acted upon by both the district officer and the General Council Credentials Committee.
- (3) No publication of the action of the district shall be made until such time as action has been taken and authorization given by the General Council Credentials Committee.

ARTICLE VIII. MINISTERIAL RESTRICTIONS

Section 1. Membership

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

Section 2. Remarriage

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

Section 3. Performing Marriage Ceremonies

When considering performing a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former companion is still living, we recommend the Assemblies of God minister be guided by Section 2 of this Article, conscience of the minister, and all questions should be resolved between the minister and the marriage partners as they walk in the light of God's Word. (1 Corinthians 7:15, 27, 28).

Section 4. Ministerial Credentials

- a. We disapprove of any married minister of the Assemblies of God holding credentials if either minister or spouse has a former spouse living, unless the divorce occurred prior to conversion, or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15). (General Council Bylaws Article IX, Section 5, paragraph e. See also, Article VII, Section 2, paragraphs j and k.)

- b. **Annulment, Marriage Dissolution, 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 annulments are decided. The application for an annulment must be accompanied by clear and satisfactory evidence of an illegal marriage through deception or fraud. Appeals from the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the District Presbytery.

Section 5. Marriage Ceremony Restrictions

In accordance with Florida law, all ordained, licensed, and certified ministers may perform marriage ceremonies.

Section 6. Ministers and the Local Church

No minister other than the senior pastor shall be eligible for any position on the official board of any local church, except in cases where a local church has a multiple pastoral staff. In such cases, other members of that staff may serve on an official board if requested by the pastor and approved by the membership.

The District Council and the District Presbytery recommend that our churches consider only ordained or licensed ministers as pastors, except in situations where the Sectional and District Executive Committees deem that certified ministers may qualify.

ARTICLE IX. MINISTERIAL COURTESY AND PRACTICAL COOPERATION

Section 1. Responsibilities

- a. **Ethical Conduct**

All discourteous conduct is disapproved, and all ministers are advised against interfering with pastors in charge of assemblies; whether it is by going in upon their work without consent or by such correspondence with members of the assembly as will hurt the influence of the leader. All correspondence which concerns the whole assembly shall be addressed to the one in charge and not to private members. Where there is no pastor, letters concerning the work shall be addressed to the officers in the assembly. Any minister who so offends shall be subject to scriptural treatment as an offender by the District Presbytery of the District Council or by the Executive Presbytery of the General Council. Such discourtesy will seriously affect the granting of an annual Fellowship certificate and may be the basis of its recall.

- b. **Accepting Tithes**

All ministers are discouraged from accepting tithes from assemblies or members of assemblies where they have formerly ministered.

- c. **Council Workers**

Council evangelists and workers coming into the field where there is already a council worker should seek to cooperate with same.

- d. **Non-Council Ministers**

All pastors and assemblies shall be expected to refrain from engaging any minister not endorsed by the General or District Councils until they have communicated with the district office.

- e. **Non-Council Assemblies**
Evangelists and pastors shall be expected to consult with our District Council pastors before conducting campaigns with a non-council assembly in any given city.
- f. **Preference**
Council evangelists, particularly those of the District Council, shall be given preference by our District Council pastors over non-council evangelists.
- g. **District Meetings**
The District Council encourages assemblies and pastors to avoid schedule conflicts with annual district events, wherever possible.
- h. **Independent Ministers**
Because of an increasing encroachment of independent ministers and ministers presuming upon our Assemblies of God Fellowship and an increasing number of these ministers are of questionable reputation, whose ethical practices leave such an aftermath, dishonoring the cause of Christ, the district officials are authorized to circulate and emphasize the General Council criteria on the acceptance of independent ministers.

ARTICLE X. AFFILIATED CHURCHES

Section 1. Responsibilities

- a. **Limited Sovereignty**
While the fact that a local assembly is affiliated in the association of the District Council or The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall in no wise destroy its rights as above stated or interfere with its sovereignty, 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 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. (See General Council Constitution, Articles II, IV, V, and Article XI.)
- 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.

Section 2. The Sovereign Assembly

- a. **Responsibilities**
While full recognition of sovereignty is, by our district constitution, assured to the mature assemblies having twenty or more active members sixteen years of age and over, yet it is obvious that the sovereignty of the assembly is limited by its association with other assemblies of like faith in the District Council Fellowship. Assemblies must recognize their obligation to the Fellowship as a whole to maintain proper standards of doctrine, church order, and conduct. They shall consider for pastor only those ministers having fully approved and up-to-date credentials with the Assemblies of God. They shall be expected to participate in the cooperative program of the General and District Councils for the propagation of the gospel in both U.S. and World Missions fields, and to share in such provisions as may be made for the maintenance of the Fellowship on financial or other practical lines. The District Council and the District Presbytery recommends that our churches consider only Assembly of God credentialed ministers as pastors.
- b. **Achieving Sovereignty**
When an assembly qualifies for General Council recognition according to paragraph a above, application may be made by using the questionnaire furnished by the district office. The completed questionnaire shall be returned to the district office for consideration by the District Presbytery in session.
- c. **Organization and Recognition – Constitution and Bylaws**
An affiliated assembly shall be set in order under the jurisdiction and/or with the approval of the District Presbytery, and a recommended or approved constitution and bylaws.
- d. **Incorporation**
An affiliated assembly may request assistance and guidance from the Peninsular Florida District in obtaining proper religious nonprofit incorporation from the State with particular attention paid to the reversionary clause.
- e. **Membership Certificate**
Upon notification by the District Presbytery of the action, the general secretary's office shall issue a certificate of affiliation to each church coming into the Fellowship, and which has been approved for General Council affiliation.
- f. **Loss of Sovereignty**
There shall be guidelines for minimal membership for General Council affiliated assemblies. If a General Council affiliated church is unable to meet any of the criteria for affiliation as set forth in the General Council Constitution, Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, it shall seek the assistance of the district officers for help in maintaining the minimal requirement for General Council affiliation. The district may use any means prescribed in the Bylaws to assist the church in returning to a position of strength. If the minimal requirements have not been attained, the church shall revert to District Council affiliated status until the minimal requirements for General Council affiliation have been attained.
- g. **Restoration of Sovereignty**
An assembly that has forfeited its sovereignty may regain its sovereignty by the procedure stated in paragraph b of this section.

Section 3. Church Government**a. The Pastor**

The pastor, under Jesus Christ, is recognized as the head of the assembly. The pastor is responsible both to the district fellowship and to the assembly which the pastor serves; and as long as the pastor conforms to the scriptural order and complies with the constitution and bylaws of the local assembly, the pastor shall be respected in his/her office.

b. Church Boards

Where church boards are used in a local assembly, the following scriptural standard for deacons and other officers in positions of leadership should be followed: Candidates for the office of deacon must be qualified scripturally by being persons full of the Holy Spirit and faith according to Acts 2:4; 6:3, and the additional qualifications stated in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. Since the New Testament restricts divorced and remarried believers from the church offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon, we recommend that this standard be upheld by all our assemblies (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:12) except when the divorce occurred prior to conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17) or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15). However, we recommend that all other opportunities for Christian service for which these believers may be qualified be made available to them. In our affiliated assemblies no board, committee, or group may take to themselves the right to supersede the authority vested in the scriptural office of the pastor, nor come between the pastor and his relationship to the congregation itself. Boards or other committees are chosen to serve the assembly in conformity to simple New Testament order and are directly responsible to both the pastor and assembly for their actions and conduct.

c. Governance Models for the General Council Affiliated Churches

A sovereign assembly may adopt Articles of Incorporation, a constitution, or bylaws compatible with models that provide for adequate accountability, amenability, and safeguards so that a pastor and/or governing bodies cannot directly or indirectly exert dictatorial control over a church. A proper system of checks and balances shall provide for the leadership of the pastor, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, the servanthood ministry of the board or church council or body of elders and the appropriate authority of the membership of the congregation through regular meetings. No single group or individual shall have total control and all three levels of the church governance – the pastor, the group of directors, and the membership – shall have true representation in the final decisions of the church government.

Section 4. Prerogatives and Privileges**a. Autonomy**

Each General Council affiliated assembly has the right of self-government under Jesus Christ, its living Head, and shall have the power to choose or call its pastor, elect its official governing council, and transact all other business pertaining to its life as a local unit. It shall have the right to administer discipline to its members according to the Scriptures and its governing documents. It shall have the right to acquire and hold title to property, either through trustees or in its corporate name as a self-governing unit. The fact that it is affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God shall in no way destroy its rights or interfere with its sovereignty. The governance model adopted by the local assembly shall conform to the guidelines of Article X, Section 3, paragraph c, of these Bylaws.

b. Available Ministries

Each General Council affiliated assembly has the right to request the assistance of the district officary in filling a pastoral vacancy and to benefit from other approved ministries.

c. Discipline

Each General Council affiliated assembly has the right to administer discipline to its members according to the Scriptures and its bylaws.

d. Appeal

- (1) **To district officary.** The right of the pastor, the board, or the church body to appeal by petition to the district officary for help when in need of counsel or advice.
- (2) **To the 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 the 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 made to the General Presbytery.

e. Representation

Each General Council affiliated assembly has the right of representation at the meetings of the General Council by one officially appointed and registered delegate, and at meetings of the Peninsular Florida District Council according to the provision for such. (See District Council Constitution, Article VIII, Section 2.)

f. Other Benefits

Each General Council affiliated assembly has the right to benefit from approved General Council institutions such as colleges, divisional and departmental ministries, publications, etc.

Section 5. 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 officary 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.
- (6) Financial irresponsibility.
- (7) Bringing reproach upon the Assemblies of God by being in a state of confusion.

b. Intervention Procedure

Either the district may request to meet with the board or congregation, or the district officer may be extended an invitation. This can come about in the following ways:

- (1) By the request of the pastor.
- (2) By action of the board.
- (3) By petition of the congregation according to the bylaws provision.
- (4) By district initiative, with prior Presbytery approval.

c. District Policy of Preservation for Affiliated Assemblies

If a situation arises which requires district initiative and involvement (see this Article, Section 5, paragraph a), the District Executive Committee shall meet with the official board, pastor, and/or congregation to assist the church. The Executive Committee may bring the church under district supervision with Presbytery approval, if such an occasion arises in which they feel it would be necessary to preserve the assembly. The church shall have right of appeal according to General Council Constitution, Article XI, Section 1, paragraph e.

d. Preservation of Affiliation.

In the event the termination of affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God is under consideration by an affiliated assembly, the pastor or board shall invite the district officers to participate in a specially called business meeting where such matters will be discussed and voted upon for the express purpose of giving the district officers the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation. A decision to disaffiliate shall require a two-thirds vote of the membership, or a more restrictive rule prescribed by the governing documents of the church or district.

Section 6. Discipline of Assemblies

Since the approval of an assembly is the prerogative of the District Presbytery and General Council and is indicated by the issuance of appropriate certificates of affiliation, the Peninsular Florida 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 7. New Assemblies Resulting from a Division

a. Criteria for Recognition

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

b. Criteria for Discipline of Pastor 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 as provided in the General Council Bylaws.

Section 8. Cooperating Assemblies

The District Presbytery may make provision for an established non-Assemblies of God congregation that subscribes to the Statement of Fundamental Truths and pledges to cooperate in matters of ministry, governance, and business, to affiliate with the Peninsular Florida District Council on a temporary basis for four years. The term of affiliation shall be renewable by mutual consent of the District Council and the local congregation, not more than twice, before the cooperating assembly shall have the option of officially affiliating with the District or The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 9. Church Property

a. Title

Each sovereign congregation shall have the right to hold property in its own corporate name or through its own trustees. If it deems this plan impractical, it shall have the right to deed the property to the District Council, until such time as it is considered expedient to return the property to full assembly control. This plan shall be subject to the approval of the District Presbytery.

b. Protection

In order to protect the interest of those whose sole purpose in providing or obtaining property was establishing or maintaining of an Assembly of God, in the event that any Peninsular Florida District Assembly of God, either sovereign or district affiliated, shall be so affected by strife, division, or other reasons so that a ruling majority of its members become affiliated with some other organization, or in teaching and practice shall no longer uphold those statements of faith embodied in our constitution; or for any reason a church should cease to function in or on said property, all rights of said property shall come under the control of the Executive Committee of the Peninsular Florida District Council until such a time as an Assembly of God does again function or conditions indicate that further operation of a church in said location is not feasible; in which case the Executive Committee shall be empowered to dispose of the property and use the proceeds to promote Assemblies of God interests elsewhere. The District Executive Committee, as the trustees of

the corporation, shall be empowered to act on the behalf of the District Presbytery in procuring legal assistance in retaining church property for the Assemblies of God when necessary.

Section 10. Calling Pastors

a. Suggested Vote

- (1) We recommend that our assemblies require a two-thirds vote when selecting a pastor to serve for a first term.
- (2) We recommend that our assemblies decide the continuity of a ministry in a given pastorate which would be succeeding itself by a majority vote.
- (3) We recommend that assemblies seeking a pastor refrain from the practice of hearing several ministers before taking a vote, but after hearing a prospective pastor twice, a yes or no vote be taken, thereby lessening injustice to the minister.

b. Suggested Tenure

We recommend that our assemblies call their pastors for an indefinite period of time, with the understanding that in the event there is a desire at any time on the part of either the pastor or assembly to sever their relationship as pastor and assembly, they shall be privileged to do so, upon at least thirty days notice to either party, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon.

c. Temporary Appointment

If after a period of sixty days a local assembly fails to agree on the calling of a pastor, the district superintendent with the sectional presbyter shall be authorized to appoint a temporary pastor if deemed advisable.

Section 11. The District Affiliated Assembly

a. Supervision

The district affiliated assembly, which is still in a formative state, shall have the privilege of district supervision until such time as permanence of life and growth is assured. It shall be entitled to advice and godly counsel from the district superintendent and sectional presbyter and shall be aided in securing church property and pastoral care, until such time as growth into maturity shall justify recognition of sovereignty. (Article X, Section 1, paragraphs a and b.)

b. Organization

The District Presbytery shall be responsible for instituting a simple form of organization until development will qualify the assembly for recognition as sovereign. All assemblies shall be entitled to district aid in conducting special business meetings, elections, and the choice of a pastor. (Article X, Section 1, paragraph a.)

c. Status

The District Affiliated Assembly. The district affiliated assembly is one which, while not having fully qualified for sovereignty, shall have the privilege of self-government as stipulated in bylaws prepared for such assemblies by the District Presbytery.

Section 12. Parent Affiliated Churches

Provision shall be made for parent affiliated assemblies which shall be under the supervision of a parenting church, in accordance with the parenting church's constitution and bylaws. (General Council Constitution, Article XI, Section 3.)

Section 13. The Name of Local Assemblies

The name "Assembly of God" should be used to properly identify our churches; and where this is not possible, the words "Assembly of God" should be used with or included in the present name of the church.

Section 14. Location of Assemblies

Assemblies should locate at sufficient distance from each other so as to facilitate cooperation.

Section 15. Membership Recommendations

Each candidate for membership in affiliated churches shall be expected to give clear testimony of having been born of the Spirit of God (John 3:3-8), and to having received the Holy Spirit or to be earnestly seeking to be baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2-4). It is expected of all applicants that they follow the scriptural command to be baptized in water by immersion in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). A sincere belief in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures as the Word of God and the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct; evidence of a consistent Christian life (Romans 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13, 14; Ephesians 4:17, 32; 5:1, 2, 15; 1 John 1:6, 7); and a hope and expectancy of the pre-millennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, are considered to be necessary for membership.

Section 16. Transfer of Membership

- a. Persons desiring to transfer membership from one assembly to another shall request a letter of transfer from their pastor.
- b. Pastors shall grant letters of transfer to members requesting same, unless such members are guilty of sin or doctrinal error.
- c. It is recommended that the two pastors involved in membership changes shall communicate with each other on the matter.
- d. In the event a member seeking to be transferred is refused a letter of transfer, he shall have the right to appeal to the Sectional Executive Committee in the presence of the two pastors.

Section 17. Relationship of Christian Education to the Church

Christian education shall be considered a part of the work of the church and as such shall be under the general supervision of the pastor. All funds received through Christian education shall be considered as part of the regular funds of the church, and the disbursements shall be made under the supervision of the pastor and the officers of Christian education.

Section 18. Relationship of Youth Ministries to the Church

The youth ministry of the church shall be considered as part of the local church activities and shall be under the general supervision of the pastor. It shall be encouraged to become a part of the District Youth Department and to participate in such activities as may be provided for the development of youth ministries through that agency.

Section 19. Arbitration

In the event that disagreement develops in the assembly life, the district superintendent may be called upon for help in arbitrating the difficulty.

Section 20. The "Cooperative" Assembly

The District Council disapproves of churches chartered as closed corporations or held in private ownership. Anyone originating a new work not in conformity with this bylaw shall be considered uncooperative and shall be disciplined according to the district Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE XI. MISSIONS**Section 1. World Missions****a. Support of Missions**

Local assemblies are expected to have an interest in the missionary enterprise, and to plan for regular contributions to its support (General Council Constitution, Article XI, Section 5).

b. World Missions Plan

It is recommended that all World Missions offerings shall be divided as follows: 70 percent World Missions, 5 percent World Missions office expense, 5 percent U.S. Missions, 20 percent District U.S. Missions. Speed the Light offerings shall be divided as follows: 72 percent World Missions and U.S. Missions Speed the Light; 18 percent District U.S. Missions Speed the Light; 10 percent national Youth Department, administration costs, Speed the Light. The portion returned to the district shall be designated for the purchase and erection of property in pioneer fields, including Chi Alpha ministries with the exception that up to one-half of the 18 percent returned to District U.S. Missions under World Speed the Light be allowed for the administration of the District Youth Department office at the discretion of the district officer.

c. Support of World Missions

The expense of operating the World Missions, in addition to the contributions of missionaries for that purpose, is provided in the following ways: 5 percent of all offerings on the World Missions Plan; offerings designated for office expense, in keeping with the recommendation that any who do not contribute under the World Missions plan should designate a portion of their offering for office expense; an appropriation of up to 10 percent of undesignated contributions.

d. Missionary Secretary

A missionary secretary shall be appointed to assist the superintendent in planning missionary itineraries and special missionary programs throughout the district.

Section 2. World Ministries Giving**a. Regular Support of Churches Encouraged**

In order to support and develop the work and ministries of the Assemblies of God at home and abroad, all its churches shall be encouraged to send offerings at regular intervals.

b. 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.

c. Categories of Ministries for Which Credit Is Given for Offerings

World Ministries Giving recognition shall provide credit to Assemblies of God churches for contributions to World and U.S. Missions, spiritual life evangelism, support of executive offices, education, Sunday School, youth, radio and TV, benevolence, women's ministries, men's ministries, educational institutions, and other General Council regional and district sponsored or approved projects. It is understood that no district or region may receive World Ministries credit for projects specifically disapproved by the General Council.

d. Annual Reports

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 general secretary.

e. Safeguarding the Assemblies from Unapproved Ministries

(See General Council Bylaws, Article VI, Section 3.)

- (1) It is known that many unreliable and unsafe teachers and preachers go about seeking entrance into assemblies without any recommendations; 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 recommendation 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.

Section 3. U.S. Missions

a. Church Planting Emphasis

The planting of new churches shall be a recognized priority of the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God and shall be diligently promoted. Initiative for establishing new churches and the oversight of those churches may emanate from local assemblies, section, or the District U.S. Missions Committee. Requests from individual church planters shall be considered by the Sectional and District Executive Committees. A decision of the Sectional Committee may be appealed to the district. A decision of the district committees may be appealed to the General Council Executive Presbytery, whose decision shall be final.

b. U.S. Missions Committee

The District Presbytery shall constitute the District U.S. Missions Committee. They shall provide for a constitution and bylaws to govern U.S. Missions and district affiliated assemblies and work out district U.S. Missions policies as they may deem advisable.

c. Sectional Committee

Each section of the district shall have a Sectional U.S. Missions Committee consisting of the presbyter, assistant presbyter, and sectional secretary elected at the appropriate Sectional Council. This committee shall work in cooperation with the District U.S. Missions Committee. The local presbyter shall consult the Sectional Committee on any major decisions which affect U.S. Missions and district affiliated assemblies. Sectional U.S. Missions rallies, projects, needs, and burdens shall be emphasized by the Sectional Committee.

d. Director

The portfolio of the U.S. Missions director shall be assigned by the Presbytery.

e. Funds

The district treasurer shall handle all U.S. Missions receipts and disbursements of the various sections.

f. Income

In order that the district U.S. Missions fund may be increased, we urge:

- (1) Each church designates at least 20 percent of its monthly World Ministries offerings sent to Springfield for district U.S. Missions, or send this amount directly to the District U.S. Missions Department.
- (2) Each church participates in the Annual U.S. Missions Parade Offering at District Council, sponsored by the district Women's Ministries.

g. Loans and District Donations

In special district-wide projects, the Presbytery shall be empowered to set the amount of U.S. Missions funds invested in new works as gifts and temporary loans.

h. New Church Procedure

- (1) Any individual or church desiring to establish a new work shall first contact the district superintendent for instruction as to strategic areas throughout the district where new works are needed.
- (2) When an area is favorably considered by the proponent of the new work, the person shall get in immediate contact with the sectional presbyter, before any initiation of the proposed new work is made, who shall set up a Sectional Committee meeting to interview said proponent. Any pastor or pastors of any already established churches in the area shall also be invited and heard.
- (3) The Sectional Committee shall determine the merits of the proposed new work and shall report its findings and recommendations to the District Executive Committee for action.
- (4) If the proposed new effort or the minister desiring to initiate the new work is not approved by the Sectional or Executive Committees, the decision may be appealed to the District Presbytery, whose action shall be final.
- (5) If the proposed new church is approved, the effort will be under the direct supervision of the Sectional and Executive Committees until granted sovereignty and shall operate by the District Constitution and Bylaws for district supervised churches.
- (6) The appointment of the minister of a new work shall be reviewed and renewed annually at Sectional Council, and appointment may be withdrawn at any time if deemed advisable by the Sectional and Executive Committees.
- (7) No indebtedness or financial obligations shall be incurred for a new work without written prior approval from the district office on recommendation of the Sectional and Executive Committees; and no minister in charge of a new work shall invest personal funds into said work, expecting reimbursement without like approval.
- (8) All U.S. Missions assistance to a new work shall be terminated at the end of five years, unless specific exception is made by the District Presbytery.
- (9) No facilities shall be erected, or additions made to existing facilities unless plans and financing have been approved by the Sectional or Executive Committees.
- (10) All properties for new and district-supervised assemblies shall be deeded to the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., with headquarters at Lakeland, Florida, and shall be held in trust by its trustees until granted sovereignty. No church shall be granted sovereignty until the district office is released from all financial obligations and otherwise qualifies.
- (11) All district-supervised churches shall send monthly reports to the District U.S. Missions Department on forms provided by same and annual reports at a time designated by the District Presbytery.

i. Location

Each section of the District Council shall prepare and keep current a map indicating strategic locations for potential U.S. Missions endeavors. The District Executive Committee and the Sectional Committee shall guide persons interested in U.S. Missions to those strategic locations.

j. Relocation

Inasmuch as some existing churches may need to relocate due to zoning problems, undesirability of areas available, the changing character of neighborhood due to population shifts, plus other similar problems, thereby forcing them to move their new location a greater

distance completely leaving the locale from which they built their membership, if they cannot reach an agreement with other assemblies involved, they shall have the right of appeal to the District Presbytery. The Presbytery shall have a hearing inviting the pastors of all assemblies involved and allow them to express their opinion. The Presbytery will offer a decision of location and its decision shall be considered final.

Section 4. Solicitation of Funds

a. Missionaries

All missionaries visiting our assemblies shall be required to show a letter of recommendation from our district superintendent.

b. Appeals

Assemblies, ministers, and members are strongly discouraged in giving indiscriminately to missionaries, or missionary organizations, who make financial appeals through circular letters or papers, thereby jeopardizing the best interests of our own General Council Missions Board, by inequality of distribution of missionary funds.

Section 5. District Youth Department Missionary Program

We recommend that our assemblies cooperate fully with the missionary program of the District Youth Department.

ARTICLE XII. FINANCES

Section 1. Receipts

a. Ministers

(1) **District ministers.** Each minister is expected to tithe income, both ministerial and secular. Each shall support District Administration monthly with 70 percent of that tithe and to the General Council as outlined in General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 10, paragraph f and are accountable accordingly.

(2) **Others.**

World missionaries, nationally appointed and/or approved U.S. military chaplains shall conform to the General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 8, paragraph c, numbers (1), (2), and (3), as it may apply to them.

b. Assemblies

Preamble

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

(1) **District Council.** Each assembly is requested to send an offering monthly to the District Administration account. A report of church participation will be given at District Council.

(2) **General Council.** Logically, support of the General Council follows support of the District Council. If practical, let each assembly take one offering each year for the upkeep of the national office and the travel expenses of the executive officers.

c. Bonds

The District Presbytery is authorized to issue for sale annuity bonds.

d. Services

Any assembly calling for the services of the district officers shall receive an offering to cover all expenses thereby incurred.

e. Investments

All investments shall be handled by the district treasurer in consultation with the district superintendent according to guidelines approved by the Executive Committee. They shall report monthly to the Executive Committee, quarterly to the District Presbytery, and annually to the District Council.

Section 2. Disbursements

a. Officers' Salaries and Expenses

The salary of all district officers and travel expenses incident to the work of their offices shall be established by the District Presbytery.

b. Other Disbursements

(1) A monthly offering equal to 5 percent of the ministers' tithes income shall be sent to Southeastern University.

(2) Five percent of the ministers' tithes shall be placed in District U.S. Missions monthly.

Section 3. Emergency Assistance Funds

a. Funds shall be established and maintained to assist ministers in an emergency.

b. The Executive Committee shall administer and disburse such funds for needs and emergencies provided by action of the Executive Committee and/or District Presbytery.

Section 4. Assemblies of God Financial Solutions

The District Council encourages all credentialed ministers to use the AG Financial Solutions to plan for a secure and successful retirement following the General Council Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE XIII. INSTITUTIONS

Section 1. Recognition

The District Council shall recognize the need of practical training of prospective ministers and missionaries. It shall be in hearty sympathy with

every effort to provide such training where the standards of teaching and discipline maintained in the school are satisfactory.

Section 2. Institutions

The District Council shall be in sympathy with establishing and maintaining homes for children and the aged, and for retired ministers and missionaries; and all humanitarian and educational work that shall be for the betterment of our fellowmen.

We authorize the planning, financing, and development of district retirement facilities as agreed upon by the District Presbytery, to be effected by the District Executive Committee and whatever other committees are deemed needed as directed by that body, with progress reports made periodically to the Fellowship by the district superintendent.

Section 3. Southeastern University

a. Endorsement and Sponsorship

- (1) The Peninsular Florida District Council endorses and approves Southeastern University as its regional Bible college and by this sponsorship becomes a district member of the college corporation.
- (2) The District Council recommends that each assembly cooperate in the support of the college as the occasion arises.
- (3) This District Council authorizes its duly invited executive officers and credentialed ministers to serve on the Board of Regents and represent the district in any and all decisions by that board.

b. Support

- (1) This District Council hereby authorizes its treasurer to send monthly to Southeastern University as an offering an amount equal to 5 percent of the ministers' tithes received each month.
- (2) This District Council further recommends that each assembly financially support the university as it is able.
- (3) The district bulletin will carry an article each month furnished by the promotional department of Southeastern University.

c. Southeastern University District Organization

To expedite promotional efforts of Southeastern University within this district, the following organization will be created:

- (1) A Southeastern University district representative shall be appointed or elected and should be an active minister and if possible, a member of the alumni association. This representative shall represent Southeastern University in all district activities and take charge of setting up a booth at the District Council and District Youth Convention.
- (2) A Southeastern University sectional representative shall be appointed in each section who shall be an active member, or someone interested in the university. This representative shall promote Southeastern University at all sectional meetings in some manner. To assist the sectional representative, the local pastor should appoint a Southeastern University sponsor within each assembly.

ARTICLE XIV. YOUTH MINISTRIES

This District Council reaffirms the General Council agreements pertaining to the work of the young people in its various stipulations and recommendations. The District Youth Ministries organization shall be considered as part of the District Council and therefore under the general supervision of the District Presbytery.

Section 1. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Youth Ministries of the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be:

- a. To promote the spiritual life and development of the young people of our assemblies.
- b. To correlate the Youth Ministries program on the local, sectional, and district levels.

Section 3. Department Objectives

To organize and encourage an active youth group in each local assembly for the purpose of worship, fellowship, training, and service in harmony with the national Youth program and the constitutional principles of the Peninsular Florida District Council and the local assembly.

Section 4. Officers

a. Executive Officers

The officers of this organization shall consist of a Youth director, assistant Youth director, and secretary.

b. Sectional Representatives

Sectional and area Youth representatives may be filled by appointment by the Executive and Sectional Committees and the district Youth director.

c. Executive Committee

The executive officers, together with the district executive officers, shall constitute the Executive Youth Committee.

d. Qualifications

The officers of this organization shall be Spirit-filled young people who are living consistent Christian lives and are of such maturity as to be trustworthy and competent.

- (1) **Director, assistant director, and secretary.** These officers shall be ordained ministers, in good standing with and having been members of the district for at least two years.
- (2) **Sectional and area representatives.** The officers shall be engaged in active Christian ministry in good standing with the District

Council. When such a person is not available with these qualifications, the section shall recommend a qualified layperson who is active in youth work in the section.

e. Appointment, Terms of Office, and Vacancies

The director shall be nominated by the superintendent to the Executive Committee for appointment. The superintendent shall seek counsel from the leaders of Youth ministries and perform due diligence prior to nomination. The appointment shall not be final until ratified by the District Presbytery. The assistant director and secretary, who shall serve with the director as the Executive Committee of the department, shall be nominated by the District Executive Committee in conjunction with the department director and appointed by the District Presbytery. Sectional representatives shall be appointed one per section.

f. Duties

(1) **Director.**

- (a) Shall devote full time to this office.
- (b) Shall preside at all district Youth rallies and conventions and have oversight of the Youth work within the district under the supervision of the superintendent, or as may be directed by the District Council, District Presbytery, or the District Executive Committee, and the director shall be an ex officio member of all department committees.
- (c) Shall be present as much as possible at sectional rallies in order to give direction and leadership to the sectional as well as the local church Youth program.
- (d) Ministry shall include rallies, Youth camps, AIM, seminars, conventions, church visits to promote the Youth work, and other Youth rallies and related activities.
- (e) Shall make a report of the Youth department and its activities to the District Presbytery and/or the District Executive Committee as requested.
- (f) Shall be granted voting rights as other presbyters in the District Presbytery sessions.

(2) **Assistant Director.** The assistant director shall assist the director. If the director must be absent, the assistant director shall perform the director's duties.

(3) **Secretary.** The secretary shall keep records of all business proceedings of the organization and shall give periodic reports at such time as the Executive Committee shall demand.

(4) **Treasurer.** The district treasurer shall be the custodian of all funds.

Section 5. Finances

a. The Youth director shall receive a weekly salary to be established by the Presbytery.

b. The Youth director shall be supported as follows:

- (1) Each church is requested to write the department into its budget with a monthly offering or recommend that each Youth group support the department with a monthly offering.
- (2) Offerings received during the Youth director's visit to the local churches.
- (3) Speed the Light returns (See General Council Bylaws, Article XI, Section 1, paragraph b.)
- (4) Supplements from Youth camp operations as apportioned by the District Presbytery.
- (5) Each Youth group is requested to send one offering semiannually for office expense.

ARTICLE XV. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Name

The district shall authorize and provide for an organization known as the Christian Education Department of the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose provided for the Christian Education Department shall be:

- a. To coordinate national, district, sectional, and local efforts for Sunday School efficiency, growth, and development.
- b. To encourage every Sunday School in the district to establish written operational policies based on the National Sunday School Guidelines.
- c. To promote Sunday School efficiency through seminars, tours, conventions, or by any other acceptable means.
- d. To supervise other ministries relating to Christian education.

Section 3. Officers

a. The portfolio of the Christian education director shall be assigned by the District Presbytery.

b. A sectional area representative shall be appointed by the Executive and Sectional Committees and the district Christian education director. The representative will be responsible to conduct at least one departmental function in the section per year.

Section 4. Finances

a. Each Sunday School in the district is expected to regularly support the department by the tithe or an offering of the local Sunday School.

b. The salary of the director shall be established by the Presbytery.

ARTICLE XVI. WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Section 1. Name

The district shall authorize and provide for an organization known as the Women's Ministries Department of the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God. (This name includes the auxiliary of Girls Ministries.)

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of Women's Ministries is to blend together the talents and abilities of all women in the church to minister as unto Christ in prayer, practical ministry, spiritual growth, evangelistic outreach, missionary partnership, and development of its auxiliary, Girls Ministries.

Section 3. Departmental Objectives

The department's objective is to involve every local women's group and girls club with active participation in all national and district sponsored projects and events, soliciting involvement and financial support. There shall be a policy and procedure manual approved by the District Presbytery that shall establish strategies to implement the department's objectives.

Section 4. Officers

a. Departmental Officers Shall Include:

- (1) Director
- (2) Assistant director
- (3) Secretary
- (4) Auxiliary (Girls Ministries) coordinator
- (5) Sectional representatives

b. Qualifications

The director shall be a woman of good report, a member of the district or a local assembly for a minimum of two years immediately prior to taking office. She shall be selected after consultation with her pastor, presbyter, and Sectional Committee and input from the Women's Ministries leaders in the district. She shall have a record of cooperation in all matters of ministry, work, and finance.

c. Appointment, Terms of Office, and Vacancies

The director shall be nominated by the superintendent to the Executive Committee for appointment. The superintendent shall seek counsel from the leaders of Women's Ministries and perform due diligence prior to nomination. The appointment shall not be final until ratified by the District Presbytery. The assistant director and secretary, who shall serve with the director as the Executive Committee of the department, shall be nominated by the District Executive Committee in conjunction with the department director and appointed by the District Presbytery. Sectional representatives shall be appointed for both women and girls, one each, per section.

ARTICLE XVII. MEN'S MINISTRIES

Provision is hereby made for the organization and operation of a Men's Ministries in this district, which shall be considered a department of the District Council and shall be amenable thereto.

Section 1. Name

The district shall authorize and provide for an organization known as the Men's Ministries Department of the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God. This name includes the auxiliary departments of Royal Rangers [Florida Rangers, Inc.] and Light for the Lost.

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to stimulate the organization of local units of Men's Ministries in churches in this district and to unite them in service and fellowship.

Section 3. Departmental Objective

The department's objective is to involve every local men's group and boys unit with active participation in all district and national sponsored projects and events, soliciting involvement and financial support. There shall be a policy and procedure manual approved by the District Presbytery and shall establish strategies to implement the department's objectives.

Section 4. Officers

a. Departmental Officers Shall Include:

- (1) Director
- (2) Assistant director
- (3) Secretary
- (4) Auxiliary coordinators

b. Qualifications

The director shall be a man of good report, a member of the district or a local assembly for a minimum of two years immediately prior to taking office. He shall be selected after consultation with his pastor, presbyter, and Sectional Committee and input from the Men's Ministries leaders in the district. He shall have a record of cooperation in all matters of ministry, work, and finance.

c. Appointment, Terms of Office, and Vacancies

The director shall be nominated by the superintendent to the Executive Committee for appointment. The superintendent shall seek counsel from the leaders of Men’s Ministries and perform due diligence prior to nomination. The appointment shall not be final until ratified by the District Presbytery. The assistant director and secretary, who shall serve with the director as the Executive Committee of the department, shall be nominated by the District Executive Committee in conjunction with the department director and appointed by the District Presbytery. Sectional representatives shall be appointed for each of the auxiliary ministries.

ARTICLE XVIII. BENEVOLENCE

It is recommended that each local assembly support the total ministry of Benevolence with either a semi-annual offering or include it in its regular monthly budget.

ARTICLE XIX. THE SUNSHINE BULLETIN

The Sunshine Bulletin shall be the official publication of the Peninsular Florida District Council. Its editorial staff shall be the district executives.

ARTICLE XX. DISTRICT CONFERENCE GROUNDS

- a. Masterpiece Gardens Family Conference Center, located near Lake Wales, is owned and operated by the district.
- b. Each church is requested to pledge annually to support the conference center.
- c. Each minister shall be encouraged to contribute regularly toward the conference center.
- d. The District Presbytery shall be empowered to maintain the conference center and make whatever improvements deemed advisable in developing it.
- e. The district development director shall supervise the day-to-day operations of the center and its personnel, in consultation with the District Executive Committee, and under the supervision of the District Presbytery.
- f. The center shall provide for the needs of every district and departmental function on an impartial basis; and, when not needed, the facilities shall be rented to other groups, with our churches and institutions given preference.
- g. Rent and other fees shall be recommended by the district development director and set by the District Executive Committee, reviewed regularly as to costs of conference center operations.

ARTICLE XXI. DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT AND STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR

There shall be a position of district development and stewardship director when it is deemed feasible by the District Executive Committee and District Presbytery. This person shall be appointed by the District Executive Committee. This person shall be directly responsible to the district superintendent. The responsibilities and duties of this office shall be determined by the District Presbytery and may include the following:

- a. Stewardship
- b. Oversight of camp
- c. Oversight of the retirement center
- d. Assisting the U.S. Missions director
- e. Promotion of administration needs
- f. Media promotions

ARTICLE XXII. DISTRICT SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES

Section 1. Purpose

Seeing the fast-growing segment of our society of adults fifty years of age and above that must be reached with the gospel and ministered to by our local churches, the purpose of the District Senior Adult Ministries Department is to:

- a. Assist the churches in organizing Senior Adult Ministries for those fifty years of age and up.
- b. Provide ministries with ideas and goals.
- c. Provide leadership for promotion of and conducting departmental senior adult fellowship activities.

Section 2. Officers

a. Departmental Officers Shall Include:

- (1) District director
- (2) Advisory committees
- (3) Liaison presbyter
- (4) Others

b. Qualifications

The director shall be of good report, a member of the district or a local assembly for a minimum of two years immediately prior to taking office. He or she shall be selected after consultation with his/her pastor, presbyter, and Sectional Committee and input from the Senior Adult Ministries leaders in the district. He or she shall have a record of cooperation in all matters of ministry, work, and finance.

c. Appointment, Terms of Office, and Vacancies

The director shall be nominated by the superintendent to the Executive Committee for appointment. The superintendent shall seek counsel from the leaders of Senior Adult Ministries and perform due diligence prior to nomination. The appointment shall not be final until ratified by the District Presbytery. The assistant director and secretary, who shall serve with the director as the Executive Committee of the department, shall be nominated by the District Executive Committee in conjunction with the department director and appointed by the District Presbytery. Sectional representatives shall be appointed one per section.

Section 3. Finances

The Senior Adult Ministries Department will be funded as follows:

- (1) Interested Senior Adult Ministries in the local church will be requested to contribute to the Senior Adult Ministries Department;
- (2) Offerings will be received at the Senior Adult Ministries Department sponsored activities; and
- (3) Offerings should be received when the Senior Adult Ministries district director visits the local church.

ARTICLE XXIII. DISTRICT CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES FELLOWSHIP

Section 1. Purpose

Recognizing the vital importance of children's ministries in our churches, our Fellowship, and our nation, and realizing the need to support, encourage, and equip those who minister in the area of children's ministries in a more systematic and intentional manner, the purpose of the Children's Ministries Fellowship would be to regularly network children's pastors and children's workers at the sectional and district levels to:

- a. Provide training opportunities.
- b. Make resources available to all involved in children's ministries.
- c. Assist in the strengthening and expansion of children's ministries in the district.

Section 2. Officers

a. Departmental Officers Shall Include:

- (1) District Executive Committee
- (2) District children's ministries coordinator
- (3) Sectional children's ministries representatives
- (4) Advisory committees
- (5) Liaison presbyter

b. Qualifications

Departmental officers should be chosen because they manifest an interest in children's ministries, and whether layperson or minister, they meet the spiritual qualifications outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, and the Bylaws requirements for district leadership.

c. Elections

- (1) The coordinator's portfolio shall be assigned by the District Presbytery.
- (2) The sectional representatives will be appointed as provided by Bylaws Article II, Section 3, paragraph c.
- (3) The advisory committee will be appointed by the district children's ministries coordinator and the District Executive Committee.
- (4) The liaison presbyter for Children's Ministries Fellowship will be appointed by the District Presbytery.
- (5) The Children's Ministries Fellowship will be evaluated annually by the District Executive Committee, with the intent of moving toward a children's ministries agency, with a full-time children's ministries agency director in the future.

Section 3. Finances

The Children's Ministries Fellowship will be funded as follows:

- (1) local church contributions and
- (2) offerings received at district Children's Ministries Fellowship sponsored activities.

ARTICLE XXIV. MUSIC MINISTRIES

Music Ministries Director

The Peninsular Florida District Presbytery appoints a district music ministries director from the sectional music representatives to work in conjunction with, and in cooperation with, the sectional music representatives in formulating a program whereby help will be made available to all churches within the district that will enhance their music ministry. The sectional music representatives shall have input in suggesting to the District Presbytery the person to fill this position.

ARTICLE XXV. QUORUM

Section 1. Annual Sessions of the District Council

a. A quorum shall consist of:

- (1) All affiliated ministers who shall have signed the current roster.
- (2) All delegates of affiliated assemblies who shall have signed the current roster.

b. Annual financial reports shall be made available to the constituency at least two weeks prior to the District Council.

c. All committee reports shall be printed and ready for distribution by the afternoon session of the first full day of District Council.

Section 2. Meetings of the District Presbytery

A quorum shall consist of a majority of the district officers present.

ARTICLE XXVI. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The regular order of business for the District Council annual sessions shall be:

- a. Appointment of committees
- b. Report of Roster Committee
- c. Report of superintendent
- d. Report of assistant superintendent
- e. Report of secretary
- f. Report of treasurer
- g. Unfinished business
- h. Committee reports, new business, and/or election of officers
- i. Adjournment

The superintendent and treasurer will give an overview of the state of the district.

ARTICLE XXVII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any annual or special sessions of the District Council. Amendments shall require majority vote for adoption.

ARTICLE XXVIII. RESOLUTION DEADLINES

All written resolutions to be presented to the District Council in session must be submitted to the Resolutions Committee by noon on the first day of the Council unless provided by the work of the Council.

ARTICLE XXIX. ADDENDA

All matters not covered by the Constitution and Bylaws or resolutions which have been passed by the District Council shall be governed by resolutions appearing in the minutes of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. The District Executive Committee is empowered to make routine edits to bring the District Constitution and Bylaws into conformity with the General Council Constitution and Bylaws and/or current policy. Such edits will not be final until presented to and approved by the District Presbytery.

ARTICLE XXX. GENERAL COUNCIL POLICIES**Section 1. Doctrines and Practices Disapproved**

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

a. Unconditional Security

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

b. Legalism

- (1) **Matters of conscience.** The Assemblies of God disapproves of those who hold to matters of conscience, such as the eating or not eating of meats, who press their personal opinions on others.
- (2) **Adding conditions to salvation.** The Assemblies of God also disapproves of those who hold to issues which seem to add conditions to salvation, such as the keeping of the seventh day, who press their opinions on others.

c. Eschatological Errors

- (1) **The restitution of all things.** The Assemblies of God understands the teaching of Acts 3:21 to limit the restoration to that of which the prophets have spoken, thus denying the universal redemption theory. We are opposed to all forms of universalism (Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:10).
- (2) **Setting a date for the Lord's return.** It is unwise to teach that the Lord will come at some specified time, thereby setting a date for His appearing (Mark 13:32, 33; Luke 12:37-40; 1 Thessalonians 5:2). It is also unwise to give out from the platform, or publish, visions of numbers and dates fixing the time of the second coming of the Lord.
- (3) **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 men to be prepared for that coming, which may occur at any time, and not lull their minds into complacency by any teaching that would cause them to feel that specific Tribulation events must occur before the Rapture of the saints.

Furthermore, it is recommended that should any Assemblies of God ministers hold to the post-Tribulation doctrine, they refrain from preaching and teaching it. Should they persist in emphasizing this doctrine to the point of making it 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).

d. Membership in Secret Orders

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

The nature of such organizations demands secrecy (John 18:20; Acts 26:26) reinforced by religious oaths (Matthew 5:34) and strong attachment by binding obligations to persons who are for the most part unregenerated (2 Corinthians 6:14). The spirit, philosophy, and general influence of such secret orders aim at the improvement of the natural man (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 Assemblies of God 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 6:17). Furthermore, our ministers are requested to use their good influence among our lay members to dissuade them from such fraternal affiliations (1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:24-26).

e. Worldliness

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 flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of the life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 John 2:15,16).

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

f. Abuses of Stewardship

(1) Tithing.

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

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

(2) Solicitation of funds.

(a) 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.

(b) The purpose of this section is not to hinder or discourage legitimate projects but to protect the Fellowship from those who employ methods not in harmony with Assemblies of God principles or policies.

Leaders in local projects shall have unquestioned freedom in local churches or communities.

Projects of general interest to the district must have the authorization of the district officer.

Projects or institutions of national scope must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Promotion of all projects of a mission's character must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery.

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

(3) **Private ownership of religious institutions.** The General Council of the Assemblies of God approves the holding of title to all church buildings, schools, or other institutions that are supported by funds solicited for the work of God by properly constituted corporations. It disapproves the holding of a title to such properties by the ministers of the Assemblies of God, through private ownership, corporations 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 title holder may legitimately have. A disregard of this principle and recommendation shall seriously affect the relationship to the Assemblies of God of members involved in such ownership.

g. Violations of Ministerial Courtesy

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

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

Any minister who so offends shall be subject to scriptural discipline as an offender by the district officary or by the Executive Presbytery. Such discourtesy will seriously affect the granting of annual Fellowship certificates and may be the basis for their recall.

h. 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 attitudes, and proper ministerial conduct without compromise.

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

We recommend therefore that our ministers confer with District Council officials before engaging in ministry in any church group or organization not affiliated with the Assemblies of God so as to ascertain whether such ministry might result in confusion or misunderstandings. If the minister does not have district office approval, the minister 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.

i. An Improper Attitude toward Those Removed from the Fellowship

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

j. 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:

- (1) We believe the basis of doctrinal fellowship of said movement to be so broad that it includes people who reject the inspiration of Scripture, the deity of Christ, the universality of sin, the substitutionary Atonement, and other cardinal teachings, which we understand to be essential to biblical Christianity.
- (2) We believe the emphases of the ecumenical movement to be at variance with what we hold to be the biblical priorities, frequently displacing the urgency of individual salvation with social concerns.
- (3) 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 regarding his Pentecostal witness or participation on a local level with interdenominational activities.)

Section 2. Military Service

The Peninsular Florida District affirms our position consistent with that adopted by the General Council as follows:

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

ARTICLE XXXI. DISTRICT POLICIES

There shall be a *District Policies and Procedures Manual*.

EXHIBIT H

Brave Church Miami
1300 SW 87th Avenue
Miami, FL 33174

Constitution & By- Laws
2018

Pastor David Stocker JR
Secretary: Josie leJuez
Treasurer: Eliada Rivera
Deacon: Fred Guitierrez
Deaconess: Morgana Nieves

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>CONSTITUTION</u>		Page
Preamble.....		6
Article I	Name	6
Article II	Prerogatives	6
Section 1	Right to govern.....	6
Section 2	Right to purchase.....	7
Section 3	Delegates to District and General Council.....	7
Article III	Affiliation	7
Section 1	Sovereignty and cooperation.....	7
Section 2	Conform to Standards of District.....	7
Article IV	Tenets of Faith.....	7
Section 1	The Scriptures Inspired	7
Section 2	The One True God	7
Section 3	The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.....	9
Section 4	The Fall of Man.....	9
Section 5	The Salvation of Man.....	10
Section 6	Ordinances of the Church	10
Section 7	The Baptism in The Holy Ghost	10
Section 8	The Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost.....	10
Section 9	Sanctification.....	11
Section 10	The Church and It's Mission	11
Section 11	The Ministry.....	11
Section 12	Divine Healing	12
Section 13	The Blessed Hope.....	12
Section 14	The Millennial Reign of Christ.....	12
Section 15	The Final Judgement.....	12
Section 16	The New Heavens and the New Earth.....	12
Section 17	These Tenets..... Unamendable.....	12
Article V	Ordinance	12

Section 1	Baptism by Immersion	12
Section 2	The Lord's Supper.....	12

CONSTITUTION (continued)

Article VI	Membership.....	13
Section 1	Extended to	13
Section 2	Rights and Privileges	13
Article VII	Government.....	13
Section 1	Vested in Congregation	13
Section 2	Officers.....	13
Section 3	Official Board.....	13
Section 4	Assignment of Portfolios.....	13
Article VIII	Meetings	13
Section 1	Public Worship	13
Section 2	Business Meetings	13
Section 3	Official Board.....	13
Article IX	Departments and Committees	14
Article X	Finances	14
Article XI	Property	14
Article XII	Dissolution	14
Article XIII	Amendments	14

BYLAWS

Article I	Membership.....	15
Section 1	Membership Eligibility	15
Section 2	Procedure for Membership Recognition	15
Section 3	Transfer Members.....	16
Section 4	Discipline	16
	A. Grounds.....	16
	B. Procedure.....	17
	C. Resignations	17
Article II	Duties of Officers	17
Section 1	Pastor.....	17
Section 2	Official Board.....	18
Section 3	Secretary	18
Section 4	Treasurer	19
Section 5	Financial Statements	19

BYLAWS (continued)

Article III	Election	19
Section 1	Pastor	19
Section 2	Deacons	19
Section 3	Secretary and Treasurer	20
Section 4	Holding Two Offices	20
Section 5	Nominating Committee	20
Section 6	Resolutions Committee	20
Article IV	Vacancies	21
Section 1	Pastorate	21
Section 2	Other Offices	21
Section 3	Vacancies	22
Article V	Departments and Committees	22
Section 1	Religious and Education Department	22
Section 2	Youth Department	22
Section 3	Elders	22
Section 4	Other Departments and Committees	22
Section 5	Assistant Ministers	22
Section 6	Ministry Directors	23
Section 7	Unauthorized activities	23
Article VI	Property Rights	24
Section 1	Incorporation	24
Section 2	Selling, leasing, mortgaging	24
Section 3	Certification	24
Article VII	Business Meetings	24
Section 1	Annual Business Meeting	24
Section 2	Special Called Meetings	24
Section 3	Order of Business	25
Section 4	Voting Constituency and Quorum	25
Article VIII	Finances	25
Section 1	General Church Fund	25
Section 2	Other Offerings, Receipts, etc.	25
Section 3	Disbursements	26

Section 4	Remuneration.....	26
Section 5	Indemnification.....	26
Article IX	Marriage.....	26
Article X	Facility Usage.....	27
Article XI	Amendments.....	27

CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS
of
BRAVE CHURCH MIAMI, INC.
1300 SW 87TH Avenue Miami, FL 33174
2018

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

Furthermore, this congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law), including, but not limited to, for such purposes, the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, the building of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, day care centers, and camps; the evangelizing of the unsaved by proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; the educating of believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of Holy Scripture, both in Sunday and weekday schools of Christian education; and the maintaining of missionary activities in the United States and any and all foreign countries.

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of the assembly shall be
Brave Church Miami INC.,
Miami, Florida.

ARTICLE II

PREROGATIVES

Section 1 This assembly shall have the right to govern itself and to conduct its own affairs according to the standard of the New Testament scriptures and the Peninsular Florida District Council and The General Council of the Assemblies of God. This right shall specifically include such matters as the calling of a pastor, the election of an official board, the discipline of its members, and the conduct of its own services and church programs.

Section 2. It shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or

otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes; all in accordance with its constitution and bylaws or as hereafter modified or amended.

Section 3. It shall have the right to choose and send delegates to the annual District Council meeting and to the biennial General Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc. (General Council Constitution, Article VII, Section 2.)

ARTICLE III

AFFILIATION

Section 1. While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, this assembly shall voluntarily enter into full cooperative fellowship with assemblies of like precious faith affiliated with the Peninsular Florida District Council and The General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri; and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoyed by that affiliation.

Section 2. It is understood and agreed that this assembly shall conform its standards of membership, qualifications for deacons, and requirements in a pastor to those standards which are set by the Peninsular Florida District Council.

ARTICLE IV

TENETS OF FAITH

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same thing. I Cor. 1:10; Acts 2:42).

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

Section 2. The one True God. The one True God has revealed Himself as the eternal self-existent "I AM," the creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (Deut. 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matt. 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, Matt. 28:19; I Cor. 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 Ghost, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained. (Luke 1:35; I Cor. 1:24; Matt. 11:25-27; 28:19; II Cor. 13: 14; I John 1:3, 4).
- (c). Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Accordingly, there is that in the Son which constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Ghost which constitutes Him the Holy Ghost and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore, the Father is the Begetter, the Son is the Begotten, and the Holy Ghost 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; Zech. 14:9).
- (d). Identity and Co-operation in the Godhead. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are never identical as to person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the Godhead; nor opposed as to co-operation. 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 and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, co-operation and authority. Hence, neither Person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others. (John 5:17-30, 32, 37; John 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 Ghost. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God. (Rom. 1:1-3, 7; II 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. (Matt. 1:23; I John 4:2, 10, 14; Rev. 1:13, 17).
- (g). The Title, Son of God. Since the “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. (Matt. 1:21-23; II John 3:8; Heb. 1:1- 13; 7:3).
- (h). Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ. Wherefore, it is a transgression of the

Doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus 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. (II John 9; John 1:1, 2,14,18,29, 49; I John 2:22, 23; 4:1-5; Heb. 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 Ghost 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 and all. (Heb. 1:3; I Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Rom. 14:11; I Cor. 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 the earth to bow the knee, but it is an unspeakable joy in the Holy Ghost 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; I Peter 1:8; Phil. 2:8; Rev. 4:8-11; 5:6-14; 7:9-10).

Section 3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare:

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

Section 4. The Fall of Man. Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Gen. 1:26, 27; 2:17; 3:6; Rom. 5:12-19).

Section 5. The Salvation of Man. Man's only hope of redemption is through the

shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

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

Section 6. Ordinances of the Church.

- (a) **Baptism in Water.**
The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with him to walk in newness of life (Matt. 28:19; Mark 1:16; Acts 10:47, 48; Rom. 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 (II Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (I Cor. 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (I Cor. 11:26); and is enjoined on believers "till He come"!

Section 7. The Baptism in the Holy Ghost. All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all the early Christian Church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; I Cor. 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the New Birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Ghost came such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Heb. 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word, and for the Lost (Mark 18:20).

Section 8. The Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost. The baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (I Cor. 12:4-10,28), but

different in purpose and use.

Section 9. Sanctification. Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication to God (Rom. 12:1, 2; I Thess. 5:23; Heb. 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14). By the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (I Peter 1:15, 16). Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 6:1-11, 13; 8:1, 2, 13; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 2:12, 13; I Peter 1:5).

Section 10. The Church and Its Mission. The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the Firstborn, which are written in heaven (Eph. 1:22, 23; 2:22; Heb. 12:23). Since God's purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshiped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, the priority reason-for-being of the Assemblies of God as a part of the Church is:

- (a) To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16).
- (b) To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (I Cor. 12:13).
- (c) To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of Saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Eph. 4:11-16; I Cor. 12:28; 14:12).

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

- (a) Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Heb. 2:3, 4).
- (b) Adds a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God (I Cor. 2:10-16; 12, 13, and 14).
- (c) Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ (Gal. 5:22-26; I Cor. 14:12; Eph. 4:11, 12; I Cor. 12:28; Col. 1:29).

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

Section 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; Matt. 8:16, 17; James 5:14-16).

Section 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 (I Thess. 4:16,17; Rom. 8:23; Titus 2:13; I Cor. 15:51, 52).

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

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

Section 16. The New Heavens and New Earth. "We, according to His Promise, look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness" (II Peter 3:13; Rev. 21:22).

Section 17. These tenets of faith are unamendable under any condition by the local assembly.

ARTICLE V

ORDINANCES

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

Section 2. The Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly as enjoined in the scriptures (Luke 22:19, 20; I Cor. 11:23-26).

ARTICLE VI

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this assembly shall be extended, upon application, to all those who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who voluntarily subscribe to its Tenets of Faith and agree to be governed by its constitution and bylaws as herein set forth, or as duly amended.

Section 2. The membership shall consist of voting and non-voting members; their respective rights, qualifications, and privileges shall be set forth in the bylaws.

ARTICLE VII

GOVERNMENT

Section 1. The government of this assembly shall be vested in the membership, whose action by a majority vote (except as otherwise specified in the bylaws) shall be decisive in all matters.

Section 2. There shall be an official board, consisting of the pastor and deacons. A secretary and a treasurer shall be selected in accordance with the provisions hereinafter stated in the bylaws.

Section 3. The official board shall act as the legal trustees of the assembly and shall serve in an administrative capacity for routine business and carrying out the policies established by the membership.

Section 4. The Pastor may assign portfolios to the members of the official board, who shall share in the responsibilities of various areas of the assembly.

ARTICLE VIII

MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings for public worship shall be held each Sunday and at such other times as provided in the bylaws.

Section 2. There shall be an annual business meeting of the assembly at which time reports shall be given and the election of officers shall take place. Special business meetings shall be called as the need shall arise in the manner hereinafter provided by the bylaws.

Section 3. Meetings of the official board shall be held as provided for in the bylaws.

ARTICLE IX

DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES

The assembly shall hereby provide for the establishment of as many departments and committees as may be necessary and advisable for the extension of its work. All such departments shall be subordinate to the pastor and the official board, and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. The pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and departments, and may attend all meetings of such committees or departments, or may designate someone to represent him.

ARTICLE X

FINANCES

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

ARTICLE XI

PROPERTY

All property of the assembly shall be deeded to the assembly and held in its legal corporate name. No real property of the assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise disposed of without the same having first been recommended by a vote of at least two-thirds of the voting members who are in attendance at a regular or special business meeting of the assembly which has been called for the consideration of the proposal, in accordance with the bylaws.

ARTICLE XII

DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of the assembly, all properties, real and chattel, shall revert to the ownership of the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE XIII

AMENDMENS

The constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the assembly in attendance at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided due notice of such proposed amendment shall have been made at all services on at least

two Sundays preceding the time of such meeting. It shall be understood that this does not apply to the Tenets of Faith.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership Eligibility

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

- a. A testimony to an experience of the "new birth." (John 1:12, 13; 3:3-8, 1 Peter 1:18-25)
- b. Having been baptized in water by immersion.
- c. Evidence of a consistent Christian life (Romans 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13, 14; Ephesians 4:17-32; 5:1,2,15; 1 John 1:6,7)
- d. Faithfulness to the support of the Church and its ministries by tithes and offerings. (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8)
- e. Acceptance of the Tenets of the Faith as set forth in Article IV of the Constitution.
- f. Having reached at least 18 years of age.
- g. Having regularly attended services of, and supported, this Church for a period of at least three consecutive months prior to the date of application for membership.
- h. Agreement to being governed by the Bylaws of this Church, and of the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God, as both may be amended from time to time.
- i. Successfully completed membership orientation.
- j. Any person who is a member in good standing of an Assemblies of God church in another community, who is in this community for a period of give (5) months or more on a regular basis, may be received into membership upon completion of the membership orientation. These members shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership. However, since the holding of office by its nature requires a continual presence, these members shall not be eligible for any of the offices until after being a member for at least one year.

Section 2. Procedure for Membership Recognition

Those individuals eligible for membership who shall desire to become members of this Church shall submit a written application and complete the membership orientation. The Board of the church has the right and authority to determine the eligibility and

acceptability of all applicants for membership by majority vote. Those approved for membership by the Board shall be received into the Church publicly at any of its regular services, and their names thereupon added to the Church membership roll. No applicant for membership shall be accepted as a member within 30 days before an Annual Business Meeting within 10 days before a Special Business Meeting.

Section 3. Transfer Members

A member in good standing of another Assemblies of God church, who satisfies the standards for membership eligibility specified in Section 1 of this Article (other than the attendance and support requirements), may apply for membership by submitting a letter of transfer from the Senior Pastor of that church. However, because of the importance of understanding our vision and how they may serve the Church they shall be required to attend the membership classes and be approved by the Board.

Members in good standing who wish to transfer their membership to another church may apply in writing to the Board.

Section 4. Discipline

Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the Church is responsible (Matthew 16:19; 18:15-20; Luke 17:3; John 20:23; Acts 16:4; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 5:20; 2 Timothy 4:2; Hebrews 13:17). The purpose of discipline is to promote repentance and restoration through exposing sinful behavior. It is to be redemptive in nature as well as corrective. The Pastors and Board are available for counsel and guidance to the aggrieved members. The Church will look to the Senior Pastor and the Board for the effective functioning and discipline of its members, and all Church discipline and restoration will follow the spirit and principles as taught in God's Word. Those members under charges of misconduct, or who may have fallen under condemnation through sinful or worldly practices, shall meet with the Senior Pastor and representatives of the Board to seek repentance, forgiveness, and restoration. Any member under charges shall be temporarily suspended from active voting membership pending investigation and final decision in his/her case. The discipline of ministers who hold credentials with the Assemblies of God is administered by the District Council and General Council of the Assemblies of God.

A. Grounds

Any charges shall be presented personally and in writing. Some grounds for exercising discipline or removal from membership from the Church shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1) Persistent, unrepentant, immoral, or sinful conduct. (Matthew 18:15-18; I Corinthians 5:11; 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21)
- 2) The embracing and / or propagation of erroneous and false doctrine

departing from the Tenets of Faith held by the Church (Galatians 1:8-9; Ephesians 4:14; 1 Timothy 6:3-5)

- 3) Persistence in those things that are harmful to other members or create division and disrupt the unity of the Church. (Corinthians 1:10; Titus 3:10-11; Ephesians 4:29-31; 5:3-7; Romans 16-17)

B. Procedure

The Church will follow the disciplinary procedure set forth in Matthew 18:15-20. This procedure consists generally of the following steps: (1) The Senior Pastor or a designated member of the Board discusses the charges with the member in an effort to resolve the matter privately; (2) if the first step does not resolve the matter, then the member shall meet with the Senior Pastor and Board or with a designated committee of the Board in an effort to resolve the matter privately; (3) if the first or second steps do not resolve the matter, then the member or the Board of Trustees may submit the matter to the membership of the Church in a Special Business Meeting called for that purpose. Only active voting members of the Church shall be permitted to attend such a Special Business Meeting. The decision of a majority of the active voting members present at such a meeting shall be final. A member found guilty may be dismissed from membership in the Church (Matthew 18:17). However, lesser disciplinary sanctions may be imposed as appropriate, depending on the circumstances of each case.

C. Resignations

Members who are under discipline by this Church forfeit and waive the right to resign from membership in this Church. Resignations from membership are possible only by those members in good standing who are not under any disciplinary action. Members in good standing who wish to sever their relationship with the Church or who may desire to be transferred to another congregation may apply to the Secretary by letter, which shall be granted on the approval of the Board.

ARTICLE II

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Pastor

- (a) The pastor shall be considered the spiritual overseer of the assembly and shall direct all of its activities. He shall be the President of the Corporation and shall act as Chairman of all business meetings of the assembly and of the official board. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and departments. He shall provide for all the services of the assembly and shall arrange for all special meetings, conventions, and revival campaigns. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in

the assembly without his approval.

- (b) The pastor is directly responsible for the assembly as its administrative head or overseer. No board, committee, or group shall supersede the authority vested by scripture in the office and duties of the pastor, nor interfere in the relationship between the pastor and the congregation. The scriptural meaning of the word "pastor" in Eph. 4:11 is shepherd; in I Tim. 3:1 Phil. 1:1; Titus 1:7, is the bishop; in Acts 20:28; I Tim. 3:5; Heb. 13:7,17; I Peter 5:2, is overseer -- and being of divine appointment, these prerogatives shall not be delegated to lay persons, as this is contrary to the divine method.
- (c) During the interim period of a pastoral change, the vacancy shall be temporarily filled by a licensed or ordained Assembly of God minister.

Section 2. Official Board

- (a) The official board shall act in an advisory capacity with the pastor in all general matters pertaining to the assembly and the ministry of its ordinances. They shall act in the examination of applicants for membership and also in the administration of the discipline of the assembly. They shall be the custodians of the church property and shall be responsible for its maintenance. They shall serve as a pulpit committee in the event the pastorate shall become vacant.
- (b) The official board shall arrange for its own meetings as may be necessary for the discharge of its duties. Meetings shall be called by the pastor, or by request of a majority of the official board; a majority responding to such a call shall constitute a quorum, providing notice has been given to all members in ample time. When the pastorate is vacant, the official board may select its own chairman to serve until the pastorate is filled.
- (c) Members of the official board shall recognize that they have been chosen to serve, not to govern the assembly, and that it is their responsibility to carry out policies established by the assembly, to whom question of importance should be referred together with their recommendations.

Section 3. Secretary

The secretary shall have oversight of the minutes of the meetings of the official board and of the annual and special business meetings of the assembly. He/she shall oversee the membership roll of the assembly and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of his/her duties. The secretary shall know where all legal documents are located. All church records are to be kept at the church in a secure

place.

Section 4. Treasurer

The treasurer shall have oversight of the finances of the assembly. All church funds will be deposited in a responsible bank in the name of the assembly, and shall disburse the same by check, countersigned by two signatures as authorized by the pastor and official board. Financial reports shall be made at the regular meetings of the official board and a summarized report to the assembly at its business meetings. The bookkeeper shall keep an itemized account of the receipts and disbursements. All church records are to be kept at the church in a secure place.

Section 5. Financial Statements

- (a) An annual financial statement shall be prepared and submitted to the official board prior to each annual business meeting. Special audits of financial records may be ordered by the pastor and a majority of the official board at any time. Audited financial statements shall be prepared by a Certified Public Accountant selected and responsive to the pastor and a majority of the official board.
- (b) Copies of the annual financial statements shall be made available within a reasonable period of time, to the Church members.

ARTICLE III

ELECTIONS

Section 1. Pastor

The pastor shall be chosen according to District Council standards and shall be elected to serve for an indefinite period of time. He shall be nominated by the official board. Recommendations may be made to them by any member of the assembly. Election shall be by secret ballot at the annual business meeting of the assembly or at a special meeting called for that purpose. A two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election. Only one name shall be placed in nomination at one time.

Section 2. Deacons

The Official Board shall be composed of the Pastor and five deacons (as qualified candidates are available).

The deacons shall be chosen from among those of mature Christian character who have been active members of this assembly for at least one year, who are filled with the Spirit according to Acts 2:4, who support the church with tithes and offerings, and who are faithful in church attendance (Heb 10:24-25), and who as nearly as possible measure up

to the requirements mentioned in Acts 6:3 and I Tim. 3:8-13. Since the New Testament restricts divorced and remarried believers from the office of deacon, this standard shall be upheld, except when the divorce occurred prior to conversion (II Corinthians 5:17). They shall be elected by secret ballot and by a majority vote at the annual business meeting, and shall serve for a three-year term or to fill the unexpired term created by a vacancy. The deacons shall not be eligible to succeed themselves after serving one full term of three years until a period of one year has elapsed, when once again they shall become eligible for election.

When a deacon is elected for a three year term, the remaining deacons shall have two and one years left of their terms, so as to stagger the election of deacons. If a deacon is not able to finish the term of office for which he was elected, a deacon shall be elected at the next annual business meeting to complete his term. No two members of the official board shall be related, i.e. immediate family or by marriage (i.e. in-laws).

Section 3. Secretary and Treasurer.

The secretary and treasurer shall be elected by the official board (From the board) at their first meeting following the annual business meeting of the assembly. The secretary and treasurer are to be elected from among the deacons whenever feasible.

Section 4. Holding Two Offices

Two elective offices of the church shall not be held by one person at the same time.

Section 5. Nominating Committee

The nominating committee shall consist of either three or five members in good standing, appointed by the pastor and official board. The nominations committee shall consider those of the membership who meet the basic qualifications for deacons and prayerfully offer as nominees those who are mature, faithful, and full of the Holy Spirit as candidates for deacons to fill a vacant position. They shall offer three to five nominees as candidates for deacons (if qualified candidates are available) to fill a vacant position. The incumbent deacons, if eligible, are to be included in the list of nominees. The membership of the assembly may submit names of nominees to the Nominating Committee at least 10 days prior to the annual business meeting.

Section 6. Resolutions Committee

- (a) A resolutions committee shall be appointed by the board at least two months prior to the annual business meeting of the assembly. The committee shall be composed of the pastor as chairman, two members of the board, and three other members of the assembly.
- (b) New business to be considered at the annual business meeting shall be given in writing, with signature, to the committee at least one month prior to the annual business meeting.
- (c) New business to be presented by the resolutions committee in the

annual business meeting shall be studied, revised as necessary, approved, printed and distributed to the constituency two weeks prior to the annual business meeting.

- (d) Announcement of the appointment of the resolutions committee and its purpose shall be made in the Sunday bulletin.
- (e) This committee shall function from the time of its appointment through the annual business meeting as described in these bylaws.

ARTICLE IV

VACANCIES

Section 1. Pastorate

- (a) In the event a pastor has serious charges preferred against him or departs from the "Tenets of Faith", power is then vested in the official board to ask for his resignation at any of its regular or called business meetings. If such resignation is refused, the pastorate shall not be considered vacant until the action of the official board has been confirmed by a majority vote of the active membership at a meeting called for that purpose, such meeting to be presided over by the district officary. When a vacancy in the pastorate shall occur, a supply pastor shall be arranged for by the official board until a pastor has been chosen as set forth in Article III, Section 1. In the event of a pastor's removal from office, a report of such action shall be made to the district officary.
- (b) In the event of the pastor's resignation, the pastor shall agree at the time of his election that he will give the assembly at least thirty days notice before vacating the pulpit. It shall be further agreed that should the assembly request the pastor's resignation, they will grant him (except in case of moral delinquency) at least thirty days in which to vacate the pulpit or payment of thirty days salary in advance.

Section 2. Other Offices

- (a) Any office may be declared vacant by an act of a majority of the official board at any regular or special business meeting. Such removal from office shall not affect the church membership status of the member.
- (b) Grounds for such action shall be:
 - 1) unscriptural conduct
 - 2) doctrinal departure from the Tenets of Faith
 - 3) incompetency in office
 - 4) termination of active membership
 - 5) for any good and sufficient cause
- (c) Any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for a fair and

impartial hearing of his case before the assembly if he so desires.

Section 3. Vacancies

Vacancies among the officers of the church, except for the pastor, may be filled by appointment of the official board until the next regular business meeting.

ARTICLE V

DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1. Religious Education Department.

Religious Education provides for the teaching ministry of the church and the spiritual care of the flock. The pastor and the official board shall have the right to appoint all officers, teachers, and other workers for this ministry.

Section 2. Youth Department.

The young people of the assembly shall be organized under the general supervision of the pastor and the official board. Their Constitution and Bylaws, together with all amendments thereto, shall be approved by the official board before becoming effective. They shall be entitled to elect their own officers and conduct their own meetings under their Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 3. Elders

The pastor may appoint a board of elders, as he deems advisable, from the membership of the assembly. These men shall be mature, of unquestioned integrity (1 Tim. 3:10), full of the Holy Ghost (Acts 6:3), and of high reputation. They shall share in the spiritual ministries of the assembly under the direction of the pastor, to the sick, the widows, the elderly, the orphans, etc.

Section 4. Other Departments and Committees

Other departments or committees, either special or standing, may be created by the pastor or the official board as need may arise. The pastor shall be a member of all such committees by virtue of his office.

Section 5. Assistant Ministers

When it is determined that an additional assistant minister is needed, the pastor shall present the name of a candidate of his choice to the official board. The board together with the pastor shall appoint an assistant minister, and determine compensation

and duties. All assistant ministers shall be under the direct supervision of the pastor and answerable to him in all matters. Assistant ministers shall cooperate with and support the pastor in all duties and responsibilities; if and when unable to do so, resignation shall be immediately tendered to the pastor. The initiative in terminating the term of office of an assistant minister shall be the prerogative of the pastor. When a pastor resigns, it is understood that assistant ministers shall submit their resignations also, so that the newly elected pastor may establish a staff of his own choice. Severance pay for assistant ministers shall be determined by the pastor and official board. When it is determined that additional assistant ministers are needed they shall either hold credentials with the Assemblies of God or upon employment begin and complete the credentialing process.

Section 6. Ministry Directors.

Children's Director, Music Director, Christian Education Director etc. When it is determined that an employed ministry director is needed in any ministry of the assembly, the pastor shall present the name of a candidate of his choice to the official board. Due to the nature of these positions; that they are usually filled by laymen with special talents and are not normally considered as being pastoral positions; credentials with the Assemblies of God are not required. However, special training, personal growth, and learning experiences are encouraged and considered important to the area of ministry that a ministry director fills. The board together with the pastor shall appoint ministry directors, and determine compensation and duties. Ministry directors shall be under the direct supervision of the pastor and answerable to him in all matters.

Ministry directors shall cooperate with and support the pastor in all duties and responsibilities; if and when unable to do so, resignation shall be immediately tendered to the pastor. The initiative in terminating the term of office of a ministry director in the ministries of the assembly shall be the prerogative of the pastor. When a pastor resigns, it is understood that ministry directors shall submit their resignations also, so that the newly elected pastor may establish a staff of his own choice. Severance pay for ministry directors shall be determined by the official board.

Section 7. Unauthorized Activities

No member of this assembly shall promote private enterprises or activities which involve the membership of this assembly, and over which the assembly has no control or which have not been sanctioned by the pastor and the official board, such as private home meetings, etc. No member shall use his influence to draw other members of the church into such outside activities. If additional services are desired other than those provided, they must be approved by the pastor and be under his general supervision. In the event the assembly is temporarily without a pastor; such activities must have the approval of the official board.

ARTICLE VI

PROPERTY RIGHTS

Section 1. Incorporation.

The assembly shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida, and all property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the corporate name of the assembly.

Section 2. Selling, Leasing, Mortgaging.

No real or chattel property of the assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged or otherwise alienated without having been so authorized by at least a two-thirds majority vote of the membership present at any duly called business meeting. The proposed action shall be announced in the notice of the business meeting.

Section 3. Certification.

The pastor and the secretary of the assembly shall certify in such conveyance, lease or mortgage, that the same action has been authorized by the assembly. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

ARTICLE VII

BUSINESS MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Business Meeting.

There shall be an annual business meeting of the assembly, at which time the election of officers shall take place and the report of all offices shall be read. This meeting shall be held in February of each year, the time and place to be announced by the pastor. Due notice is to be given on the two Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 2. Special Called Meetings.

Special business meetings of the assembly may be called when necessary by the pastor or by a majority of the members of the official board after notice has been given by the pastor or the secretary of the assembly. Notice may be given on the two preceding Sundays, or four days notice may be given by mail. Special meetings may also be called by petition signed by not less than two-fifths of the active members of the assembly, the petition to be placed in the hands of the pastor or the secretary, and announcement made on two Sundays prior to the date of the meeting. No more than one petition shall be recognized in one calendar year pertaining to the same subject. It is the understanding that this would also include the office of pastor.

Section 3. Order of Business.

All business meetings of the assembly shall be conducted by the accepted rules of parliamentary procedure, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship. The regular order of business for the annual business meeting of the assembly shall be as follows:

- (a) devotional
- (b) reading of previous minutes by the secretary
- (c) report of treasurer
- (d) report of committees and departments
- (e) unfinished business
- (f) election of officers
- (g) new business
- (h) adjournment

Section 4. Voting Constituency and Quorum.

- (a) The voting constituency at all business meetings of the church shall consist of all active members of the church who are eighteen years of age or older.
- (b) The active members of the church present at a duly called meeting shall constitute a quorum for a regular or special business meeting of the church.

ARTICLE VIII

FINANCES

Section 1. General Church Fund.

All monies received from offerings and all other sources shall be part of the general church fund and shall be deposited by the treasurer in a bank designated by the official board.

Section 2. Other Offerings, Receipts, etc.

- (a) Departments of the church may receive offerings and raise funds according to established church policies. No monies shall be collected by individual members of the church for any cause without the consent of the pastor and/or official board. All funds shall be handled in accordance with Article V, Section 2 (Treasurer).

Section 3. Disbursements.

The disbursement of all funds shall be under the supervision of the pastor and official board, in accordance with the policy agreed upon by the assembly.

Section 4. Remuneration.

- a) The pastor and employees shall be remunerated for their services by a salary or by other compensation as agreed upon by the pastor and official board.
- b) The pastor shall be reimbursed for all expenses incurred by his attendance at special meetings called by the General Council or District Council of the Assemblies of God.
- c) The pastor shall be given regular and adequate financial support, the amount and manner of which shall be determined by agreement between the pastor and official board. The church's financial responsibility to the pastor shall be reviewed annually by the official board.
- d) Financial support of assistant ministers, staff, and employees shall be provided on a regular basis as determined and agreed upon by the pastor and official board.

Section 5. Indemnification – This church shall indemnify any Director, or former Director and Officer, against expenses actually and necessarily incurred by him/her (legal fees or otherwise) or any amount paid in satisfaction of judgments in connection with any suit or proceeding, whether civil or criminal in nature, in which he/she is made a party by reason of being or having been such Director or Officer. No Director, Officer, or former Director and Officer is eligible for indemnification if he/she pleads guilty or is convicted of a crime associated with the church or its affiliates.

ARTICLE IX

MARRIAGE

Marriage – Marriage has been established and ordained by God. It was first instituted by God in the Book of Genesis and is seen throughout the Bible. Jesus taught on marriage and several New Testament Epistles give explicit instructions on this union. In fact, marriage is mentioned in scripture as a typology of Christ and the Church. As such, the Church views marriage as a profound spiritual institution established by God for his people.

We define “marriage” as the exclusive covenantal union of one original gender male and one original gender female in which such union is a lifetime commitment. A civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by the church only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of “marriage” found in the Bible and in these Bylaws. Ref: Romans 1:26-32.

Any marriage performed on the church premises shall be officiated by a member

of the clergy. Any Minister on staff has absolute discretion whether or not to conduct a marriage ceremony. Clergy officiating marriage ceremonies on church premises, whether or not employed by the church, shall have the prior approval of the Senior Pastor, affirm their agreement with our definition of Marriage contained in these Bylaws and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.

Any minister on staff may implement the procedures contained in this Marriage Policy and may, in his or her sole discretion, decline to make church facilities available for, and/or decline to officiate at, a ceremony when, in his or her judgment, there are significant concerns that one or both applicants may not be qualified to enter into the sacred bond of marriage for theological, doctrinal, moral, or legal reasons.

ARTICLE X

FACILITY USAGE

Facility Usage- Church facilities are dedicated exclusively for the sole use of Calvary Christian Center, to the glory of God, as the church conducts its religious mission. Usage of our facilities must be in conformity with our Tenants of Faith as cited in our Constitution Article IV as determined by Church leadership. Church facilities are not to be rented for general public use. Church services and other functions taking place on the Church's property are private meetings held for its membership on private property in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Church and should not be considered open to the general public under all circumstances. The Church and the Church leadership have and reserve the right at any time to remove any person(s) who is in attendance at any service or function or who has otherwise entered upon the Church's property and to prohibit any person from future attendance or entering upon the Church's property, for any reason and in the Church leadership's sole discretion.

ARTICLE XI

AMENDMENTS

The bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the membership of the assembly in attendance at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided due notice of such proposed amendment shall have been made publicly by the pastor or secretary on at least two Sundays preceding the time of such meeting.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Division of Corporations

May 31, 2018

JOHN P JOSEPH
2429 CENTRAL AVE STE 207
ST PETERSBURG, FL 33713

RECEIVED

JUN 07 2018

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "R", with a horizontal line drawn through it.

Re: Document Number 709185

The Articles of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation for CENTRAL BIBLE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, INC. which changed its name to BRAVE CHURCH OF MIAMI, INC., a Florida corporation, were filed on May 29, 2018.

The certification requested is enclosed.

Should you have any question regarding this matter, please telephone (850) 245-6050, the Amendment Filing Section.

Rebekah White
Regulatory Specialist II
Division of Corporations

Letter Number: 018A00011341

State of Florida



Department of State

I certify from the records of this office that BRAVE CHURCH OF MIAMI, INC. is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Florida, filed on June 21, 1965.

The document number of this corporation is 709185.

I further certify that said corporation has paid all fees due this office through December 31, 2017, that its most recent annual report/uniform business report was filed on March 21, 2017 and its status is active.

I further certify that said corporation has not filed Articles of Dissolution.

Given under my hand and the
Great Seal of the State of Florida
at Tallahassee, the Capital, this the
Thirty-first day of May, 2018



CR2EO22 (1-11)

Ken Detzner
Ken Detzner
Secretary of State

State of Florida



Department of State

I certify the attached is a true and correct copy of the Articles of Amendment, filed on May 29, 2018, to Articles of Incorporation for CENTRAL BIBLE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, INC. which changed its name to BRAVE CHURCH OF MIAMI, INC., a Florida corporation, as shown by the records of this office.

The document number of this corporation is 709185.

Given under my hand and the
Great Seal of the State of Florida
at Tallahassee, the Capital, this the
Thirty-first day of May, 2018



CR2EO22 (1-11)

Ken Detzner

Ken Detzner
Secretary of State

Articles of Amendment
to
Articles of Incorporation
of

FILED
18/11/20 PM 1:17

CENTRA BIBLE ASSEMBLY CHURCH

(Name of Corporation as currently filed with the Florida Dept. of State)

19187

(Document Number as reported to the Dept. of State)

Pursuant to the provisions of section 607.1006, Florida Statutes, this Florida Non-Profit Corporation amends the following amendments to its Articles of Incorporation:

A. If amending name, enter the new name of the corporation:

BRANDY CURE, 1004 SW 44th St.

The name

of an inactive, dissolved, and otherwise inactive corporation may not be the incorporation name of the "Company" or "Co." may not be used in the name

B. Enter new principal office address, if applicable:

N/A

(Principal office address MUST BE A STREET ADDRESS)

C. Enter new mailing address, if applicable:

N/A

(Mailing address MAY BE A POST OFFICE BOX)

D. If amending the registered agent and/or registered office address in Florida, enter (1) name of the new registered agent and of the new registered office address:

New Registered Agent Name:

N/A

New Registered Office Address:

CHANGE

18/11/20

New Registered Agent's Signature, if changing Registered Agent:

The signature of the appointment or resignation agent is not required if the agent is a corporation, partnership, or limited liability company.

18/11/20 PM 1:17

If amending the Officers and/or Directors, enter the title and name of each officer being or being removed and title, name, and address of each Officer and/or Director being added.

(Use additional sheets if necessary.)

Please write the full address for the by the incorporation on the following page.

Example: 1. Vice President: J. Thompson, 123 Main Street, Apt. 100, New York, NY 10001. 2. Secretary: A. Smith, 456 Oak Street, Chicago, IL 60601. 3. Chief Financial Officer: D. Jones, 789 Elm Street, Boston, MA 02101. 4. Director: W. White, 101 Pine Street, San Francisco, CA 94101.

Change should be noted in the following manner: 1. Change the name of the President from Mike Jones to J. Thompson. 2. Change Mike Jones to be the corporation's Secretary. 3. Add D. Jones to the list of Chief Financial Officers. 4. Remove W. White from the list of Directors. 5. Add S. Smith to the list of Directors.

Example

X Change	PE	John Doe
X Remove	A	Mike Jones
X Add	SA	Sally Smith

Type of Action of Each One	Title	Name	Address
----------------------------	-------	------	---------

1. Change
Add
Remove

2. Change
Add
Remove

3. Change
Add
Remove

4. Change
Add
Remove

5. Change
Add
Remove

6. Change
Add
Remove

EXHIBIT I

CERTIFIED LETTER 7019 0140 0000 1439 1471

April 15, 2022

David H Stocker, Jr.
1300 SW 87th Ave
Miami, FL 33174-3309

Dear David:

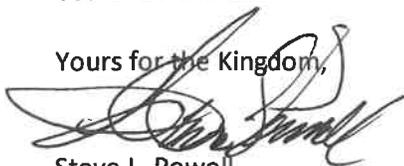
I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

After our March Presbytery, ***a motion prevailed to keep charges based on the General Council Bylaws, Article X. Discipline, Section 3. Causes of Disciplinary Action, (a) Sexual Misconduct, (1) moral transgression involving sexual misconduct and continue the investigation.***

I am writing this letter to inform you of the action the Peninsular Florida District Presbytery took on April 14, 2022. During our District Presbytery, ***a motion prevailed to end the investigation based on the new evidence presented to the Presbytery Board. The charges against David H. Stocker Jr. are based on the General Council Bylaws, Article X. Discipline, Section 3. Causes of Disciplinary Action, (a) Sexual Misconduct, (1) moral transgression involving sexual misconduct. It is with great sorrow and regret The Peninsular Florida District Presbytery votes for the immediate dismissal of David H. Stocker Jr. as a minister of the Assemblies of God.*** Your file has been forwarded to the General Council Credentials Committee for final disposition.

We pray you will realize that the God of great mercy will undergird you and help you on this journey. We will keep you apprised accordingly. If you have any questions, please feel free to call my office at (863) 683-5726 ext. 225.

Yours for the Kingdom,



Steve L. Powell
District Secretary

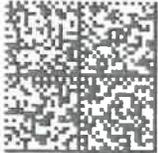
Cc: Executives
Presbyter Russ DeBord



US POSTAGE McPITNEY BOWES



ZIP 33801 \$013.33
02 4W
0000377461 APR 16, 2022



7019 0140 0000 1439 1471

U.S. Postal Service™
CERTIFIED MAIL® RECEIPT
Domestic Mail Only

For delivery information, visit our website at www.usps.com®.

OFFICIAL USE

Certified Mail Fee	\$ 13.33
Extra Services & Fees (check box, add fee as appropriate)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt (hardcopy)	\$ 3.05
<input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt (electronic)	\$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail Restricted Delivery	\$ 9.75
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Signature Required	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Signature Restricted Delivery	\$
Postage	\$ 1.53
Total Postage and Fees	\$ 13.33

Postmark Here

4/16/22

Sent To David H. Stocker Jr
 Street and Apt. No., or PO Box No. 1300 Sw 87th Ave
 City, State, ZIP+4® Miami FL 33174

PS Form 3800, April 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9047 See Reverse for Instructions

CERTIFIED MAIL®



7019 0140 0000 1439 1471
7019 0140 0000 1439 1471

U.S. Postal Service™
CERTIFIED MAIL® RECEIPT
Domestic Mail Only

For delivery information, visit our website at www.usps.com®.

OFFICIAL USE

Certified Mail Fee	\$ 13.33
Extra Services & Fees (check box, add fee as appropriate)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt (hardcopy)	\$ 3.05
<input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt (electronic)	\$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail Restricted Delivery	\$ 9.75
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Signature Required	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Signature Restricted Delivery	\$
Postage	\$ 1.53
Total Postage and Fees	\$ 13.33

Postmark Here

Sent To David H. Stocker Jr
 Street and Apt. No., or PO Box No. 1300 Sw 87th Ave
 City, State, ZIP+4® Miami FL 33174

PS Form 3800, April 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9047 See Reverse for Instructions



PENINSULAR FLORIDA DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

PO BOX 24687
LAKELAND, FLORIDA 33802-4687

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE TICKET HERE TO OPEN TO THE RIGHT OF THE RETURN NUMBER FOR RETURN ADDRESS. FOLD AT DOTTED LINE.

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

David H. Stoker Jr
1300 SW 87th Ave
Miami, FL 33174



9590 9402 5810 0034 6295 52

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7019 0140 0000 1439 1471

PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature
 X
 Agent
 Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name) C. Date of Delivery

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? Yes
If YES, enter delivery address below: No

3. Service Type

- Adult Signature
- Adult Signature Restricted Delivery
- Certified Mail®
- Certified Mail Restricted Delivery
- Collect on Delivery
- Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery
- Insured Mail
- Insured Mail Restricted Delivery (over \$500)
- Priority Mail Express®
- Registered Mail™
- Registered Mail Restricted Delivery
- Return Receipt for Merchandise
- Signature Confirmation™
- Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

Domestic Return Receipt

Certified Mail

- A receipt (this portion)
- A unique identifier for
- Electronic verification delivery.
- A record of delivery (if signature) that is retail for a specified period.

Important Reminder:

- You may purchase Certified Mail service for First-Class Mail®, First-Class Mail® International, Certified Mail service for international mail.
- Insurance coverage is with Certified Mail service. Insurance coverage for certain Priority Mail items.
- For an additional fee, endorsement on the following services:
 - Return receipt service of delivery (including electronic version). To complete PS Form 3811, attach PS Form 3800.

PS Form 3800, April 2015

EXHIBIT J

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

of

THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD



**Updated as of
59th GENERAL COUNCIL
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
August 3–6, 2021**

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

of

THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD



**Updated as of
59th GENERAL COUNCIL
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
August 3–6, 2021**

**(Incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri
October 13, 1916; amended September 26, 1919,
September 7, 1965, and November 4, 1977)**

THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Douglas E. Clay, General Superintendent
Richard W. DuBose, Assistant General Superintendent
Donna L. Barrett, General Secretary
Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesús, General Treasurer
Gregory M. Mundis, Executive Director of AG World Missions
Malcolm P. Burleigh, Executive Director of AG U.S. Missions

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY

Douglas E. Clay, chair

Melissa J. Alfaro	Maricela H. Hernandez
Manuel A. Alvarez	Samuel M. Huddleston
Donna L. Barrett	Robert Ketterling II
Malcom P. Burleigh	Don E. Miller
Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesús	Gregory M. Mundis
Richard W. DuBose	D. Rick Ross
Duane P. Durst	Bradley T. Trask
A. Elizabeth Grant	Darnell Williams Sr.
Richard M. Guerra	William E. (Bill) Wilson
Walter F. Harvey	Terry L. Yancey

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

1445 N. Boonville Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65802-1894
Phone: 417-862-2781
Fax: 417-862-0133
Email: generalsecretary@ag.org

CONSTITUTION
OF
THE GENERAL COUNCIL
OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

REVISED AUGUST 3–6, 2021

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Constitution

<u>Article</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page</u>
I.	Name	10
II.	Nature	10
III.	Prerogatives	10
IV.	Principles for Fellowship	10
V.	Statement of Fundamental Truths	11
VI.	Relationships	16
VII.	Membership	16
VIII.	Meetings	16
IX.	Officers and Presbyteries of the General Council.....	17
X.	District Councils	19
XI.	Local Assemblies	20
XII.	Dissolution	21
XIII.	Amendments	22

**Constitution and Bylaws
of
The General Council of the Assemblies of God
in the
United States of America and
Selected Territories**

CONSTITUTION

Constitutional Declaration

WE BELIEVE:

That God's purpose concerning man is (1) to seek and to save that which is lost, (2) to be worshipped by man, (3) to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, and (4) to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world.

That these believers, saved and called out of the world, constitute the Body or Church of Jesus Christ built and established upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.

That the members of the Body, the Church (*ecclesia*) of Jesus Christ, are enjoined to assemble themselves for worship, fellowship, counsel, and instruction in the Word of God, the work of the ministry, and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for New Testament church order.

That it is evident the early apostolic churches came together in fellowship as a representative body of saved, Spirit-filled believers who ordained and sent out evangelists and missionaries, and under the supervision of the Holy Spirit set over the church pastors and teachers.

That the priority reason for being of the Assemblies of God is to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world, to be a corporate body in which man may worship God, to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and to be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.

That 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, which enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs, adding a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God, and enabling them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ.

That we are a cooperative fellowship of Pentecostal, Spirit-baptized saints from local Pentecostal assemblies of like precious faith throughout the United States to be known as The General Council of the Assemblies of God whose purpose is neither to usurp authority over the various local assemblies, nor to deprive them of their scriptural and local rights and privileges; but to recognize and promote scriptural methods and order for worship, unity, fellowship, work, and business for God; and to disapprove unscriptural doctrines and polity, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, "till we all come

CONSTITUTION

in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

ARTICLE I. NAME

The corporate name is *The General Council of the Assemblies of God*, which refers to the legal entity.

The term *General Council* refers to sessions of the corporation.

The term *Assemblies of God* refers to the entire constituency.

ARTICLE II. NATURE

The General Council of the Assemblies of God is a cooperative fellowship based upon mutual agreements voluntarily entered into by its membership, and shall be known as a fellowship of churches and credentialed ministers.

ARTICLE III. PREROGATIVES

The prerogatives of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be:

- a. To encourage and promote the evangelization of the world.
- b. To encourage and promote the worship of God.
- c. To encourage and promote the edification of believers.
- d. To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like precious faith.
- e. To respond to human need with ministries of compassion.
- f. To establish and maintain such departments and institutions as may be necessary for the propagation of the gospel and the work of this Pentecostal fellowship.
- g. To approve scriptural teachings and practices, and to disapprove unscriptural teachings and practices. A list of disapproved doctrines and practices is set forth in Articles IX and X of the Bylaws.
- h. To have the right to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of such property as may be needed for the prosecution of its work.

ARTICLE IV. PRINCIPLES FOR FELLOWSHIP

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

ARTICLE V. STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

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; 1 John 3:8; Hebrews 7:3; 1:1–13).

(h) Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ

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

(i) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

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

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

Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only the **express duty** of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is

an **unspeakable joy** in the Holy Spirit to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the godhead except those which express relationship (see paragraphs b, c, and d), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22–23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6–14; 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 enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; 1 Corinthians 12:1–31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12–17; 10:44–46; 11:14–16; 15:7–9). With the baptism in the Holy Spirit 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, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27, 30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11–14; 20:1–6). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37:21–22; Zephaniah 3:19–20; Romans 11:26–27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6–9; Psalm 72:3–8; Micah 4:3–4).

15. The Final Judgment

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth

CONSTITUTION

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 VI. RELATIONSHIPS

The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall prosecute its activities through its general offices.

ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The General Council of the Assemblies of God

The membership of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall consist of all ordained and licensed ministers holding a current fellowship certificate and churches holding a Certificate of Affiliation issued by The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Assemblies of God

The membership of the Assemblies of God shall consist of all ministers of the Assemblies of God and all other persons who are members of churches affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God and its district councils.

Section 3. Voting Constituency

The voting constituency at a General Council shall consist of all members of The General Council of the Assemblies of God holding a current fellowship certificate who are present and registered and those delegates chosen by churches affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God who are present and registered, each church being entitled to one delegate.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Sessions

Regular sessions of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be held biennially, pursuant to a call by the Executive Presbytery.

Section 2. Special Sessions

Special sessions of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be called by the Executive Presbytery if agreed to by a majority of the general presbyters.

Section 3. Right of Initiative

Special sessions of The General Council of the Assemblies of God may be called by the Executive Presbytery when presented with a written statement signed by at least fifteen (15) ordained Assemblies of God ministers setting forth the reasons for a special session, but only if the Executive Presbytery determines that such a special session is advisable.

ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Section 1. Executive Officers

a. **Corporate officers and terms of office.** The General Council corporate officers shall consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, and the general treasurer. They shall serve as the officers of the corporation. Their terms of office shall begin sixty (60) days after the date of election, and shall continue for four (4) years or until a successor qualifies.

b. **Executive Leadership Team.** The General Council officers along with the executive directors of Assemblies of God World Missions and Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall constitute an Executive Leadership Team. The terms of office for the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions and the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall continue for four (4) years or until their successors qualify. Members of the Executive Leadership Team shall be amenable to the actions of the Executive Presbytery within duties prescribed in the Bylaws.

Section 2. Executive Presbytery

a. **Composition and terms of office.** The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, the general treasurer, the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, together with fifteen (15) other persons to bring the number to twenty-one (21). The terms of office for all members of the Executive Presbytery shall begin sixty (60) days after date of election and shall continue for four (4) years or until their successors qualify.

Each nonresident executive presbyter may serve a maximum of three consecutive four-year terms. A nonresident executive presbyter who has completed three consecutive four-year terms, is eligible to be nominated and elected again after having not served for four years. If he or she initially fills an unexpired term, he or she would still be eligible for three, four-year terms.

b. **Board of Directors.** The Executive Presbytery shall constitute the Board of Directors of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, performing such functions as are usual and customary for a board of directors. *Executive Presbytery* and *Board of Directors* shall be interchangeable terms.

Section 3. General Presbytery

a. **Representation, qualifications, and responsibilities.** The General Presbytery shall be composed of individuals of maturity, experience, and ability whose lives and ministry are above reproach, who shall represent the Fellowship in all phases of its work in their respective fields. The General Presbytery shall be the official policy-making body of the Assemblies of God when the General Council is not in session. Each district shall have the privilege of representation on the General Presbytery by three members—the district superintendent together with two others who shall be elected by their district council, one of whom shall be an ordained pastor of a church located in the district. They shall take office immediately.

CONSTITUTION

b. Executive presbyters ex officio members. All members of the Executive Presbytery shall be ex officio members of the General Presbytery.

c. World and U.S. Missions representation. The foreign fields shall be represented on the General Presbytery by the regional directors and the International Ministries director of Assemblies of God World Missions and by two others from each of the overall areas which the regional directors and the International Ministries director represent. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (2).] The stateside missions work shall be represented on the General Presbytery by the departmental directors of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (3).]

d. Endorsed postsecondary schools representation. The duly endorsed postsecondary schools of the Assemblies of God shall be represented on the General Presbytery by their presidents. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (4).]

e. Evangelists representation. The Assemblies of God evangelists shall be represented on the General Presbytery by the national evangelists representative. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (5).]

f. Ethnic fellowship representation. A duly authorized ethnic fellowship shall be represented on the General Presbytery by one of its qualified members. An ethnic fellowship comprised of more than one hundred (100) churches shall be represented by two of its qualified members; and, an ethnic fellowship exceeding 150 churches shall be represented on the General Presbytery by three of its qualified members. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (6).]

g. Ethnic Relations and Hispanic Relations representation. The Assemblies of God Office of Ethnic Relations and the Assemblies of God Office of Hispanic Relations shall be represented on the General Presbytery by the director of Ethnic Relations and the director of Hispanic Relations.

h. Additional representation. One ordained minister under forty (40) years of age and one female ordained minister shall be selected to represent each geographic area, the Language Area—East Spanish, the Language Area—West Spanish, the Language Area—Other, and the Ethnic Fellowship area as general presbyters. These members shall serve a one-year term.

i. Auditors. Duly qualified auditors may attend the sessions of the General Presbytery. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (8).]

j. Honorary general presbyters. Upon the approval of the General Presbytery, honorary members may be chosen by the General Council from among those ministers who (1) have reached the age of sixty (60) years and (2) have served on the General Presbytery for twenty (20) years or more, or served on the General Presbytery as a General Council executive officer or executive presbyter for eight (8) years or more. The addition of such honorary members shall be in addition to the regular number of presbyters granted each district. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (9).]

ARTICLE X. DISTRICT COUNCILS

Section 1. Membership

Membership of each district council shall be determined by the district's constitution and bylaws. District councils may also be known as networks or other nomenclature adopted by its council in session.

Section 2. Areas of Supervision

The district council shall have supervision over all the ecclesial and sacerdotal activities of the Assemblies of God in its prescribed field, except as provided for in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws or in cooperative agreements between the General Council and the district council.

Section 3. Districts

a. Geographic districts. A geographic area may be recognized as a district of the Assemblies of God in accordance with the provision for district councils in the Bylaws. The territory of such a district is confined to its geographical area of operation and may therefore overlap or coincide with that of one or more other language/ethnic district councils. (See Bylaws, Article V, Section 6.)

b. Language/Ethnic districts. A language/ethnic group may be recognized as a district of the Assemblies of God in accordance with the provision for district councils in the Bylaws. The territory of such a district is defined by ministry among that district's primary language/ethnic focus, and may overlap into other language/ethnicities. Its geographical area of operation may overlap or coincide with that of one or more other geographic district councils. (See Bylaws, Article V, Section 6.)

Section 4. Credentialing Authority

The district council shall have the authority to examine and present candidates who qualify as certified ministers, licensed ministers, or ordained ministers in accordance with Article VII of the Bylaws. The applications of such candidates shall be forwarded to the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God for presentation to the General Council Credentials Committee for final review and issuance of the ministerial credential if the qualifications prescribed by Article VII of the Bylaws are satisfied. Any level of formal academic achievement (diploma or degree) shall not be a requirement for credentials, but it shall be required of applicants that they take such courses and pass examinations as shall be prescribed by the General Presbytery unless an exception is provided for in the Bylaws.

Section 5. Areas of Authority

The district council shall elect its own officers and arrange for its own meetings.

Section 6. Relationship with the General Council

The district council shall not violate the Constitution or Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. In the prosecution of its work the district council shall keep vigilant watch against any violation of the principles of spiritual unity and cooperative fellowship to which the Assemblies of God

CONSTITUTION

Fellowship is unalterably dedicated. It shall be amenable to The General Council of the Assemblies of God in matters of doctrine and the discipline of ministers.

ARTICLE XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

Section 1. General Council Affiliated Assemblies

A General Council affiliated assembly is one that has applied for and has received a Certificate of Affiliation from The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

a. Requirements for affiliation. Churches desiring to be affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall meet the following requirements. They shall:

- (1) Accept the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God;
- (2) Adopt a standard of membership that may be determined either by the local assembly or by agreement with the district council;
- (3) Have a minimum active voting membership of twenty (20) persons who shall accept responsibility to maintain scriptural order in the local body. In cases where there are fewer than twenty (20) voting members, an exception may be granted by the district, in compliance with General Presbytery policy, and provided that the church has demonstrated the capacity for self-governance;
- (4) Adopt Articles of Incorporation, a constitution or bylaws compatible with models recommended by the district council, or district-approved governance models that provide for adequate accountability, amenability, and safeguards so that a pastor and/or governing body cannot directly or indirectly exert dictatorial control over a church;
- (5) Have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of the church called for in its constitution or bylaws;
- (6) Make provision for a pastor who is a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council and a district council; and
- (7) Demonstrate a willingness to contribute to Assemblies of God missions.

b. Relationship to and support of the General Council and district councils. A General Council affiliated assembly should cooperate in the work and support the programs of the General Council and district councils and may send delegates to the General Council and district councils.

c. Right of self-government (sovereign rights). Each General Council affiliated assembly has the right of self-government under Jesus Christ, its living Head, and shall have 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. It shall have the right to administer discipline to its members according to the Scriptures and its constitution or bylaws. It shall have the right to acquire and hold title to property, either through trustees or in its corporate name as a self-governing unit. The fact it is affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall in no way destroy its rights as above stated or interfere with its sovereignty. The governance model adopted by the local assembly shall conform to the guidelines of Constitution, Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (4).

d. Subordinate in matters of doctrine and polity. A General Council affiliated assembly shall recognize that a district council or The General Council

of the Assemblies of God has the right to approve scriptural doctrine and polity and to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and polity and the authority to withdraw its Certificate of Affiliation if deemed necessary. (See Article VI, Section 4, of the Bylaws.)

e. Right of appeal. When in need of counsel or advice, the General Council affiliated assembly may appeal to the district officers for help. It may appeal from a decision by the district officers 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. When exceptions are taken to the decisions of the Executive Presbytery, either by the General Council affiliated assembly or by the district presbytery, appeal may be made to the General Presbytery.

Section 2. District Council Affiliated Assemblies

Provision shall be made by the district councils for district council affiliated assemblies, in accordance with the provisions of the district council constitution and bylaws. These assemblies shall be encouraged to proceed to the status of sovereign General Council affiliated assemblies.

Section 3. Parent Affiliated Churches

Provision shall be made by district councils for parent affiliated assemblies which shall be under the supervision of a parenting church, in accordance with the parenting church's constitution and bylaws.

Section 4. Cooperating Assemblies

Provision may be made by district councils and the General Council Executive Presbytery for the status of a cooperating assembly, which would allow churches that subscribe to Article V. Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council Constitution to enter into a cooperative status with a district and the General Council on a temporary basis (four-year term, renewable by the request of the local church congregation at the discretion of the district council in cooperation with the General Council Executive Presbytery) before officially affiliating with the district council and the General Council.

Section 5. Assemblies of God Total Giving Participation

All assemblies are expected to have an interest in, and contribute regularly to, the Assemblies of God Total Giving plan.

ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION

The assets of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Missouri corporation, are irrevocably dedicated to religious and charitable purposes as stated in its Articles of Agreement and this Constitution. In the event of the dissolution of the corporation, and after providing for the payment of its debts and obligations, the remaining assets will not inure to the benefit of any private person or persons but will be distributed to one or more nonprofit organizations which are organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes and which are exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any regularly called session of the General Council provided that the proposed amendments have been submitted in writing at least six (6) months in advance to the Executive Presbytery. Before the Executive Presbytery may submit proposed amendments for consideration by a session of the General Council, it shall provide written notice of the proposed amendments by regular or electronic mail to the office of each district superintendent and each district secretary and to ministers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, not later than thirty (30) days prior to said session. Amendments to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds vote of all members present and voting.

BYLAWS
OF
THE GENERAL COUNCIL
OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

REVISED AUGUST 3–6, 2021

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Bylaws

<u>Article</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page</u>
I.	Parliamentary Order	25
II.	Election of Officers and Presbyters.....	25
III.	Duties of Officers, Presbyters, Executive Leadership Team	30
IV.	Committees	36
V.	District Councils	38
VI.	Assemblies.....	41
VII.	Ministry.....	44
VIII.	Christian Marriage and Family	56
IX.	Doctrines and Practices Disapproved	56
X.	Discipline.....	63
XI.	National Ministries of The General Council of the Assemblies of God	71
XII.	<i>The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual</i>	71
XIII.	Assemblies of God World Missions	72
XIV.	Assemblies of God U.S. Missions.....	76
XV.	Corporations of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.....	79
XVI.	Affiliated Ministries	79
XVII.	Military Service	80
XVIII.	<i>The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual</i>	81
XIX.	Order of Business	81
XX.	Quorum.....	81
XXI.	Amendments	81

BYLAWS

OF

THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

ARTICLE I. PARLIAMENTARY ORDER

The work of the General Council shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS

Section 1. Officers

The officers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be elected at its regular meetings in the manner provided in these Bylaws. They shall be ordained ministers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and shall be persons of mature experience and ability, whose life and ministry are above question, and such qualities alone shall determine their eligibility.

Section 2. Nominations and Elections

a. General superintendent and assistant general superintendent. All candidates for the offices of general superintendent and assistant general superintendent shall be nominated by receiving fifteen (15) votes or more by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote of all votes cast shall be necessary to constitute an election. In the event two-thirds of the votes cast are received by a qualified candidate on the nominating ballot, an election shall be declared. If no election has been declared after the second elective ballot, the fifteen (15) candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated. If no election has been declared after the third elective ballot, the three candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated.

b. Other officers. The general secretary, general treasurer, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, and executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall be elected in the following manner: The General Presbytery, serving as a nominating committee, shall be entrusted with the responsibility of making careful investigation concerning the qualifications and general fitness of available candidates for these offices and shall select by secret ballot one or more names to be presented for each office to the General Council in session for election. The General Presbytery shall submit as nominees to the General Council all qualified candidates who have received at least 10 percent of the votes cast by the General Presbytery. The candidates shall be presented to and voted upon by secret ballot by the General Council

BYLAWS

in session. In the event that only one candidate receives at least 10 percent of the votes cast in the General Presbytery nomination, the vote distinction by the General Council shall be by selecting “yes” or “no.” There shall be no further nominations from the General Council floor. A two-thirds vote of all votes cast shall be required to elect. If no election has been declared after the third elective ballot, the three candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated.

c. Nonresident executive presbyters. Nominees for nonresident executive presbyters shall be voted upon by the General Council in session by secret ballot until one candidate receives two-thirds of all votes cast. If no election has been declared after the third elective ballot has been cast, the three candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated.

(1) *Nominations and elections.* The General Council shall have the right to elect additional officers to serve on the Executive Presbytery as provided in Constitution, Article IX, Section 2.

(a) *By area.* The nominations for eleven (11) area nonresident executive presbyters shall be made as follows: Each district council at its annual meeting prior to the General Council session shall nominate two ministers from its district, one of whom is not an elected full-time district official, to be presented to the General Council as nominees from its area.

(b) *By ethnic fellowship.* The nominations for one ethnic fellowship nonresident executive presbyter shall be made as follows: Each general presbyter from an ethnic fellowship, serving in the year General Council meets, shall be presented to the General Council as a nominee from the respective ethnic fellowships.

(2) *Divisions for electing nonresident executive presbyters.*

(a) *By area.* For the purpose of electing nonresident executive presbyters, The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be divided into areas as follows:

Northwest Area

Southwest Area

North Central Area

South Central Area

Great Lakes Area

Gulf Area

Northeast Area

Southeast Area

Language Area—East Spanish

Language Area—West Spanish

Language Area—Other

The addition of new areas and the assignment of individual districts to areas shall be determined by the General Presbytery in session, and reported to the General Council in a timely manner.

(b) *By ethnic fellowship.* For the purpose of electing an ethnic fellowship nonresident executive presbyter, only those ethnic fellowships duly recognized (Bylaws, Article V, Section 8) shall be represented.

(c) *Additional representation.* The nomination process for three additional nonresident executive presbyters shall be made as follows: Each district council, at its annual meeting prior to the General Council session, may nominate three individuals from its district to the Executive Presbytery, one who is an ordained minister under forty (40) years of age at the time of election, one ordained female minister (no age requirement), and one ordained African-American minister (no age requirement). The members of the Executive Board of the National Black Fellowship shall also be considered nominees for the ordained African-American minister. From the nominees the General Presbytery shall select and submit to the General Council four names of ordained ministers under forty (40) years of age at the time of election, four names of ordained female ministers (no age requirement), and four names of ordained African-American ministers (no age requirement).

d. General presbyters

(1) *District representatives.* In addition to the superintendent of each district, who shall serve on the General Presbytery by virtue of office, two others shall be elected by the district council in session, both of whom shall be ordained Assemblies of God ministers, and at least one of whom shall be a pastor of a church or a person involved in other ministry located in the district. They shall take office immediately upon election.

(2) *Assemblies of God World Missions representatives.* Regional directors and the International Ministries director of Assemblies of God World Missions, representing the missionaries from their respective areas, are members of the General Presbytery by virtue of office. Two additional representatives on the General Presbytery from each region and International Ministries shall be chosen in the following manner: The Assemblies of God World Missions Board shall nominate four missionaries from each general area and International Ministries represented by the regional directors and the International Ministries director. Nominees will be selected from missionaries who will be in the United States at the time of the General Presbytery meeting and who preferably have had administrative experience in the field. Ballots shall be sent to all missionaries in each area who shall by vote select two to represent them on the General Presbytery. These shall be mailed to the general secretary who shall prepare a report to the Executive Presbytery. A simple majority vote shall be required to elect.

(3) *Assemblies of God U.S. Missions representatives.* Departmental directors of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall be members of the General Presbytery by virtue of their office.

(4) *Endorsed postsecondary school representatives.* Endorsed postsecondary school representatives, as provided for in Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph d, shall be members of the General Presbytery.

(5) *Evangelists representative.* The national evangelists representative as provided for in Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e, shall be a member of the General Presbytery.

(6) *Ethnic fellowship representatives.* Ethnic fellowship representatives, as provided for in Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph f, shall be elected biennially by their respective ethnic

BYLAWS

fellowships. A two-thirds vote shall be required to elect. They shall take office immediately upon election.

(7) *Ethnic Relations and Hispanic Relations representatives.* The director of Ethnic Relations and the director of Hispanic Relations representatives, as provided for in Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph g, shall be members of the General Presbytery.

(8) *Auditors.*

(a) National directors elected by the Executive Presbytery and ratified by the General Presbytery shall serve as auditors of the General Presbytery.

(b) The legal counsel of the General Council shall be granted the privilege of auditing the General Presbytery meetings.

(c) A district may select no more than one auditor for all duly called sessions of the General Presbytery. Any auditor selected by a district shall be one of its full-time executive presbyters or officers. Expenses for the district auditors shall not be the responsibility of the General Council.

(d) Auditors may be added as approved by the Executive Presbytery.

(e) Auditors shall be without vote and shall have voice only at the request of the chairman. They shall absent themselves from any executive session of the General Presbytery.

(9) *Honorary members.* Honorary general presbyters, as provided for in Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph j, shall have the right of voice and vote at all duly called sessions of the General Presbytery.

(10) *Additional representation.* Each district and ethnic fellowship may nominate two qualified ministers—one ordained minister under forty (40) years of age at the time of election active in ministry and one ordained female minister active in ministry. The nominations for each area and all ethnic fellowships shall be voted on as follows:

(a) *By area.* For the purpose of electing one ordained minister under forty (40) years of age at the time of election active in ministry and one ordained female minister active in ministry, each district within the eight respective geographical areas and three language areas shall elect on an annual rotational basis qualified members to serve on the General Presbytery for one year, with no more than one ordained minister under forty (40) years of age at the time of election active in ministry and one ordained female minister active in ministry serving from an area in any one year. The representation shall be determined on an alphabetical basis of the districts within each area according to an annual schedule set by the Executive Presbytery.

(b) *By ethnic fellowships.* Each year the Executive Presbytery shall designate by feasibility, on a rotational schedule, which ethnic fellowship shall elect for a one-year term one ordained minister under forty (40) years of age at the time of election active in ministry and one ordained female minister active in ministry.

Section 3. Vacancies

a. **Executive officers.** In the event any of the executive offices of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall become vacant through death or other cause, the Executive Presbytery shall fill the office by appointment until

the next meeting of the General Council; with the exception that, in the event of a vacancy in the office of general superintendent for any reason, the assistant general superintendent shall succeed to the office of general superintendent until the next General Council; or, in the event the offices of general superintendent and assistant general superintendent both become vacant, the succession to the office of general superintendent until the next General Council shall be as follows: first, the general secretary, and second, the general treasurer.

b. Nonresident executive presbyters. Nominees for nonresident executive presbyters shall be voted upon by the General Presbytery in session by secret ballot until one candidate receives two-thirds of all votes cast. If no election has been declared after the third elective ballot has been cast, the three candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated.

(1) *By area.*

(a) In the event a vacancy shall occur, for any reason, in the office of an area nonresident executive presbyter, the general secretary shall request each district council within that area (see Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph c) to submit two nominees for the office. The General Presbytery shall, at its next meeting, elect one minister from among the nominees submitted to fill the vacancy until the next meeting of the General Council. (See Bylaws, Article II, Section 1, for qualifications.)

(b) Should a vacancy occur so close to the time of the meeting of the General Presbytery that insufficient time remains for district councils to select and submit nominees in the above manner, then nominees shall be obtained by a caucus of the general presbyters of the area involved. Such caucus to be held during the meeting of the General Presbytery.

(c) In the event a nonresident executive presbyter moves to a location outside of the boundaries of the area, the Executive Presbytery shall declare a vacancy in that office.

(2) *By ethnic fellowship.*

In the event a vacancy shall occur, for any reason, in the office of an ethnic fellowship nonresident executive presbyter, the general secretary shall submit as nominees all current general presbyters who represent an ethnic fellowship. (See Bylaws, Article V, Section 8.) The General Presbytery shall, at its next meeting, elect one minister from among the nominees submitted, to fill the vacancy until the next meeting of the General Council. (See Bylaws, Article II, Section 1, for qualifications.)

(3) *Additional representation.*

In the event a vacancy shall occur, for any reason, in the offices of nonresident additional representatives [see Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, c, (2), (c)], the General Council Executive Presbytery shall submit up to four nominees for the vacant position. The nominees shall be selected with due consideration given to those who have been nominated in the past for those positions and who would yet qualify. The General Presbytery shall, by regular or electronic mail referendum or at its next meeting, elect one minister from among the nominees submitted to fill the vacancy until the next meeting of the General Council. (See Bylaws, Article II, Section 1, for qualifications.)

BYLAWS

c. General presbyters

(1) In the event a general presbyter shall move to another district or shall vacate the office for any other reason, the presbytery of the district council shall appoint one to serve as general presbyter until that office is regularly filled at the next meeting of the district council.

(2) In the event an elected general presbyter is unable to attend a duly called session of the General Presbytery, by reason of illness or any other emergency, the district executive presbytery or district presbytery shall have the right to select an alternate, provided the alternate meets the ordinary requirements for general presbyters. The alternate shall have all the rights and privileges of a regularly elected general presbyter. The district shall present certification of an alternate to the general secretary not later than the opening session of the General Presbytery.

Section 4. Removal for Cause

The Executive Presbytery by two-thirds vote may remove an officer from office prior to the end of a term if, in its judgment, there is clear and convincing evidence of incapacity, inefficiency, incompetence, or other grounds, not constituting a basis for formal discipline pursuant to Article X of the Bylaws, that renders the officer unfit for office and compromises the mission of the Assemblies of God. Such a decision by the Executive Presbytery shall not be effective unless and until it is ratified by the General Presbytery by two-thirds vote.

ARTICLE III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, PRESBYTERS, EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Section 1. Duties of the General Superintendent

The duties of the general superintendent shall include the following:

a. Emphasize and implement the fourfold mission of the church: the evangelization of the world, the worship of God, the building of a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world; and promote and coordinate efforts directed toward the fulfilling of that mission.

b. Superintend all work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

c. Act as president of the corporation in all legal matters, and be an ex officio member of all committees and boards.

d. Preside at the sessions of the General Presbytery and the General Council.

e. Preside at all meetings of the General Council Credentials Committee and sign all credentials.

f. Preside at all sessions of the Executive Presbytery and the Executive Leadership Team and receive all communications directed to these bodies.

g. Administer discipline in all cases when requested to do so by the General Council Credentials Committee.

h. Sign all official and legal documents (see Section 7 of this Article).

i. Perform any other functions usual and customary as presiding officer or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General

Presbytery, or by the Executive Presbytery.

- j. Cast primary vision for the Fellowship along with the other executive officers.
- k. Provide spiritual oversight to leadership and the national office personnel.
- l. Strategically network with other fellowships.
- m. Give consultation in hiring staff at departmental level of leadership or above.
- n. Lead Tier I leadership, executive officers, and the Executive Presbytery.

Section 2. Duties of the Assistant General Superintendent

The duties of the assistant general superintendent shall include the following:

- a. Assist the general superintendent.
- b. Serve as vice president of the corporation and preside at meetings of the Executive Presbytery and the Executive Leadership Team in the absence of the general superintendent.
- c. Perform any other functions under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

Section 3. Duties of the General Secretary

The duties of the general secretary shall include the following:

- a. Make and keep true records of the proceedings of the General Council and shall publish the same as approved and directed by the Executive Presbytery.
- b. Serve as the custodian of the official seal and issue credentials under the direction of the General Council Credentials Committee and shall keep a record of all ordained, licensed, and certified ministers, and assemblies of the Fellowship.
- c. Sign all official and legal documents (see Section 7 of this Article).
- d. Serve as secretary of the General Presbytery, Executive Presbytery, the General Council Credentials Committee, and the Executive Leadership Team and keep accurate minutes of the deliberations of these bodies.
- e. Edit and prepare for distribution the minutes of the meeting of the General Presbytery after examination and approval thereof by the Executive Presbytery.
- f. Perform such other functions as are customary under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

Section 4. Duties of the General Treasurer

The duties of the general treasurer shall include the following:

- a. Serve as custodian of all funds of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements according to generally accepted accounting principles.

BYLAWS

- b. Provide budgets and financial reports as periodically requested by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.
- c. Provide oversight of an internal auditor, who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and shall be directly accountable to the Executive Leadership Team and the Executive Presbytery.
- d. Provide oversight of the preparation of an annual audit of the financial records of The General Council of the Assemblies of God by an independent auditor, prepared in conformity with generally accepted auditing standards.
- e. Give fidelity and such other bonds in amounts periodically determined by the Executive Presbytery.
- f. Perform such other functions as are customary under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

Section 5. Duties of the Executive Director of Assemblies of God World Missions

The executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, under the supervision of the Executive Presbytery, shall perform the following duties and render the following services:

- a. Direct the world missions activities of the Fellowship.
- b. Represent The General Council of the Assemblies of God in all relationships with governments or authorities where our world missions work is involved.
- c. Distribute all world missions funds as directed by the World Missions Committee.
- d. Keep such records of all funds received and disbursed as will safeguard the funds from loss en route to the field.
- e. Serve as chairperson of the World Missions Committee and World Missions Board.
- f. Keep a record of all official acts of the World Missions Board and other committees of the division.
- g. Serve as an executive officer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and thus serve on the Executive Leadership Team.
- h. Perform such other functions as are customary under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

Section 6. Duties of the Executive Director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions

The executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, under the supervision of the Executive Presbytery, shall perform the following duties and render the following services:

- a. Direct the U.S. missions activities of the Fellowship, insofar as such activities are not already directed within and by the respective district councils of the General Council.
- b. Represent The General Council of the Assemblies of God in all relationships with governing authorities where U.S. missions work is involved.

- c. Distribute all U.S. missions funds as directed by the U.S. Missions Committee.
- d. Serve as chairperson of the U.S. Missions Board and U.S. Missions Committee.
- e. Keep a record of all official acts of the U.S. Missions Board and other committees of the division.
- f. Serve as an executive officer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and thus serve on the Executive Leadership Team.
- g. Perform such other functions as are customary under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

Section 7. Duties of the Executive Presbytery

The Executive Presbytery is authorized to perform the following functions and duties:

- a. Serve as the Board of Directors of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. They shall be authorized to act for the corporation in all matters that affect its interests while the General Council is not in session, subject to the provisions of paragraphs h and k of Section 7 of this Article.
- b. Interpret policy originating in the legislation of the General Council or the General Presbytery. Such interpretations shall be final unless reversed at the next meeting of the body in which the legislation originated.
- c. Buy, take, lease, or otherwise acquire, own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of real property, personal and mixed, tangible and intangible of whatsoever kind; to borrow monies as deemed necessary and to issue bonds of whatsoever kind, trust deeds, mortgages, debentures, and notes; and to enter into contracts; all as may seem expedient and proper in the furtherance of the work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- d. Hold in trust such funds as may be committed to them as trustees, or to dispose of the same as may be directed.
- e. Issue annuity bonds or contracts, and to protect the same by judicious investments.
- f. Purchase or dispose of securities as need requires in an effort to strengthen the financial position of the corporation.
- g. Arrange for and announce the meetings of the General Council, with consideration for the interests of the Fellowship as a whole. The decision of time and place for such meetings shall rest in their hands.
- h. Call business meetings of the General Presbytery when deemed advisable.
- i. Make a report to the General Council of their activities on behalf of the Fellowship as may be directed.
- j. All properties of the corporation shall be bought, taken, held, sold, transferred, mortgaged, leased, assigned, or conveyed in the corporate name upon authorization by the Executive Presbytery, as trustees thereof, and the president and the general secretary shall be authorized and they hereby are authorized to execute all documents pertaining to such transactions.

BYLAWS

- k. Be amenable to the General Presbytery in all matters under the functions and duties of the General Presbytery.
- l. Protect and enhance the vision of the general superintendent and other executive officers.
- m. Provide oversight of internal operations of the national office as indicated in *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*. Oversight includes:
 - (1) Approve *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*;
 - (2) Review and approve official minutes of the Executive Leadership Team and Executive Presbytery meetings;
 - (3) Speak into the conceptual phases of new national office initiatives;
 - (4) Provide evaluative perspective and input regarding national office effectiveness;
 - (5) Ratify the hiring of national office employees at national department director levels and above;
 - (6) Regularly review General Council financial statements and audit reports;
 - (7) Approve the annual national office budget;
 - (8) Delegate to the Executive Leadership Team specific responsibilities, as needed, related to the functioning and management of the national office;
 - (9) Make or ratify appointments to boards, committees, and commissions as required;
 - (10) Monitor and resource the well-being of the general superintendent and other Executive Leadership Team members.
- n. Assist with the mediation of district and church issues, as well as providing a resourcing and referral service for legal and administrative matters to the Fellowship.
- o. Pray for and maintain communication with those who serve as primary leaders in the areas represented by each executive presbyter;
- p. Serve as spiritual elders in counsel with and ministry to the general superintendent and other members of the Executive Leadership Team;
- q. Pray for and monitor, with the Executive Leadership Team, the spiritual health and vitality of the General Council and the national office;
- r. Serve as spiritual partners in the advancement of the mission of districts and ministry networks throughout the Fellowship through prayer, consultation, and collaboration regarding best practices;
- s. Serve as the General Council Credentials Committee, strongly advocating for aspects of Assemblies of God doctrine and support for its missionary initiatives;
- t. Provide an annual self-assessment based on the roles, relationships, and responsibilities of the Executive Presbytery to the General Presbytery.

Section 8. Duties of the Executive Leadership Team

The executive officers shall constitute an Executive Leadership Team. Members of the Executive Leadership Team shall be amenable to the actions of the Executive Presbytery and perform the following functions and duties:

- a. Serve as the executive arm of the general superintendent and the Executive Presbytery.
- b. Provide for general services as required for the various operations at the national office.
- c. Execute those matters delegated to it by the general superintendent and the Executive Presbytery.
- d. Give administrative oversight to all General Council offices.
- e. Support the spiritual thrust and vision of the Fellowship.
- f. Lead assigned ministries.
- g. Manage internal operations of the national office as indicated in *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*.
- h. Present an annual self-assessment based on roles, relationships, and responsibilities of the Executive Leadership Team to the Executive Presbytery.

Section 9. Duties of the General Presbytery

The General Presbytery is authorized to perform the following functions and duties:

- a. Advance the mission of the Assemblies of God by promoting effective ministry and harmonious relationships among all churches, credentialed ministers, ministries, institutions, and entities of the Fellowship.
- b. Be the policy-making body.
- c. Act as a court of final appeal for a disciplined minister or a district appealing a decision of the General Council Credentials Committee.
- d. Determine the salaries of all elected officers of the General Council. A committee of not less than seven general presbyters shall be comprised as follows: one executive presbyter acting as a liaison to the committee, three district superintendents—two from geographic areas and one from a language/ethnic area—and four general presbyters who are lead pastors. They shall be appointed every four years, coinciding with the full-term election year of the general superintendent, by the Executive Presbytery to review such salaries. The committee shall report its recommendations to the General Presbytery for final action. An outside firm will be consulted. In years when there is not a general superintendent election, the elected officers will receive the same percentage annual wage adjustment (AWA) as all other national office employees.
- e. Act as a body of appeal to actions taken by the Executive Presbytery whenever 10 percent (10%) or more of the members of the General Presbytery so requests.
- f. Any district council by the action of its district presbytery or any three or more general presbyters may have a matter added to the General Presbytery agenda at any time during any duly called General Presbytery meeting.
- g. Establish and review position descriptions of the Executive Presbytery.
- h. Review the Executive Presbytery annual self-assessment report.

Section 10. Meetings

Members of the Executive Presbytery and, in the event of an emergency or other sufficient cause, members of the General Presbytery and General Council, may participate and act at any meeting through the use of a communications device or technology by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can communicate simultaneously with each other, upon such terms and in such manner as the Executive Presbytery shall determine. Participation in such meeting shall constitute attendance and presence in person at the meeting of the member or members so participating.

Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Executive Presbytery may be taken without a meeting if all members consent thereto in writing, and the writings are filed with the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Presbytery.

ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees

Standing committees shall be appointed as necessary. They shall serve for the designated time or until their purpose is accomplished. In the event a vacancy shall occur in a standing committee, the Executive Presbytery shall be authorized to fill such vacancy.

Section 2. Credentials Committee

The Executive Presbytery shall constitute the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and said Credentials Committee shall be referred to in these Bylaws as the General Council Credentials Committee. It shall have the authority to issue certificates of ordination, ministry licenses, and certified ministers certificates, and to issue annual fellowship cards to those persons whose renewal questionnaires have received district endorsement. It may delegate the routine work of the Credentials Committee to the Executive Leadership Team.

Section 3. Roster Committee

A Roster Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery prior to each meeting of the General Council. This committee shall be expected to open the roster on the morning of the day preceding the convening of the General Council. It shall be entrusted with the responsibility of examining credentials of all ministers and delegates. Ordained and licensed ministers shall identify themselves by fellowship cards of the current year; delegates from assemblies shall obtain letters from their church secretary or pastor certifying to their appointment by the assembly to represent it in the General Council. Badges shall be issued by the committee to all qualified delegates and ministers, and any other relevant status.

Section 4. Resolutions Committee

a. Procedure for presentation of resolutions. A Resolutions Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. All resolutions for presentation to the General Council, except emergency measures, shall be presented to the general secretary's office at least one hundred (100) days

prior to a General Council session. The Resolutions Committee shall prepare the resolutions in printed or electronic form and send them to the General Council ministers and churches at least thirty (30) days prior to the General Council, with the understanding that this does not apply to business growing out of Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery meetings just prior to the General Council, and that resolutions of an emergency nature shall be decided by a two-thirds vote of the General Council.

b. Sponsorship policy. All resolutions presented to the Resolutions Committee shall be signed by the author or sponsor. When a resolution is presented for the consideration of the General Council in session the author, sponsor, or a spokesperson appointed by the author or sponsor shall be expected to be the first speaker on behalf of the resolution.

c. Scriptural interpretation. Except for resolutions submitted by the Executive Presbytery, the General Presbytery, or a district council, resolutions that involve scriptural interpretation shall be forwarded to the Commission on Doctrines and Practices when in the judgment of the Resolutions Committee such an action is needful. The commission shall evaluate and draft a brief assessment of the scriptural interpretation embodied in the resolution. The assessment, stating their agreement or disagreement with the scriptural interpretation, shall accompany the resolution when presented to the General Council for consideration.

d. Appropriateness of resolutions. The Resolutions Committee shall, by a two-thirds vote, determine the appropriateness of proposed resolutions. Inappropriate resolutions may include those that, if adopted, would conflict with the Constitution or Bylaws; or whose substance is not in keeping with appropriateness for discussion by the General Council. A resolution passed by a district council in session shall always be deemed appropriate.

e. Right of sponsor. If the Resolutions Committee determines that a resolution is inappropriate, it shall so advise the author and shall apprise the author of his or her right to present the proposed resolution to the General Council in session for a determination as to appropriateness.

f. Format of presentation. The Resolutions Committee shall:

- (1) Put resolutions in proper form.
- (2) Eliminate duplication of similar resolutions relating to a specific subject.
- (3) Present resolutions in a logical sequence.

Section 5. Spiritual Life and Discipleship Committee

A Spiritual Life and Discipleship Committee may be appointed at the discretion of the general superintendent in consultation with the Executive Presbytery. Said committee members shall be selected from a cross section of the Fellowship. The committee shall function with duties as assigned by the general superintendent and report at his or her direction.

Section 6. Other Committees

Other committees may be appointed by the General Presbytery or the Executive Presbytery.

ARTICLE V. DISTRICT COUNCILS

Section 1. Formation of New Districts

a. Conference status. When there is potential for the development of a new district, the first step shall be the establishing of a conference that would be mentored by an assisting district(s) until the new district is capable of independent operation. Such conference shall function for a minimum of two (2) years, or longer if so directed by the Executive Presbytery, prior to becoming a district unless an exception has been granted by the Executive Presbytery. The conference shall operate as directed by approved Executive Presbytery criteria.

b. Guidelines. Guidelines for establishing new districts shall include:

(1) A minimum of forty (40) Assemblies of God churches (of which at least 50 percent (50%) are General Council affiliated status) sponsored by an existing district and having voted to become a part of the new district at the beginning of the conference unless an exception has been recognized by the Executive Presbytery.

(2) Size, maturity, and financial stability of the churches as to membership (assessing both total membership and regular attendance), leadership, and program ministries.

(3) Size, maturity, and financial stability of the proposed district, its potential for leadership, and its ability to sustain support and program ministries to its churches.

(4) The location, size, and potential growth of the geographical area under consideration.

(5) The effect the establishment of the proposed new district will have on other districts.

(6) Churches and ministers that have voted to become a part of the new conference shall be required to contribute one-third of their district tithes or dues to the new conference during the first year, two-thirds of their district tithes or dues to the new conference during the second year, and contribute the full amount of tithes or dues as determined by the newly established district during the third year and following.

c. Boundaries. The boundaries of the new district shall be determined by cooperative agreement between the district or districts geographically affected and the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. The Role of the District

The district is primarily relationship based. The district should facilitate a network for resources and relationships and provide training for credentialed ministers and local churches. The district provides ministry events to the local church, such as camps, conferences, and retreats; and relates to the General Council affiliated churches in accordance with provisions of the Constitutional Declaration, Constitution Article XI, Bylaws Article VI, and the constitution and bylaws of the respective district council. The district relates to district affiliated churches in accordance with its own bylaws, and processes and recommends ministerial credentialing and disciplines for its constituents.

Section 3. Officers

Each district council shall elect a superintendent, together with such other officers as may be deemed advisable by the district membership, such as, assistant superintendent, secretary-treasurer, and presbyters. A district superintendent or any other elected officer may serve other than full time at the discretion of the district council.

Section 4. Voting Constituency

The voting constituency shall consist of all ordained and licensed ministers, and accredited delegates from affiliated churches, and such other persons as may be prescribed by the district constitution and bylaws, who are registered for district meetings and meet the district's requirements for participation in that meeting.

Section 5. Presbyters

Districts are encouraged to organize in such a way that the presbyter may focus on ministering to ministers, providing encouragement, prayer, leadership development, by modeling spiritual maturity and leadership to the pastors, ministers, and churches assigned to the responsible presbyter.

Section 6. Language/Ethnic Districts

a. Recognition qualifications. In order to become a district of the Assemblies of God, a language/ethnic group must have a minimum number of forty (40) Assemblies of God churches [of which at least 50 percent (50%) are General Council affiliated status] and meet all other guidelines established in Article V, Section 1.

b. Equality of districts. Language/ethnic and geographic districts shall have the same privileges and responsibilities within the framework of the Constitution and Bylaws.

c. Cooperative relationship. Both the language/ethnic district and the geographical district shall seek to promote a spirit of fellowship and cooperation. The language/ethnic district officers and the geographical district officers should inform or consult with each other concerning the opening of new language works or institutions of any kind, in a given area. It is strongly recommended that the language/ethnic district and the geographical district appoint representatives to serve with their respective presbyteries to provide and encourage cooperative strategies and relationships. The language churches, whether members of a geographical or language/ethnic district, are encouraged to unite where possible, in fellowship activities.

d. Sponsorship and affiliation of a language/ethnic group. Should an English-speaking church desire to initiate sponsorship of a language/ethnic group or a language/ethnic church desire to initiate sponsorship of an English-speaking group, it shall consult with its district officials for counsel and guidance. The respective districts/fellowships should inform their counterparts concerning the beginning of such churches. The sponsoring church may provide facilities and support to such a work through its district U.S. missions department. Such an effort may be initiated with the objective in mind that it will develop into an Assemblies of God church. When such a church reaches as many as twenty (20) adult members, unless an exception has been granted by a district in accordance with the provisions of General Council Constitution Article XI,

BYLAWS

Section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (3), it may then seek affiliation with a district of its choice following prescribed guidelines as outlined in these Bylaws.

e. Church transfer procedure. When a church desires to transfer from a language/ethnic district to the geographical district in which it is located or from a geographical district to a language/ethnic district, the following procedure shall be followed:

(1) The pastor or board of the church considering transfer shall make initial contact with the district superintendent to which the church presently belongs. There shall be opportunity for mutual dialogue with the district superintendent and district leadership as to the advisability of the transfer.

(2) If the pastor or board of the church desires to pursue the possibility of transfer, following the initial contact and dialogue noted above, the pastor or board of the church may then contact the superintendent of the district to which they desire to transfer.

(3) If the leadership of both districts agrees with the desire of the pastor or board of the church to transfer from one district to another, then a congregational meeting of the church membership shall be held. A transfer shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the membership.

(4) If the leadership of the district to which the church presently belongs is not in favor of the transfer but the receiving district is, the leadership of the present district shall be given an opportunity to present its case before the membership of the church at a congregational meeting. The church membership may then proceed to vote, with a two-thirds vote required for a transfer to be approved.

(5) If the leadership of the district to which the church presently belongs, after a favorable vote by the church membership, still does not wish to approve the transfer, the matter shall be referred to the Executive Presbytery for a final decision in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution (Article XI).

(6) If the leadership of the district to which the church presently belongs is in favor of the transfer, after a favorable vote by the church membership, but the receiving district is not in favor of the transfer, the matter shall be referred to the Executive Presbytery for a final decision in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution (Article XI).

(7) The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to authorize the credential transfer of ministers serving the transferring church to the district in which the church is transferred.

(8) Churches seeking a transfer to another district must settle their financial obligations with their present district before a transfer is granted.

Section 7. Dissolution of District

a. Loss of recognition. In the event an existing district shall have less than forty (40) churches, General Council or district affiliated, its recognition shall cease, unless an exception is granted by the General Presbytery.

b. General Presbytery prerogative. Dissolution of a district shall be the prerogative of the General Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 8. Language/Ethnic Fellowships

Language/Ethnic groups may be authorized by the Executive Presbytery, in accordance with Executive Presbytery criteria, to form a fellowship of churches. The fellowship shall exist for the purpose of exchanging information, facilitating evangelism, and establishing churches. Although functioning as a fellowship, the ethnic churches shall remain affiliated with the appropriate district. When a language/ethnic group recognized by the Executive Presbytery functions as a fellowship and represents a specific number of churches determined by and within a district, a presbyter shall be appointed or elected from the language/ethnic fellowship to represent the language/ethnic fellowship within a district. Leadership for the fellowship groups shall be approved by the Executive Presbytery.

ARTICLE VI. ASSEMBLIES

Section 1. Procedure for Affiliation

It shall be the responsibility of the district presbytery to determine when an assembly has reached a state of growth, stability, and maturity qualifying it for affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Qualifications shall include a minimum active voting membership of twenty (20) persons, unless an exception has been granted by the district in accordance with the provisions of General Council Constitution Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (3). The assembly shall have matured to a point where a sufficient number of qualified persons are available for the offices called for in its constitution and bylaws.

The procedure for affiliation shall be:

- a. A church desiring affiliation shall forward its request to the office of the district in which it is located. The district council shall provide an approved application form and procedural instructions.
- b. The meeting in which an assembly shall be set in order shall be presided over by an officer of the district who shall assist the assembly in the adoption of a constitution and bylaws acceptable to the district.
- c. An existing, mature church that desires to affiliate with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall apply to the office of the district council for guidance and assistance.
- d. Upon approval by 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 occur upon receipt by the assembly of an official Certificate 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.

Section 2. Annual Report and Offerings from Assemblies

- a. **Annual Church Ministries Report.** Each church of the Assemblies of God is requested to keep a current record of its membership and to report this information annually, on forms provided, to the office of the district secretary and the General Council secretary.

b. Fellowship Partners Offering. It is recommended that each church send to the General Council at least one offering for each calendar year toward the support of the administrative offices of the General Council. This offering shall be called Fellowship Partners offering, and shall be included with the Annual Church Ministries Report. It is suggested that each church's minimal offering be based upon its average Sunday morning attendance. A church averaging less than 50 is asked to send \$25 for the year; less than 100 but more than 50, \$50; less than 250 but more than 100, \$100; less than 500 but more than 250, \$250; less than 1,000 but more than 500, \$500; less than 2,000 but more than 1,000, \$1,000; over 2,000, \$2,000.

c. Assemblies of God Total Giving

(1) *Participation.* In order to support and develop the work and ministries of the Assemblies of God at home and abroad, all its churches are encouraged to send offerings at regular intervals.

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

(3) *Credit.* Assemblies of God Total Giving recognition shall provide credit to Assemblies of God churches for contributions to the Fellowship Partners plan for support of the General Council; Assemblies of God World Missions, Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, Benevolences Ministries, Christian Higher Education (including educational institutions), Church Ministries (including men's, women's, church music, youth, and senior adults), General Administration (including executive and Spiritual Life offices), other General Council, regional, and district-sponsored or approved projects, and parent churches for satellite startup costs, up to six (6) months, including property (facilities and equipment), promotion, personnel (pastoral selection and moving expenses). Contributions from districts other than where a district-approved project is located can be granted Assemblies of God Total Giving credit only if the district where the contribution originates gives its approval and if the contribution is channeled through that district or the national office. It is expected that the national office division or department related to a given project will be notified of approved projects. It is also understood that no district or region may receive Assemblies of God Total Giving credit for projects specifically disapproved by the General Council.

Section 3. Safeguarding the Assemblies

a. Pastors and leaders of assemblies should make proper investigation of persons who seek to gain entrance to teach, minister, or pastor. Use of the platform should be denied until spiritual integrity and reliability have been determined. It is recommended that Assemblies of God churches use Assemblies of God ministers since the use of non-Assemblies of God ministers may bring confusion and problems detrimental to the Fellowship.

b. No minister dismissed by the Assemblies of God may be allowed to pastor or have ministry in an Assemblies of God church. Pastors and district officials should maintain an exchange of information regarding dismissed ministers known to be seeking ministry in our assemblies.

Section 4. Relationships between Churches, District Councils, and the General Council

a. **Nature.** General Council affiliated churches are deemed to be sovereign, autonomous, self-governing, and self-determining bodies which have, by their sovereign, self-determining action in making application for and receiving recognition as a General Council affiliated church, entered into an agreement with the Fellowship to be amenable to the General Council and district council in matters of doctrine and polity. (See Constitution, Article XI, Section 1, paragraph d.)

b. **Relationships.** Cooperative fellowship describes both the relationship that exists between local churches and their relationships with the district councils and the General Council.

c. **Organizational assistance.** The services of both the General Council and district council are 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 (30%) of the voting members, with the petitioning process and delivery to the district council taking no more than thirty (30) days in total to complete. When district officers receive such requests, it is recommended they first verify that scriptural principles of reconciliation, such as those found in Matthew 18:15–17 and 1 Timothy 5:19, have been reasonably attempted by the requesting party in situations involving interpersonal conflict. District officers 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 provide organizational assistance to the church and, when necessary, revert it from General Council status to district affiliated status until the governing entity considers the problem resolved.

d. **Preservation of affiliation.** In the event the termination of affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God is under consideration by an affiliated assembly, the pastor or board shall invite the district officers to participate in a specially called business meeting where such matters will be discussed and voted upon for the express purpose of giving the district officers the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation. A decision to disaffiliate shall require a two-thirds vote of the membership, or a more restrictive rule prescribed by the governing documents of the church or district. In the case of a previously existing church which later affiliated with the Fellowship through a vote of its membership, the percentage required to disaffiliate shall not exceed the percentage required when the church voted to affiliate.

Section 5. Guidelines for Minimal Membership for General Council Affiliated Assemblies

If a General Council affiliated church is unable to meet any of the criteria for affiliation as set forth in the Constitution, Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, it shall seek the assistance of the district officers for help in maintaining the

BYLAWS

minimal requirement for General Council affiliation. The district may use any means prescribed by its bylaws to assist the church in returning to a position of strength. If the minimal requirements have not been attained, the church shall revert to district affiliated status until the minimal requirements for General Council affiliation have been attained, unless an exception has been granted by the district in accordance with the provisions of General Council Constitution Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (3).

Section 6. New Assemblies

The planting of new churches shall be a priority goal of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Resources at all levels shall be aligned to accomplish this purpose. Initiative for establishing new churches and the oversight of those churches may emanate from local assemblies, sections, and district councils. District presbyteries, sectional committees, or the authorities within a district charged with the responsibility of approving new churches shall not prohibit the planting of new churches unless a compelling reason exists. If it is determined that a compelling reason exists, a minister or local church desiring to plant the church shall have the right to appeal to their district presbytery or authorities within a district charged with the responsibility of approving new churches, and the decision of the district may be appealed to the General Council Executive Presbytery, whose decision shall be final.

Section 7. Assemblies Resulting from a Division

a. Status of assembly. 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. Status of minister. Circumstances in each case will 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 inappropriate conduct resulting in a division, the district presbytery shall deal appropriately with the minister as provided in Article X, Section 3, of the Bylaws.

Section 8. Transfer of Local Church Membership

a. Letter of introduction. It is recommended that members request a letter of introduction from the church of which they are a member to be sent by mail to the church with which they desire to affiliate.

b. Acknowledgment of transfer. It is recommended that the receiving church shall give an acknowledgment of transfer to the former church.

ARTICLE VII. MINISTRY

Section 1. Ministry Described

Christ's gifts to the Church include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11), exhorters, administrators, leaders, and helpers (Romans 12:7-8). We understand God's call to these ministry gifts is

totally within His sovereign discretion without regard to gender, race, disability, or national origin.

Three classifications of ministry are recognized and transferable among all Assemblies of God districts: the ordained minister, the licensed minister, and the certified minister.

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

A fourth classification of ministry, a local church credential, may be provided by a local General Council affiliated church under basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines adopted by the district council. The local church credential shall be nontransferable (limited to the issuing local church) and shall be limited to two (2) years, unless the credential is solely required for 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.

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

Section 2. Basic Qualifications

The following qualifications pertain to all applicants for ministerial recognition:

a. Salvation. Testimony to having experienced the new birth (John 3:5).

b. Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Testimony to having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues according to Acts 2:4. The Spirit-filled life will enable a minister to fulfill the fourfold mission of the church (Constitution, Article V, paragraph 10).

c. Evidence of call. Clear evidence of a divine call to the ministry, evidenced by a personal conviction, confirmed by the work of the Spirit and the testimony of fellow ministers.

d. Christian character. A blameless Christian life and a good report of those who are without (Titus 1:7; 1 Timothy 3:7).

e. Doctrinal position. A thorough understanding of and agreement with our doctrinal position as contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.

f. Assemblies of God polity. A satisfactory working knowledge of the principles, practices, and purposes of the Fellowship through a study of the General Council and district council Constitution and Bylaws.

g. Voluntary cooperation and commitment to the Fellowship. An active loyalty to our constitutional agreements, a cooperative spirit, and a readiness to seek and receive the counsel of older mature Christians and those in positions of authority.

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

BYLAWS

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

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

h. Basic education requirements. No specific level of formal academic achievement (diploma or degree) shall be a requirement for credentials; credential applicants shall meet the following criteria:

- (1) All applicants are required to be interviewed by the district credentials committee and, in preparation for the interview, pass a standard exam approved by the General Presbytery whereby they demonstrate knowledge of the Bible, Assemblies of God doctrines, and ministerial practices, unless an exception is granted by the General Council Credentials Committee or permitted by General Presbytery policy; and either
- (2) Successfully complete equivalent training to that indicated in paragraph (3) below, preferably, in an endorsed Assemblies of God postsecondary school; or in a seminary, college, Bible college, or school approved by the district credentials committee consistent with criteria established by the General Council Credentials Committee; or
- (3) Successfully complete courses, prescribed by the General Presbytery, offered in correspondence through Global University of the Assemblies of God, or pass the final examinations in the prescribed courses; or
- (4) Be recommended by a district credentials committee as qualifying for credentials through self-study and ministerial experience. Such candidates shall have a proven and fruitful ministry of substantial duration. Requests from a district for such a candidate shall be presented to the General Council Credentials Committee and may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

i. Mandatory screening. All applicants for ministerial credentials shall be screened through a designated screening agency established by the Executive Presbytery. Said screening shall be done by the district council prior to the submission of the application to the office of the general secretary.

j. Marriage status. We disapprove of any married persons holding ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God if either marriage partner has a former spouse living, unless the divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10–15), or in the case of domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (Psalms 11:5; 146:5–9; Proverbs 6:16; Isaiah 1:16–17; Ephesians 4:1–3, 31–32; Ephesians 5), except as hereinafter provided.

k. Ecclesiastical annulments and marriage dissolutions. The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant qualifies for an ecclesiastical annulment. In such cases there must be clear and satisfactory evidence of deception, fraud, or other conditions which have a profound impact preventing the creation of a valid marriage union, unknown at the time of marriage by the applicant. The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant qualifies regarding a former marriage when the termination of that marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the Fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials; or if a former marriage ended prior to conversion. In those cases involving preconversion divorce they shall be decided on an individual basis just as those that deal with ecclesiastical annulments. Appeals from the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the General Presbytery.

l. Eligibility of women. The Scriptures plainly teach that divinely called and qualified women may also serve the church in the ministry of the Word (Joel 2:29; Acts 21:9; 1 Corinthians 11:5). Women who meet the qualifications for ministerial credentials are eligible for whatever grade of credentials their qualifications warrant and have the right to administer the ordinances of the church and are eligible to serve in all levels of church ministry, and/or district and General Council leadership.

m. Ministers from other organizations. If a minister from another reputable body desires to affiliate with the Assemblies of God, the credentials committees of both the General Council and the district councils are under no obligation to accept the applicant's previous ministerial status, but will judge each candidate on his or her own merits as to the level of credentials to be granted. Such applicants shall be required to:

- (1) Conform to Assemblies of God criteria for recognition.
- (2) Complete an application for ministerial recognition.
- (3) Submit a letter of recommendation from a neighboring Assemblies of God minister or the sectional presbyter for the applicant's area.
- (4) Submit a recommendation from the body with which the minister was formerly affiliated. If such is not available, letters of recommendation should be sought from three reputable ordained ministers who are familiar with the applicant's ministry, two of whom should be with the applicant's former credentialing body.
- (5) Pass the credential examination.
- (6) Complete such courses as may be prescribed by the General Presbytery for ministers transferring from other credentialing bodies.
- (7) Meet with the district credentials committee for an oral interview.
- (8) Be recommended by the district credentials committee for action by the General Council Credentials Committee.
- (9) All previously ordained ministers so approved shall receive recognition as ordained Assemblies of God ministers with the laying on of hands by the district presbytery. All other

applicants so approved shall receive the appropriate level of credential recognition.

- (10) Ministers who receive Assemblies of God credentials shall relinquish their ministerial credentials with any other credentialing organization, unless an exception is granted by the General Council Credentials Committee upon recommendation of a district council credentials committee for good cause shown and a clear understanding of the priority of the Assemblies of God credential.

Section 3. Specific Qualifications

a. Residency requirements of applicants. Applicants for all credentials must be residents of or hold credentials in the district where they make application and appear before its credentials committee.

b. Local church credential. A local church credential shall be administered by the local church pursuant to basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines adopted by the district council. It shall be nontransferable (limited to the issuing local church).

c. Certified minister.

- (1) *General requirements.* They shall show promise of usefulness in the gospel work. They shall devote full or part time to Christian ministry and, at the discretion of the district credentials committees, may remain under the supervision of a pastor or a ministry coach or mentor. They shall show evidence of a divine call and be actively engaged in some aspect of ministry and proclamation of the gospel, except in case of ill health or advanced age.
- (2) *Pastoral requirements.* In the event a certified minister is serving in a position as the pastor, he or she shall be expected to advance to the ministry license level within two (2) years of acceptance of the pastorate. This shall not apply to any minister who has reached the age of sixty-five (65) or older, or whose certificate has been issued on a provisional basis. Any exceptions shall be at the discretion of the district credentials committee.
- (3) *Exception for provisional issuance.* A Certificate of Ministry may be issued on a provisional basis to a person who has not met all the credentialing requirements but who is deemed by the district credentials committee to be essential to the continuity of a church or a ministry. The reason for such a provisional issuance must be ministry driven, and the justification for its use is terminated when the minister ceases to be involved in the ministry for which it was initially granted unless the minister accepts another qualifying assignment. Other limitations are:
 - (a) The ministry certificate on a provisional basis will be issued for one (1) year and shall not be renewed more than two times.
 - (b) A person who has been granted the Certificate of Ministry on a provisional basis must meet the

qualifications for a ministry certificate within a three-year period.

d. Licensed minister. Qualifications for license shall include clear evidence of a divine call, character and preparation suitable for that calling, practical ministry experience, and an evident purpose to devote one's life in service to the proclamation of the gospel.

e. Ordained minister. Qualifications for ordination are outlined in the New Testament (1 Timothy 3:1–7; Titus 1:7–9). In addition:

- (1) Applicants must be twenty-three (23) years of age or older.
- (2) They must have met all the requirements in making application and in completing the prescribed application form.
- (3) No person may be ordained to the ministry until he or she has shown evidence of a divine call and has held a ministry license and has been actively engaged in ministry and proclamation of the gospel for at least two (2) full consecutive years immediately prior thereto.
- (4) *Residency requirements of applicants.* Applicants must be residents of or hold credentials in the district where they make application and appear before its credentials committee. District councils are required to refrain from approving any applicant for ordination who may have been licensed in another district, until such licensed minister shall have been a member of the district in which he or she is seeking ordination at least one (1) year. Applicants who have not been a member of the district where they apply for ordination for two (2) full consecutive years must meet the requirements and secure the endorsement of the officers of the district in which they were previously licensed, as well as the district of their residence.
- (5) *Exceptions to requirements.* The General Council Credentials Committee, upon request by a district credentials committee and where exceptional circumstances exist, may waive the requirements for an applicant holding a ministry license for two (2) full consecutive years or being a member of the district in which he or she is seeking ordination for at least one (1) year.
- (6) In order to maintain active status, ordained ministers shall be engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel except for cases of disability, retirement, or other valid circumstances as determined by the general secretary.

Section 4. Action of Credentials Committee

The General Council Credentials Committee delegates to the district councils the authority to examine, approve, and recommend candidates who qualify as certified ministers, licensed ministers, and ordained ministers. Final approval and issuance of the ministerial credential shall be made by the General Council Credentials Committee. All ordination services, with the laying on of hands, shall take place under the auspices of the district councils.

Section 5. Certificates

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 candidates.

Section 6. Official List

a. Active ministers. The official list of all credential holders shall be compiled by the General Council Credentials Committee and published for the convenience of the Fellowship, with the understanding it is not to be used for purposes of solicitation. This official list shall be revised annually and shall contain the names of those who are engaged in active ministry and whose credentials have been renewed by the issuance of a fellowship card for the current year.

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

Section 7. Senior-Retired Ministers

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

a. Application for retired category. Senior-retired status shall be granted only to those ministers who filed a request for such status with their district office. The district secretary shall forward annually to the general secretary a list of those ministers who have made these requests.

b. Guidelines

(1) *Reports.* Senior-retired ministers shall file an abbreviated credential renewal to maintain a correct mailing address.

(2) *Designation in publications.* Senior-retired ministers shall have this status indicated in the *Official List of Assemblies of God Ministers*.

(3) *Support of General Council national office.* Senior-retired ministers shall be free to distribute as they desire the portion of their tithes previously paid to the General Council.

c. Aged Ministers Assistance. It is recommended that all Assemblies of God churches contribute regularly to provide assistance to aged ministers who are in need of financial assistance. Assistance shall be made available to ordained ministers of the Assemblies of God and to their surviving spouse, because of age or physical infirmity, and for whom no other means of support is available. Eligibility shall be determined on the following basis:

(1) *Ministerial requirement.* The applicant shall have been an ordained minister in good standing and have held credentials for at least ten (10) years immediately prior to retirement.

(2) *Age requirement.* The applicant shall have reached the age of sixty-five (65) in the case of an ordained minister, or sixty (60) in the case of a spouse of a minister.

(3) *Disability requirement.* Ministers who have been disabled to the extent that they cannot perform their ministerial duties shall also be eligible to make application.

(4) *Financial cooperation requirement.* The record of the applicant shall indicate that he or she has complied with the approved financial plans of the district council and The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

(5) *District endorsement requirement.* Unqualified endorsement must be given by the district officers.

d. Limitations of this Section 7

(1) *For General Council usage only.* The definitions and decisions included in Section 7 apply only to General Council usage and are not binding upon the various districts, nor to the official legislation under which their members serve.

(2) *Other financial responsibility not circumvented.* No part of Section 7 is intended to modify the responsibility of ministers to their districts nor to terminate the biblical responsibility for tithing.

Section 8. Ministerial Relations

a. Amenability. All certified, licensed, and ordained ministers shall be amenable to both the district council and The General Council of the Assemblies of God in matters of doctrine and discipline. (See Bylaws, Article X.) All local church credential holders shall be amenable to their local church under guidelines established by the General Presbytery and district council in matters of doctrine and discipline. (See Bylaws, Article VII, Section 1.)

b. Affiliation with district of residence. All credential holders shall be expected to affiliate with the district council within the boundaries of which they reside and work in cooperation with the same.

(1) *Exception.* Ministers who reside in one district but pastor or serve on the staff of a church located in another district shall be required to be a member of the district in which the church is located.

(2) *Nationally appointed U.S. missionaries.* Nationally appointed U.S. missionaries shall become members of the district in which they serve and shall be listed on the ministerial roster of that district by the office of the general secretary. They may also retain honorary membership in their home district, be listed as a missionary under national appointment in the home district's directory, and be extended voice and vote in their home district while on official furlough.

(3) *Church-planting ministries.* Ministers who serve in a transdistrict ministry related to church-planting efforts may do so provided:

(a) They have a scope of ministry which reaches beyond district boundaries; and

(b) Both districts agree to the assignment; and

(c) If the assignment involves a language group, they follow the guidelines provided by the Executive Presbytery of the General Council and adhere to these Bylaws governing interdistrict relations. (See Bylaws, Article V, Section 6.)

Church planters holding credentials may obtain affiliation with the district they intend to serve and retain honorary membership in their home district, be listed in the home district's directory, and be extended

BYLAWS

voice and vote in their home district for such time as they serve in another district. The financial responsibilities shall be the same as those of a nationally appointed U.S. missionary. [See Bylaws, Article VII, Section 8, paragraph c, subparagraph (3).]

(4) *Appeal of credential affiliation.* If an agreement cannot be achieved between districts as to the credential affiliation of ministers involved in transdistrict ministry, one or both districts shall have the right of appeal to the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution (Article XI).

c. Cooperation with other districts. Ministers shall be expected to cooperate with other district councils in which they may labor temporarily. It is recommended as a standard of proper practice that all ministers conform to the financial policy of the district with which they are affiliated with the following exceptions:

(1) *Financial responsibility of world missionaries.* World missionaries will be obligated to pay twenty-five dollars (\$25) per month to their home district when resident in the U.S. and ten dollars (\$10) per month when resident on their fields.

(2) *Financial responsibility of chaplains.* All chaplains, military and institutional, will be obligated to their home district in the amount of 10 percent (10%) of their tithes from income earned from the chaplaincy. All chaplains are also encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the district in which they fulfill their assignments.

(3) *Financial responsibility of others.* Nationally appointed or approved U.S. missionaries and dual district church planters shall contribute 25 percent (25%) of their tithe to their member district where they serve and 25 percent (25%) of their tithe to their home district if they are listed as honorary members. Missionaries who minister in their home district shall contribute a minimum of 50 percent (50%) of their tithe to that district. [See Bylaws, Article VII, Section 8, paragraph b, subparagraph (3).]

d. Assemblies of God World Missions regional credentials validation. Credentialed ministers working and residing outside the United States, not under the auspices of Assemblies of God World Missions, are required to communicate their residency and ministry status to the appropriate Assemblies of God World Missions regional director for the purpose of credentials renewal. Their credentialing district shall also instruct said minister to do so as a prerequisite to credentials renewal. If credentialed ministers who are working and residing outside the United States fail to contact the appropriate Assemblies of God World Missions regional director prior to credentials renewal, and are unknown to Assemblies of God World Missions leadership, their credential will not be renewed.

Section 9. Transfer of Credentials

a. Certificate of transfer. When a member minister takes up residence in another district, a certificate of transfer shall be issued within sixty (60) days by the district of which he or she is a member, unless there are charges pending against the minister. The certificate of transfer shall be accepted by the district into which the minister moves. Exceptions may be made for the following:

(1) Ministers and the minister's credentialed spouse moving to serve at the Assemblies of God national office and/or affiliated entities.

(2) Those who have attained the age of sixty (60) and are no longer engaged in active ministry and those who have attained the age of sixty-five (65) and are not pastoring a church.

(3) Those who are in the armed forces currently on active duty.

(4) Those who are serving on the staffs of schools affiliated with the General Council and district council or nonaffiliated schools acceptable to the General Council and the district council in which the school is located.

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

(6) Ministers having membership in one district and a mailing address only in another district.

(7) Students in schools outside their home districts.

(8) Those who are serving in a non-Assemblies of God institution providing:

(a) They have a regular scope of ministry which reaches beyond district boundaries.

(b) Both districts agree to the exception.

(c) The institution is acceptable to both districts.

(9) Church planters involved in transdistrict ministry.

b. Transfers from Assemblies of God World Fellowship. A minister holding ordination (or equivalent) with a member group of the Assemblies of God World Fellowship may transfer his or her ordination to The General Council of the Assemblies of God if the following criteria are met:

(1) A letter of recommendation from the executive committee of the national church or equivalent letter of recommendation.

(2) Completion of two courses, one on the history and polity of the U.S. church and one on the Spirit-empowered church.

(3) A completed ministerial application.

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

d. Transfers between language/ethnic districts and geographical districts. Credential holders from language/ethnic districts may transfer to geographical districts and credential holders from geographical districts may transfer to language/ethnic districts provided the credential holder is serving as a pastor or staff member of a church in the district that the credential holder desires to transfer to. In instances where the credential holder is not a pastor or staff member of a church in the district to which the credential holder is transferring, both districts shall agree to the transfer. Credential holders must settle their district financial obligations before transfers are granted. The credential holder shall have a right of appeal to the General Council Credentials Committee in the event either district recommends denial of the transfer.

Section 10. Credential Renewals and Reinstatements

a. Terminology

(1) *Renewed.* The term *renewed* shall apply to all ministers who have met the annual deadline for renewal including those who are delinquent but who renew by January 15.

BYLAWS

(2) *Reinstated.* The term *reinstated* shall apply to the persons whose names have been deleted from the official ministerial list, who upon application are approved for restoration of credentials.

b. Expiration date. All fellowship certificates are valid only until December 31 of each year and must be renewed annually. The renewing of credentials is the responsibility of the individual minister. Ministers who do not receive an annual renewal form by December 1 should notify their district office.

c. Grace period until January 15. All who have not renewed their fellowship certificates postmarked on or before December 31 shall be considered delinquent. They shall be required to pay a late fee of fifty dollars (\$50) up until January 15, to be divided equally between the district and General Council.

d. Reinstatement of lapsed minister. Ministers whose renewal applications are not postmarked by January 15 shall be recorded as lapsed as of December 31. They must make application for reinstatement and pay a nonrefundable fee of one hundred dollars (\$100), to be divided equally between the district and the General Council. These ministers shall not be subject to the minimal time lapse required of those whose credentials have been terminated for other causes.

e. Reinstatement of other than dismissed minister. When a minister who is a member of our Fellowship is removed from our rolls for any cause, except failure to renew and dismissal, and shall apply for reinstatement, he or she shall not be eligible for reinstatement until at least six (6) months have elapsed after his or her name has been stricken from our list of ministers. The application must be made in the district where the minister resides and be accompanied with a nonrefundable fee of one hundred dollars (\$100) to be divided between the district and the General Council. (See Bylaws, Article X, Section 12, paragraph b, for reinstatement of dismissed minister.)

The district of residence shall seek a letter of clearance from the district that processed the termination and, upon receipt of the clearance, may add its endorsement and forward the application, together with the letter of clearance, to the General Council Credentials Committee for its action.

f. Support of the national office. 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 missions fields, incurs considerable expense, including the financial support of the executive officers and offices.

Ordained ministers should recognize their obligation to contribute \$25 per month (\$300 per year) from their tithes, or as an offering. Licensed ministers should contribute \$20 per month (\$240 per year) from their tithes or as an offering; and certified ministers should contribute \$10 per month (\$120 per year) from their tithes or as an offering. All who can are strongly urged to give more than the suggested amount, either personally or through the assemblies they pastor.

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

Section 11. Nondisciplinary Credential Terminations

a. On the initiative of the minister.

(1) *Lapsed.* Ministers who do not renew their credentials shall be listed as lapsed, provided there is no cause for disciplinary action. Their

names shall be published as lapsed in the *Assemblies of God Ministers Letter*, hereinafter referred to as the ministers letter, or disseminated electronically to ministers only.

(2) *Resigned*. Ministers who elect to remove themselves from the Fellowship shall submit a letter of resignation to the district with which they are affiliated. If there is no cause for disciplinary action, their resignation shall become effective after having been approved by both the district council and General Council credentials committees. Their termination shall be listed as resigned in the ministers letter or disseminated electronically to ministers only.

b. On the initiative of the district. (See Article X, Section 4.)

Not renewed. If in the opinion of the credentials committee a minister's credentials should not be renewed short of disciplinary action, the minister's name shall be published as not renewed in the ministers letter or disseminated electronically to ministers only.

c. As a result of affiliation with another church organization. In the event a minister shall identify with another organization granting ministerial credentials, and shall have received such credentials, his or her credentials with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be terminated. An investigation shall be made to determine the proper category of termination.

d. Surrender of credentials. In all cases the minister shall be requested to surrender his or her credential (Certificate of Ordination, Ministry License, Certificate of Ministry) and current fellowship card to the district office. The district shall forward these to the office of the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Refusal to surrender his or her credential and current fellowship card shall be considered insubordination and may result in placing a charge against the minister.

Section 12. Ministerial Status Changes

All changes in a minister's status are to be reported immediately to his or her district office, which in turn is to report this information to the office of the general secretary of the General Council, on the Ministerial Status Report form provided by that office.

Section 13. Transfer of Information

The general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and any district officer, may share information in a minister's file that pertains to the minister's fitness for ministry with any other district officer. The term "minister's file" includes files maintained for both credentialed ministers and applicants for ministerial credentials. This provision shall also apply to designees of the general secretary or district officer.

Section 14. 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, to prevent the commission of a crime, or if required by law.

Section 15. Integrity in Educational Credentials

a. Continuing education encouraged. Our ministers and churches are encouraged to seek continuing education, discipleship, spiritual formation, and training opportunities of all kinds, of all degrees of difficulty, of their own initiative or in cooperation with the district council and the General Council, but with great care always taken to properly understand and honestly describe all such training, certifications, degrees, and titles.

b. Using adequately accredited institutions. Because of the many questionable institutions offering unaccredited or deficient training and education, and since the General Council, our General Council schools, and our regional Assemblies of God universities are committed to achieving and maintaining the highest standards of accreditation in education, we strongly encourage our ministers to meet their continuing education needs either through endorsed Assemblies of God institutions or through other reputable institutions having accreditation status at least equivalent to that held by our own regionally and nationally accredited schools, and to consult the district council or General Council offices if they have questions in these matters.

ARTICLE VIII. CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Section 1. Christian Marriage

Marriage was established by God in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:18, 21–25) and confirmed by Jesus Christ to be a permanent relationship between a man and a woman (Matthew 19:4–6). Because marriage is not only a commitment to a spouse, but also to God (Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:9; Ephesians 5:31), a believer should marry only another believer (2 Corinthians 6:14). Christian marriage is a reflection of the love, purity, and permanence between Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:23–33).

Even though some marriages may fall short of the biblical ideal (see Bylaws Article IX, B, Section 5), husbands and wives who devote themselves to God (Ephesians 5:21) and find nurture and instruction in the body of Christ (Hebrews 10:25) can realize the strength and blessing of God in their relationship.

Section 2. Children

Children “are a heritage from the Lord”; therefore, rearing them is to be treated as a sacred trust. God’s strength and wisdom are available on a daily basis in order to bring up children to love and obey God (Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4).

ARTICLE IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED

A. COMMISSION ON DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES

a. Authorization and purpose. A Commission on Doctrines and Practices shall be established for the purpose of giving careful attention to preventing deviations from the Statement of Fundamental Truths and proliferation of unscriptural teachings. The commission shall receive its assignments from and make its reports to the Executive Presbytery.

b. Appointments and terms of office. The commission shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and shall consist of ten (10) members representing, insofar as possible, the area divisions of the Assemblies of God. Members shall be recognized authorities in biblical knowledge. Their terms of office shall be for four (4) years.

c. Vacancies and terminations. The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to declare the office of any commission member vacant should it deem such action advisable. A decision to declare a vacancy and to fill such vacancy may be made at any meeting of the Executive Presbytery.

B. LIST OF DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED

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

Section 1. Unconditional Security

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

Section 2. Legalism

a. Matters of conscience. The Assemblies of God strongly affirms that the Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). However, since sincere commitment to holy living sometimes results in sharp differences of opinion among believers on debatable 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).

Section 3. Eschatological Errors

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

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

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

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

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

Section 4. Membership in Secret Orders

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

The nature of such organizations demands secrecy (John 18:20; Acts 26:26) reinforced by religious oaths (Matthew 5:34) and strong attachment by binding obligations to persons who are for the most part 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 Assemblies of God should refrain from identifying themselves with any of the secret orders that the General Council recognizes as essentially of the world, worldly; and the General Council advises any who may have identified themselves with such orders to sever their connections with them (2 Corinthians 6:17). Furthermore, Assemblies of God ministers are requested to use their good influence among our lay members to dissuade them from such fraternal affiliations (1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:24–26).

Section 5. Divorce and Remarriage

a. Membership

(1) *Marriage entanglements before conversion.* There are now among Christian people those who became entangled in their marriage

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

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

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

c. Local church leadership

(1) *Standard for offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon.* Since the New Testament restricts divorced and remarried believers from the church offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon, we recommend that this standard be upheld by all our assemblies (Titus 1:5–9; 1 Timothy 3:12), except when the divorce occurred prior to conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17) or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9) or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10–15) or in the case of domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (Psalms 11:5; 146:5–9; Proverbs 6:16; Isaiah 1:16–17; Ephesians 4:1–3, 31–32; Ephesians 5).

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

d. Performing marriage ceremonies

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

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

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

(4) *Counsel.* An Assemblies of God minister is urged to counsel applicants for marriage ceremonies with scriptural guidelines for

BYLAWS

Christian marriage prior to performing the ceremony. A minister may not perform ceremonies for persons who, in the minister's opinion, approach marriage without proper forethought, wisdom, and sobriety.

e. Ministerial credentials. We disapprove of any married minister of the Assemblies of God holding credentials if either minister or spouse has a former spouse living unless the divorce occurred prior to conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17) or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9) or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10–15) or in the case of domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (Psalms 11:5; 146:5–9; Proverbs 6:16; Isaiah 1:16–17; Ephesians 4:1–3, 31–32; Ephesians 5). (See also Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2, paragraphs j and k.)

Section 6. Worldliness

In view of the alarming erosion of national moral standards, we reaffirm our intention of holding up 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 Scriptures warn against participation in activity that defiles the body, or corrupts the mind and spirit; the inordinate love of or preoccupation with pleasures, position, or possessions, which lead to their misuse; manifestation of extreme behavior, unbecoming speech, or inappropriate appearance; any fascination or association which lessens one's affection for spiritual things (Luke 21:34–35; Romans 8:5–8; 12:1–2; 2 Corinthians 6:14–18; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 2:8–10; 4:12; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15–17; Titus 2:12).

Section 7. Abuses of Stewardship

a. Tithing

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

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

b. Solicitation of funds

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

(2) The purpose of this section is not to hinder or discourage legitimate projects but to protect the Fellowship from those who employ methods not in harmony with Assemblies of God principles or policies.

Leaders in local projects shall have unquestioned freedom in local churches or communities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 8. Violations of Ministerial Courtesy

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

Any minister who so offends shall be subject to discipline.

Section 9. Ministry in a Non-Assemblies of God Church

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

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

We recommend therefore that our ministers confer with district council officials before engaging in ministry in any church group or organization not affiliated with the Assemblies of God so as to ascertain whether such ministry might result in confusion or misunderstandings. If the minister does not have

BYLAWS

district approval, he or she shall be expected to refrain from conducting services for the church. Ministers who violate this principle shall be subject to discipline.

Section 10. An Improper Attitude toward Those Removed from the Fellowship

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

Section 11. Interdenominational or Ecumenical Relationships

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

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

Section 12. Divine Healing and Professional Medicine

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

Section 13. Accountability in Educational Attribution

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

(1) *Attribution by ministers.* Our ministers shall refrain from listing, promoting, or attributing to themselves or others any degrees or titles conferred by institutions or organizations having, at the time of conferral, a formal accreditation status less than that of our appropriately corresponding Assemblies of God institutions (whether our institute, regional university, or seminary levels).

(2) *Attribution by the General Council.* No media, ministry, department, arm, or employee of the General Council shall list, attribute, or promote for any person, any degree or title conferred by an institution or organization having, at the time of conferral, a formal accreditations status less than that of our appropriately corresponding Assemblies of God institutions (whether our institute, regional university, or seminary levels).

(3) *Attribution by local churches.* We strongly encourage our ministers, boards, and churches to take great care to ensure that all ministers and church employees have actually earned the legitimately accredited education, training, and certification, as defined above, which they claim by their titles or degrees (such as counselor, therapist, doctor, and so on).

(4) *Attribution accepted.* All previously earned or conferred degrees prior to August 2007, from any institution whatsoever shall be fully accepted and grandfathered in.

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

Section 14. Substance Usage

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

ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE

Section 1. The Nature and Purposes of Discipline

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

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. The Relationship between the District and General Council Credentials Committees

The Executive Presbytery of the General Council is the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God (Constitution, Article X, Sections 4 and 6). It shall have the final authority in matters of doctrine and qualifications for ministry as described in Article VII of the General Council Bylaws. District actions related to the termination of credentials or the remedial discipline of restoration are to be in the form of recommendations to the General Council Credentials Committee. All references to the discipline of ministers within this article of the Bylaws relate solely to certified, licensed, and ordained ministers.

Section 3. Causes of Disciplinary Action

Violations of Assemblies of God principles as stated in these Constitution and Bylaws may give cause for disciplinary action by the credentials committees. Among such causes for action, whether committed in person or digitally, shall be:

a. Sexual Misconduct

- (1) Moral transgression involving sexual misconduct
- (2) Moral transgression involving pornography

BYLAWS

b. Financial Misconduct

- (1) Immoral, unethical, or illegal practices related to personal finances
- (2) Immoral, unethical, or illegal practices related to church or ministry finances

c. Relational/Ethical Misconduct

- (1) Blatant misrepresentation of our Pentecostal testimony
- (2) A declared open change in doctrinal views
- (3) A contentious or noncooperative spirit
- (4) An assumption of dictatorial authority over an assembly
- (5) An arbitrary rejection of counsel from district leadership
- (6) Violations of ministerial courtesy or ethics (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 8.)
- (7) An improper attitude toward those dismissed from the Fellowship (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 10.)
- (8) General inefficiency in the ministry
- (9) Moral or ethical transgression other than sexual misconduct
- (10) Ministry in a non-Assemblies of God church without proper approval from district leadership (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 9.)
- (11) A marriage in violation of our standards for either a recognized divorce or a biblical marriage (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraphs d and e.)

d. Substance Use and Abuse

Violations of General Council Bylaws Article IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, Paragraph B, Section 14. Substance Usage, including:

- (1) Use or abuse of alcohol or recreational drugs
- (2) Abuse or addiction involving other legal substances
- (3) Use, abuse, or addiction involving other illegal substances

Notwithstanding the above, when more than seven (7) years have elapsed from an occurrence that is cause for disciplinary action, a district credentials committee may recommend to the General Council Credentials Committee that no discipline be administered when, in view of all the circumstances, it would appear that such discipline would serve only as punitive in nature rather than restorative. In all such cases, final determination shall be made by the General Council Credentials Committee.

Section 4. Right of Initiative

a. Authority. Occasions sometimes arise which make it necessary to deal with ministers who for some reason seem to have reached the place where, in the opinion of the leaders, endorsement can no longer be given. Credentials committees which have the authority to ordain ministers and to recommend them for credentials also have the right to withdraw their approval and to recommend the recall of credentials.

b. Prior right of district. The officers of the district in which an alleged offense is reported to have occurred shall be recognized as having the prior right of initiative in matters of discipline.

c. Responsibility of district of affiliation. If the district in which an alleged offense is reported to have occurred for some reason cannot take action,

the General Council Credentials Committee shall refer the matter, together with the facts and supporting instruments, to the district with which the minister is affiliated.

d. Responsibility of General Council Credentials Committee. In the event a district fails to take action within ninety (90) days after a matter has been referred to it, it shall be the responsibility of the General Council Credentials Committee to see that action is initiated.

Section 5. Investigation of Reports or Complaints of Alleged Violations or Confessions of Violations of Assemblies of God Principles

a. Within the districts of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Reports or complaints of alleged violations of Assemblies of God principles (Bylaws, Article X, Section 3) or confessions of such by a minister shall be investigated. The superintendent of the district in which the alleged offense is reported to have occurred, or an appointed representative, shall conduct the investigation to determine their source and validity. It is the responsibility of the district superintendent to safeguard the church, the minister, the district, and the Fellowship. In the event such reports or complaints against a minister are filed with the General Council Credentials Committee, they shall be referred to the district in which the offense occurred for investigation. A copy shall be sent to the district with which the minister is affiliated.

(1) *Interview with complainants.* The persons involved shall be interviewed to ascertain the facts in the case and the reasons underlying the persistence of the reports or complaints.

(2) *Interview with accused minister.* The accused minister shall be given an opportunity to be interviewed to discuss the complaints received in the hope that the matter can be resolved.

(3) *Signed complaints.* In the event the investigation so warrants, a signed complaint shall be filed with the district office by each complainant describing the alleged offense.

(4) *Conditions for ministry during investigation.* Conditions of continuing ministry may be subject to restriction during the time of investigation at the discretion of the appropriate district officers on the basis of evidence at hand and the nature of the alleged offense. Such conditions are subject to review in three-month intervals until such investigation has been completed resulting in either clearing the person of the allegations or filing formal charges.

b. Outside the United States. In case the alleged misconduct occurs outside the United States in an area under the general oversight of Assemblies of God World Missions, that division shall take the initiative to file complete data with the district of the minister's affiliation. Any hearing or trial affecting that individual's ministerial credentials shall be held in the district of the minister's affiliation. Assemblies of God World Missions shall convey all information available to the said district as follows:

(1) *Report to district of affiliation.* At the earliest date after Assemblies of God World Missions receives a report of misconduct, such report shall be conveyed by telephone and by letter to the superintendent of the district with which the minister is affiliated.

(2) *Confidential file.* A confidential file shall be submitted to the superintendent, conveying all information as it becomes available to the

BYLAWS

division. A final complete file shall be prepared under the direction of the field director of the field involved and shall be presented to the district superintendent for use in any action the district may take.

(3) *Additional information.* When in the judgment of Assemblies of God World Missions or the district involved, basic information is lacking (which information may be available at the site of the alleged misconduct), arrangements may be made for the gathering of such.

Section 6. Preparation and Filing of Charges

If after due investigation it is determined that charges should be made, proper charges shall be prepared and filed in the district office. If no one appears to sign the charges, the district officers making the investigation may file charges based on the evidence in their possession. The person against whom charges have been filed shall be informed in writing by certified mail, at the last address furnished to the district, of the charges made in keeping with Bylaws, Article X, Section 3.

Section 7. District Hearing and Discipline

a. District hearing. In the event the reports or complaints cannot be dealt with privately to the satisfaction of all concerned, the superintendent of the district in which the alleged offense is said to have occurred, or the superintendent of the district with which the minister is affiliated, shall arrange for a hearing by the district credentials committee for the accused minister. The minister shall be required to appear at the hearing in the hope the matter can be resolved.

b. Forfeiture of rights of accused. A hearing shall not be considered as final disposition of the case until the accused be present and be allowed all rights and privileges granted herein. However, an accused member may be found guilty of charges and disciplined for failure to appear at the hearing, or if proof is found of willful neglect to take advantage of rights and privileges provided in these Bylaws.

c. Discipline.

(1) *Cause for discipline.* A minister who has been found guilty of violating any of the Assemblies of God principles set forth in Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, either by a confession of the minister involved or by deliberation of the district presbytery, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

(2) *Determination of discipline.* It shall be the responsibility of the credentials committees to determine whether the circumstances of the case merit restoration or dismissal. The credentials committees shall weigh decisions on: (a) the basis of the offense itself, (b) the manner and thoroughness of repentance, (c) the attitude of the offending minister toward the discipline, and (d) the willingness manifested to cooperate.

(3) *Administering discipline redemptively.* If the district determines that guilt has been established, discipline shall be administered prayerfully and in the fear of God, in accordance with the Scriptures, and as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of this ecclesiastical body (Bylaws, Article X, Sections 8 and 9).

d. Surrender of credentials. Disciplined ministers shall be required to surrender their ministerial credentials and their current fellowship card to the district office. In the event of restoration the credentials shall be held in the

district office. In the event of dismissal the district shall forward the credentials to the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Refusal to surrender ministerial credentials and current fellowship card may result in placing an additional charge against the minister.

Section 8. Restoration

Recognizing that the underlying principle involved in discipline is redemptive, and that man's conscience frequently brings him to judgment and confession, and that justice can sometimes be best served with mercy, an effort should be made to lead the offending minister through a program of restoration, administered in love and kindness. The following provisions for restoration shall apply.

a. Basis. Those found to have violated any of the Assemblies of God principles (Bylaws, Article X, Section 3) may request a program of restoration as an alternative to dismissal. Restoration is a privilege granted out of mercy and not a right to be expected or demanded. The primary purpose is to restore a person to God, spouse, and family, with the results leading to possible restoration to ministry. Granting such request shall be at the discretion of the district and General Council credentials committees.

b. Procedure and requirements. The following procedure shall be used by the district presbytery in determining the specific requirements for restoration for the individual minister.

(1) *Restoration requirements.* The specific terms and conditions of the restoration program as recommended by the district credentials committee are to be forwarded to the General Council Credentials Committee for approval. After such approval they shall be given to the minister.

(a) *Suspension.* The minister shall be considered to be under suspension during the entire period of restoration.

(b) *Terms and Conditions.*

(1) *Period of time.* The program for restoration shall continue for not less than one (1) year except when the violation involves misconduct defined in Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, paragraph a, subparagraph (1), in which case it shall continue for not less than two (2) years.

(2) *Authority.* The General Presbytery shall be authorized to establish guidelines and policy in regard to terms and conditions of restoration. Such guidelines and policy shall be consistent with provisions of the Bylaws.

(c) *Extent of ministry.* The extent to which ministry may be permitted, if any, shall be determined by the district presbytery, subject to the approval of the General Council Credentials Committee and compatible with the guidelines and policy established by the General Presbytery.

(d) *District membership.* The minister shall not be permitted to transfer his or her membership to another district during the period of restoration.

(e) *Publication.* While the minister's credentials are in a state of suspension, the minister's name shall not be removed from the ministerial roster, nor shall the minister's disciplinary status be published in print or electronically in either the General Council or district council official publications.

(f) *Credentials renewal.* The minister shall renew his or her credentials annually in the regular manner.

(g) *Supervision.* In the event his or her ministerial activity has been terminated, the minister must become established in a local church working under the supervision of a pastor or presbyter.

(h) *Reports.* The minister must submit reports quarterly to the district superintendent.

(i) *Ministerial benefits.* During the program of restoration, the minister shall continue to be eligible for benefits such as the ministers group insurance and Ministers Benefit Association.

(j) *Program administration.* The approved restoration program shall be administered by the district presbytery.

(2) *District progress reports.* The credentials committee of the district shall submit to the General Council Credentials Committee on February 1 and August 1 of each calendar year a progress report relative to the restoration of ministers under discipline.

(3) *Completion of restoration.* When the restoration program has been satisfactorily completed, the suspension shall be lifted and the minister shall be restored to good standing.

(4) *Transfer of information.* A restoration information form for district use, prepared and distributed by the general secretary, shall be completed by the district in which the restoration occurred when the restored minister requests a transfer to a new district. The completed restoration form shall accompany the Certificate of Transfer to another district. A disciplined minister shall, as a condition of entering a restoration program, sign a Limited Disclosure Agreement approved by the General Presbytery allowing the basis of his or her restoration program to be disclosed by the district superintendent or district secretary of a transferring district. The information shall be preserved for future reference in the files of the district in which the restoration occurred and the General Council.

c. Eligibility of previously dismissed. In the event a minister who has been dismissed requests reinstatement, the district shall first obtain permission from the General Council Credentials Committee before submitting an appropriate restoration program as prescribed in Section 8 of this article. The dismissed minister shall not be eligible for reinstatement until the requirements for restoration have been completed. Consideration may also be given to a minister if in the opinion of the credentials committees he or she has satisfactorily fulfilled the remedial requirements of such restoration.

Section 9. Referral for Action to the General Council Credentials Committee

a. District recommendation.

(1) *Restoration.* When a minister is to be placed in a restoration program in accordance with Section 8 of this article, the district shall forward to the General Council Credentials Committee the specific charges and recommended terms of restoration. The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation.

(2) *Dismissal.* When a minister has been found guilty of violating any of the Assemblies of God principles as set forth in Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, and it is determined that restoration is not feasible or

fails, a minister's credentials are to be terminated by dismissal. The district shall forward to the General Council Credentials Committee the specific charges and its recommendation for dismissal. The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation.

(3) *Subsequent dismissal.* 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.

(4) *Credential absolution.* Should a district where a dismissal occurred determine, after careful investigation, that a dismissed minister has completed remedial restoration followed by faithful service for many years, it may request the General Council Credentials Committee to lift a dismissal and clear the minister's name by changing his or her credential status from dismissed to resigned.

b. General Council Credentials Committee action. The General Council Credentials Committee shall consider the recommendation of the district and shall concur if in its judgment the district was justified in the action taken. If the General Council Credentials Committee does not concur, it may remand the case, together with its recommendations, back to the district for review and reconsideration. The district shall report the results of its recommendation to the General Council Credentials Committee for final disposition.

c. General Council to hold information. All pertinent information relating to the disciplinary action taken against a minister shall be preserved for future reference in the office of the General Council Credentials Committee.

d. Final disposition. The general secretary shall notify the minister and the district(s) involved of the final disposition of the case.

Section 10. Right of Appeal

a. Filing of appeal to the General Council Credentials Committee. The right of appeal applies to all actions of discipline and termination of credentials other than lapsing or resigning on the initiative of the minister. An accused minister shall have thirty (30) days from the date notification of the General Council Credentials Committee's decision was mailed to appeal to the General Council Credentials Committee. The minister shall be apprised officially of this right at the time notification is given to the minister of the decision of the General Council Credentials Committee. The appeal is to be sent to the office of the general superintendent, and should include any new or exculpatory information not previously considered, with copies sent to the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation and any other districts involved.

b. Consideration of appeal by the General Council Credentials Committee. The General Council Credentials Committee may respond to the appeal in one of the following ways:

(1) *Remanding of case to the district.* If in the judgment of the General Council Credentials Committee, justice has not been served, the case shall be remanded to the district presbytery for review and

reconsideration. The district shall report the results of its review to the General Council Credentials Committee for final disposition.

(2) *Denial of appeal.*

(a) *Forfeiture of right of appeal.* No appeal shall be granted by remanding the case to the district presbytery if proof is found of willful neglect on the part of the accused to take advantage of available rights and privileges during the district hearing (see Section 5, 6, and 7 of this Article).

(b) *Insufficient grounds.* The General Council Credentials Committee shall have the prerogative to determine whether there is sufficient cause to grant an appeal, and remand the case to the district.

c. Right of appeal to the General Presbytery.

(1) A disciplined minister whose appeal has been denied by the General Council Credentials Committee may appeal to the General Presbytery. An accused minister shall have thirty (30) days from the date notification of the General Council Credentials Committee's decision was mailed to appeal to the General Presbytery. The appeal is to be sent to the office of the general superintendent, and must include new exculpatory information, with copies sent to the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation and any other districts involved. The decision of the General Presbytery shall be final.

(2) A district may appeal a decision of the Executive Presbytery to the General Presbytery. The decision of the General Presbytery shall be final.

Section 11. Publication of Dismissal

No publication of a dismissed minister's name, in print or electronically, shall be made until the district has been advised by the office of the general secretary that such has been authorized by the General Council Credentials Committee. An additional thirty (30) days from the date of the notification shall be given the dismissed minister to exercise the right of appeal.

Section 12. Reinstatement of Credentials

a. Authorization. Application for reinstatement may be made through the district council within which territory the applicant resides. The application shall be considered subject to the approval of the district in which the termination was made.

b. Minimal time lapse for dismissed ministers. The minimal time lapse required before a minister who has been dismissed is eligible for reinstatement shall be one (1) year, except it shall be two (2) years for a minister who has been dismissed because of charges as stated in Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, paragraph a, subparagraph (1). The time lapse shall be computed from the date of the district presbytery action as it appears on the ministerial status report filed with the General Council Credentials Committee. (See Bylaws, Article VII, Section 10, for other renewals and reinstatements.)

c. Restoration obligatory. When a minister has been dismissed from our Fellowship and applies for reinstatement, he or she shall comply with the procedures for restoration outlined in Section 8, paragraph c, of this Article.

d. Option to refer to General Presbytery. The General Council Credentials Committee may also hold the reinstatement of a minister's credentials in abeyance until the next session of the General Presbytery in order that the General Presbytery may have the opportunity to review the case, in which event the matter of reinstatement of such minister may be left entirely with that body.

e. Reinstatement fee. When applying for reinstatement the minister must include a one-hundred-dollar (\$100) reinstatement fee with the application to be divided equally between the district council and the General Council.

Section 13. Notice

Notice shall be deemed to have been given to a minister by certified mail from the district or General Council Credentials Committee on the basis of the last address furnished to the district or General Council by the minister. In the event the certified letter is returned as undeliverable for any reason, notice will have been deemed to have been given in view of the fact it is the minister's responsibility to furnish the district or General Council his or her address, and to accept lawful mail.

Section 14. Legal Representation

The discipline of ministers is a sacred responsibility that is entrusted to the credentials committees of districts and the General Council. A minister shall not be permitted to be accompanied by one or more attorneys at any meeting, hearing, or appeal pertaining to his or her discipline. A minister shall be permitted to be accompanied by one approved credentialed minister at any meeting, hearing, or appeal pertaining to his or her discipline.

ARTICLE XI. NATIONAL MINISTRIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

In addition to the divisions provided for in Article XIII. Assemblies of God World Missions; and Article XIV. Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, the Board of Directors of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall establish such national ministries, including commissions, divisions, and departments as may from time to time be needed to carry out the fourfold mission of the church.

The organization and establishment of these ministries shall be provided for in *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*. (See Bylaws, Article XII. *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*.)

ARTICLE XII. THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD ORGANIZATIONAL MANUAL

The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall develop and maintain a set of documents referred to as *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*. This document shall set forth in detail the organization of commissions, divisions, departments, and ministries of The General Council of the Assemblies of God as from time to time may be established to carry out the fourfold mission of the church.

The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual shall be administered by the Executive Leadership Team as approved by

BYLAWS

the Executive Presbytery. The Executive Presbytery shall submit annually to the General Presbytery for approval all proposed additions, deletions, and modifications to *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*. *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual* shall be available to all General Council affiliated churches and ordained or licensed ministers.

ARTICLE XIII. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD WORLD MISSIONS

Section 1. Authorization and Purpose

a. Authorization. The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall assume responsibility and do all within its power for the spread of the gospel in foreign lands. In keeping with this objective, there shall be an Assemblies of God World Missions to which shall be committed all the world missions interests of the Fellowship.

b. Purpose. The primary responsibility of this division in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its fourfold mission.

c. Strategy. The missions strategy of the division shall be:

(1) The widest possible evangelization of the spiritually lost through every available means;

(2) The establishment of indigenous churches after the New Testament pattern;

(3) The training of national believers to proclaim the gospel to their own people in an expanding mission to other people; and

(4) The showing of compassion for suffering people in a manner representing the love of Jesus Christ.

d. Indigenous principle. The Pauline example shall be followed as far as possible by seeking out neglected regions where the gospel has not been preached and by establishing self-supporting, self-governing, self-propagating national churches in all regions.

Section 2. Organization and Governance

a. Executive director. There shall be an executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions who shall be elected in the manner described in Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph b.

b. Administrator. The Executive Presbytery shall elect an administrator who shall serve under the executive director in the administration of the division.

c. Departments. The General Presbytery shall be authorized to establish departments within the division at the initiative of the Executive Presbytery. Departments shall operate within the parameters and guidelines of *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*.

d. Amenability. The division and all of its functions shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the general superintendent, the Executive Presbytery, and the General Presbytery.

e. World Missions Board

(1) *Composition.* The activities of Assemblies of God World Missions shall be under the supervision of the World Missions Board which shall consist of the executive director of the division; the general

superintendent (ex officio); two executive presbyters; the administrator; the regional directors; eight pastors of proven world missions zeal and accomplishments, each from a different area of the nation; and eight laypersons, endorsed by their pastors, each from a different area of the nation and from churches other than those whose pastors serve concurrently on the World Missions Board.

(2) *Elections.* The members of the World Missions Board shall be nominated by the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, and elected by the Executive Presbytery subject to ratification by the General Presbytery.

(3) *Term of office.* The term of office of the appointed pastors and laypersons shall be for four (4) years, rotated so some of the members will be elected each year to maintain continuity. Upon completion of a term they shall not succeed themselves in office.

(4) *Authority and amenability.* The responsibilities of the World Missions Board shall be to establish and evaluate policies, to offer guidance and counsel in the areas of its supervision, to establish and uphold standards for appointed world missionaries and world missions candidates for world missions appointment. The decisions of the board shall be subject to review by the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

(5) *Board of Appeals.* Those members of the World Missions Board who are not members of the World Missions Committee shall sit as a Board of Appeals to act upon any appeal from decisions of the division. In such an appeal, members of the World Missions Committee may present the case for Assemblies of God World Missions' decision to the Board of Appeals, but shall not be present at the time of deliberation or voting. The missionary or World Missions Committee may appeal to the Executive Presbytery or General Presbytery from the decision of the Board of Appeals.

(6) *Vacancies.* The Executive Presbytery may fill a vacancy on the World Missions Board by appointment until the term is expired.

f. Regional directors. There shall be regional directors who shall direct the missions activities in their assigned geographical regions. They shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery for a four-year term on the basis of nominations by the missionaries in the respective areas, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery.

g. Creation of new region. With the creation of a new region, the World Missions Board shall have the discretion of nominating a regional director, to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and ratified by the General Presbytery. The normal cycle of missionary endorsement will follow.

h. Area directors. There shall be area directors who shall serve under the regional directors, directing and coordinating missions activities in their assigned areas. They shall be appointed by the World Missions Board on the basis of nominations by the World Missions Committee and regional director in their respective areas.

i. World Missions Committee. The general administrative work of the division shall be conducted by a World Missions Committee consisting of the executive director as chairperson, the administrator as vice chairperson, the regional directors, the leaders of major departments of the division, and other personnel as determined by the Executive Presbytery. The responsibilities of

the World Missions Committee shall be the general supervision and direction of the work of the division and its missionaries in conformity with the established policies and principles of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the World Missions Board.

j. General Presbytery representatives. Each of the regions shall be represented on the General Presbytery by its regional director and two others. International Ministries shall be represented on the General Presbytery by its director and two others. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (2).]

k. World missions policies. All appointed world missionaries shall be required to work in accord with the published policies of the division as authorized by the World Missions Board.

Section 3. Support of Assemblies of God World Missions

The administrative expenses and emergency field needs of Assemblies of God World Missions and its missionaries shall be provided from:

- a. Offerings designated for office expense
- b. One-half of the tithes of missionaries under appointment receiving funds through the division
- c. Undesignated funds
- d. Seven percent (7%) of all missionary offerings (with the exclusion of special personal designations) received shall be transferred to the General Emergency Fund.

Section 4. Missionary Candidates

a. Appointment. The selection and appointment of missionaries shall be the prerogative of the World Missions Board on recommendation of the World Missions Committee.

b. Examination criteria. The World Missions Board shall be governed in its selection and appointment of missionaries by examining each applicant as to:

- (1) Personal experience of full New Testament salvation
- (2) Definite experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4
- (3) Definite call to missions work
- (4) Physical, mental, and spiritual fitness to work
- (5) Christian standing and general qualifications

It is required that all applicants receiving appointment shall have the unqualified endorsement of their district councils, particularly in regard to effective ministry and Christian character. Applicants shall not be granted general missionary appointment until they have first qualified for ordination by The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Candidates shall prove their ministry and stability of character by a qualifying period of service in the United States.

c. Specialized service. Candidates for world service of a specialized character, such as nurses and teachers, may be granted appointment for such types of work, if properly qualified, without the necessity of being ordained. Nevertheless, such candidates shall have the endorsement of their respective district councils in regard to their Christian experience and local church activity.

Section 5. Support of Missionaries

a. A faith mission. The world missions program of the Assemblies of God is a faith mission. Missionaries are urged to place their faith in God for supplying their needs. Thus missionaries itinerate among the churches to solicit prayer and financial support.

b. Church support. Every local church shall be encouraged to assume responsibility for support of duly appointed missionaries and approved ministries in cooperation with Assemblies of God World Missions.

c. Undesignated and general emergency funds. Undesignated funds and general emergency funds may be used to meet the emergency needs of missionaries who raise their prescribed pledge and cash support and submit required financial reports to the division.

d. District support. It is recommended that districts endorsing candidates for missionary appointment assume responsibility for their support as far as practicable.

Section 6. Ordination of Missionaries

The ordination of persons for or under appointment of Assemblies of God World Missions shall be determined on the basis of their qualifications for ordination rather than on the basis of their appointment.

Section 7. Credentialed Ministers Working and Residing Outside the United States

Credentialed ministers working and residing outside the United States, not under the auspices of Assemblies of God World Missions, are required to communicate their residency and ministry status to the appropriate Assemblies of God World Missions regional director for the purpose of credentials renewal. Their credentialing district shall also instruct said minister to do so as a prerequisite to credentials renewal. If credentialed ministers who are working and residing outside the United States fail to contact the appropriate Assemblies of God World Missions regional director prior to credentials renewal, and are unknown to Assemblies of God World Missions leadership, their credential will not be renewed.

Section 8. Field Organizations

a. National church organization. Missionaries shall make every effort to establish indigenous Assemblies of God national church organizations in the countries they serve. Organizational patterns shall conform to practical, cultural forms acceptable to the body of believers. Close fraternal relationships with Assemblies of God organizations in other countries shall be encouraged without infringement affecting the autonomy of each national organization.

b. Missionary fellowships. Missionary fellowships, composed of all appointed missionaries assigned permanently to a region of Assemblies of God World Missions, may be formed in each political or geographical area as circumstances may indicate. These missionary fellowships are to be considered as the direct creation of and amenable to the Assemblies of God World Missions since missionary appointment automatically confers membership in the missionary fellowship. The missionary fellowships shall serve in an advisory capacity to Assemblies of God World Missions in matters of policy and missionary personnel relative to their respective fields.

BYLAWS

In those areas where there are insufficient personnel to make the organization of a missionary fellowship practical, Assemblies of God World Missions may appoint a representative(s) to act for the missionaries and Assemblies of God World Missions in matters normally handled by the missionary fellowship.

Section 9. Property

a. Investment principles. All possible precautions shall be taken to safeguard funds invested in foreign properties so that they shall continue to advance the cause of the Assemblies of God in those countries. No funds shall be made available for the purchase of property until arrangements have been made to comply with the laws of the respective countries concerning the legal holding of the title, and in order to maintain a proper relationship between these missions projects and Assemblies of God World Missions, these principles shall be followed:

(1) *Title to missionary residences.* All missionary residences shall be held in the name of The General Council of the Assemblies of God wherever legally possible.

(2) *Title to institutional properties.*

(a) *General policy.* It shall be a general policy to hold institutional properties in the name of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

(b) *Exceptions.* Assemblies of God World Missions shall be authorized to transfer title to the local national Assemblies of God organization when it deems such action to be in the best interests of the work. Church buildings or pastors' residences that are procured solely for the benefit of the local church with either local or foreign funds shall be held in the name of its national Assemblies of God organization or by a local church that is fully established and competent to hold property in its own name.

(3) *Title policy on General Council loans.* In all cases where Assemblies of God World Missions has advanced funds on a loan basis, The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall hold title to the property or receive other adequate security until the loan is fully paid.

b. Missionary fellowship project endorsement. Missionaries contemplating the purchase of property or erection of buildings shall cooperate with the missionary fellowship on the field and must secure its endorsement before requesting the approval of the division.

c. Legal documents. A certified copy of the property deeds, titles, and other legal papers relating to all missions properties which have been purchased shall be forwarded to Assemblies of God World Missions for filing.

ARTICLE XIV. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD U.S. MISSIONS

Section 1. Authorization and Purpose

a. Authorization. The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall assume responsibility and do all within its power to spread the gospel to the homeland. In keeping with this obligation, there shall be an Assemblies of God U.S. Missions.

b. Purpose. The primary responsibility of this division shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its mission. The essential functions are promoting the establishing of indigenous churches and facilitating the evangelization and discipleship of individuals within the scope of U.S. Missions. All such activities shall be conducted in full cooperation with the district councils. The division shall provide coordination, promotion, assistance to motivate action, and shall receive and disburse funds.

Section 2. Organization and Governance

a. Executive director. There shall be an executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions who shall be elected in the manner described in Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph b.

b. Administrator. There shall be an administrator who shall serve under the executive director in the administration of the division.

c. Departments. The General Presbytery shall be authorized to establish departments within the division at the initiative of the Executive Presbytery. Departments shall operate within the parameters and guidelines of *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual* and *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*. These departments shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) *Chaplaincy Ministries* endorses professionally trained clergy to provide pastoral care to people in specialized settings.

(2) *Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S.A.* provides campus ministry to evangelize and disciple American and international college and university students.

(3) *Intercultural Ministries* provides ministry to distinct people groups in the United States who require specialized understanding.

(4) *Church Mobilization* coordinates the deployment of short-term missions church teams and organizes the ministry and service of project volunteers.

(5) *Adult and Teen Challenge, U.S.A.* provides ministry to people of all ages with addictive behaviors.

d. Amenability. The division and all of its departments shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the general superintendent, the Executive Presbytery, and the General Presbytery.

e. U.S. Missions Board. The work of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall be under the advisement of a U.S. Missions Board.

f. U.S. Missions Executive Committee. The general administrative work of the division shall be conducted by a U.S. Missions Executive Committee consisting of the executive director as chairperson, the administrator as vice chairperson, the directors of the major departments of the division, and other resource persons as determined by the executive director and approved by the Executive Leadership Team. The responsibilities of the U.S. Missions Executive Committee shall be the general supervision and direction of the work of the division and its missionaries.

g. Commission on Chaplains

(1) *Composition.* The Commission on Chaplains shall consist of the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, representatives of the Military/Veterans Affairs and Institutional/Occupational Chaplaincies, one of whom shall be the department

BYLAWS

director of Chaplaincy Ministries, two executive presbyters, two Military/Veterans Affairs chaplains, two Institutional/Occupational chaplains, two members at large, legal counsel, and others at the discretion of the Executive Leadership Team. The commission shall serve as the endorsing agency for The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Members of the commission and its chairperson shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

(2) *Authority and amenability.* The government and work of Chaplaincy Ministries shall be vested in and committed to the Commission on Chaplains. The commission shall operate within guidelines adopted by the Executive Presbytery. It shall have the responsibility to evaluate policies, to offer guidance and counsel in the area of its supervision, to establish criteria for the appointment of workers in the Military/Veterans Affairs, Institutional/Occupational Chaplaincies, and to sit as a Board of Appeal in all matters relating to its area of supervision. It shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

h. National U.S. missionaries. National U.S. missionaries shall be appointed by action of the U.S. Missions Executive Committee with the approval of their home districts and the districts in which the missionaries will be working. All missionary appointments and renewals shall be made according to administrative criteria established by Assemblies of God U.S. Missions upon the approval of the work district.

i. Liaison with districts. The division and its departments shall maintain a constant liaison with the various districts so that proven programs and innovations in each area may be refined and offered to districts. The work of the departments within U.S. Missions is transdistrict. U.S. missionaries work in cooperation with both U.S. Missions and their assigned district(s) to fulfill the mission and purpose of the Assemblies of God. U.S. missionaries shall conduct their ministry under the blessing and support of the respective district(s). The evaluation of the missionary's effectiveness, pastoral care, and fellowship opportunities shall be shared by the district(s) and U.S. Missions.

Section 3. Support

Financial assistance in meeting the operating expenses of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall be provided from:

- a. Offerings
- b. Five percent (5%) of all funds contributed through the national Assemblies of God U.S. Missions
- c. One-half of the tithes of missionaries under appointment designated to their respective departments
- d. All endorsed and/or approved Assemblies of God chaplains actively serving full- or part-time, reserve chaplains, chaplain trainees, military trainees, and military seminarians shall contribute one-half of their tithe from their income earned from chaplaincy services to Chaplaincy Ministries.
- e. **Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S.A.**

All Chi Alpha groups are required to contribute 5 percent (5%) of all group revenue to national Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S.A.

f. Adult and Teen Challenge, U.S.A.

All Adult and Teen Challenge, U.S.A. centers shall contribute a monthly accreditation fee determined by the Adult and Teen Challenge, U.S.A. Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XV. CORPORATIONS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Section 1. Authorization

The Executive Presbytery may from time to time establish certain Assemblies of God corporations, which entities are separately legally incorporated for governance purposes from The General Council of the Assemblies of God, but whose boards of directors are appointed by the Executive Presbytery and ratified by the General Presbytery. All such corporations shall be submitted to the General Council for approval.

Section 2. Board of Directors

The oversight of policy and administration of each of the corporations shall be delegated to a board of directors in accordance with the provisions of the corporation's articles and bylaws. The articles and bylaws of each corporation and amendments thereto shall be approved by the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery.

Section 3. Amenability

Each corporation and its board of directors shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

Section 4. Fiscal Affairs

The books of each corporation shall be audited annually by a certified public accountant selected by the Executive Presbytery, and such audit shall be included with The General Council of the Assemblies of God annual audit report to the General Presbytery and the General Council in session.

Section 5. Recognized Corporations

The following entities shall constitute the recognized corporations of The General Council of the Assemblies of God: Evangel University, Global University of the Assemblies of God, Assemblies of God Financial Services Group, Assemblies of God Foundation, Assemblies of God Loan Fund, and Assemblies of God Ministers Benefit Association. No General Council corporation shall be dissolved, merged, or liquidated without the approval of the General Council in session.

ARTICLE XVI. AFFILIATED MINISTRIES

Section 1. Authorization

Ministries that represent a national or global ministry focus working with The General Council of the Assemblies of God or its corporations but whose boards of directors are not controlled or appointed by the Executive Presbytery may be recognized by the Executive Presbytery as affiliated ministries.

Section 2. Board of Directors

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

Section 3. Governance

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

Section 4. Relationship

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

The charter or bylaws of each affiliated ministry shall affirm acceptance of the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, including the Statement of Fundamental Truths. Each affiliated ministry shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery with regard to doctrine and compliance with the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. In all other respects an affiliated ministry shall be autonomous and self-governed.

Section 5. Name and Logo

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

Section 6. Dissolution

The charter or bylaws of an affiliated ministry shall specify that in the event of dissolution its assets shall be distributed to The General Council of the Assemblies of God or any Assemblies of God church, district council, or corporation.

ARTICLE XVII. MILITARY SERVICE

As a Movement we affirm our loyalty to the government of the United States in war or peace.

We shall continue to insist, as we have historically, on the right of each member to choose whether to declare their position as a combatant, a noncombatant, or a conscientious objector.

ARTICLE XVIII. THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD OPERATIONS MANUAL

The office of the general superintendent shall develop and maintain a set of documents referred to as *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*. These documents shall set forth the procedures, guidelines, and parameters relating to the operation of divisions, departments, commissions, and ministries of The General Council of the Assemblies of God as outlined in *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*.

The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual shall be administered by the Executive Leadership Team and shall be approved by the Executive Presbytery. An updated copy will be made available to the General Presbytery at its annual meeting. *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual* shall be available upon request to all General Council affiliated churches and licensed or ordained ministers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE XIX. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The regular order of business for the General Council meeting shall be:

1. Report of the general superintendent
2. Report of the general secretary
3. Report of the general treasurer
4. Departmental reports
5. Unfinished business
6. Election of officers
7. New business
8. Adjournment

All business sessions of the General Council shall commence with prayer.

ARTICLE XX. QUORUM

All members registered and voting in any meeting of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall constitute a quorum, and all general presbyters registered and voting in any meeting of the General Presbytery shall constitute a quorum. The presence of eleven executive presbyters at any meeting of the Executive Presbytery shall constitute a quorum. The presence of four members at any meeting of the Executive Leadership Team shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XXI. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any regular meeting of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Amendments to be adopted shall require a majority of all votes cast.

INDEX FOR CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Abuses of Stewardship.....	60–61
Private ownership of religious institutions	61
Solicitation of funds	60–61
Tithing	60
Accountability in Educational Attribution.....	62–63
Adorable Godhead, The	11–13
Adult and Teen Challenge U.S.A.....	77, 79
Affiliated Assemblies, General Council.....	20–21
Relationship	20
Requirements	20
Right of appeal.....	21
Right of self–government.....	20
Subordination.....	20–21
Affiliated Ministries	79–80
Authorization.....	79
Board of Directors	80
Dissolution	80
Governance	80
Name and logo	80
Relationship	80
Affiliation	
Preservation of.....	43
Procedure for affiliation	41
Requirements.....	20
Affiliation with Another Church Organization.....	55
Aged Ministers Assistance	50–51
Amendments.....	22, 81
Amillennialism	58
Annual Report and Offerings	41–42
Church Ministries Report.....	41
Fellowship Partners Offering.....	42
Total Giving	42
Annulments and Marriage Dissolutions.....	47

INDEX

Appeals, Boards of
 District..... 21, 44
 Executive Presbytery..... 21, 44, 52
 General Council Credentials Committee 53, 69–70
 General Presbytery 21, 35, 47, 70
 World Missions 73

Appeals, Churches’ 21, 44

Appeals, Ministers’ 52, 53, 69–70

Area Divisions for Nonresident Executive Presbyters 26, 29

Areas of Authority 19

Areas of Supervision..... 19

Assemblies, Local (Bylaws)
 Affiliation
 Preservation of..... 43
 Procedure for 41
 Annual report 41–42
 Assemblies resulting from a division 44
 Fellowship Partners Offering..... 42
 Minimal membership guidelines 43–44
 Nature..... 10, 43
 New assemblies 44
 Organizational assistance..... 43
 Relationships 43
 Resulting from a division 44
 Status of assembly 44
 Status of minister 44
 Safeguarding 42–43
 Total Giving participation 21, 42
 Total Giving credit..... 42
 Transfer of local church membership..... 44
 Acknowledgment of transfer 44
 Letter of introduction 44

Assemblies, Local (Constitution)
 Cooperating assemblies 21
 District council affiliated assemblies..... 21
 General Council affiliated assemblies 20–21
 Parent affiliated churches 21
 Relationships 20

Requirements for affiliation	20
Right of appeal	21
Right of self–government.....	20
Sovereign rights.....	20
Subordinate in matters of doctrine and polity	20–21
Support of General Council and district council	20
Total Giving participation.....	21
Assemblies of God	
Dissolution	21
Fellowship Partners Offering.....	42
Fundamental Truths.....	11–16
Meetings	16, 36
Membership.....	16
Name	10
Nature.....	10
Polity	45
Prerogatives	10
Principles for fellowship	10
Relationships	16, 43
Total Giving credit.....	42
Total Giving participation.....	21, 42
Assemblies of God U.S. Missions.....	
Administrator	77
Adult and Teen Challenge U.S.A.	77, 79
Amenability.....	77
Authorization.....	76
Authorization and purpose	76–77
Board, U.S. Missions	77
Chaplaincy Ministries.....	77
Chaplains, Commission on.....	77–78
Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S.A.....	77, 78
Church Mobilization.....	77
Departments	77
Executive Committee.....	77
Executive director.....	77
Duties of	32–33
Election of	25–26
Financial responsibility of affiliation.....	20, 78
Intercultural Ministries	77

INDEX

Liaison with districts	78
National U.S. missionaries.....	78
Organization and governance	77–78
Purpose.....	77
Representation.....	18, 27
Support	78–79
Assemblies of God World Missions	72–76
Administrator	72
Amenability.....	72
Appointment.....	74
Area directors.....	73
Authorization and purpose	72
Board, World Missions	72–73
Authority and amenability.....	73
Board of Appeals	73
Composition.....	72–73
Election of members	73
Term of office	73
Vacancies	73
Committee, World Missions.....	73–74
Creation of new region	73
Credential validation.....	52, 75
Departments	72
Examination criteria.....	74
Executive director.....	32, 72
Duties of	32
Election of	25–26
Fellowships, Missionary.....	75–76
Fellowship project endorsement, Missionary	76
Field organizations	75–76
Financial responsibility of affiliation.....	20, 74
General Presbytery representatives	27, 74
Governance	72–74
Indigenous principle.....	72
Legal documents	76
Missionary candidates	74
Appointment.....	74
Examination criteria	74
Specialized service.....	74
Missionary fellowships.....	75–76

National church organization	75
Ordination.....	75
Organization	72–74
Policies	74
Project endorsement	76
Property	76
Investment principles.....	76
Legal documents	76
Project endorsement.....	76
Purpose.....	72
Regional directors	73
Representation.....	18, 32, 74
Specialized service	74
Strategy.....	72
Support of.....	74, 75
Church	75
District	75
Emergency	74, 75
Faith mission.....	75
Missionaries	75
Undesignated.....	75
Assistant General Superintendent	
Duties of.....	31
Election of.....	25
Attitude, Improper toward Those Removed from the Fellowship ..	62
Attribution, Accountability in Educational	62–63
Auditors.....	18, 28
Baptism	
Holy Spirit.....	14, 45
Water	13
Blessed Hope, The	15
Board of Directors	17
Certificates	
Church/Assembly	16, 20, 21, 41, 62
Minister	16, 36, 48–49, 50, 54, 55
Transfer.....	52–53, 68

INDEX

Certified Minister	19, 31, 36, 45, 48–49, 50, 51, 54, 55, 62, 63
Chaplaincy Ministries	77, 78
Chaplains	52, 77–78, 78
Chaplains, Commission on	77–78
Charges Pending	52
Charges, Preparation and Filing of	66
Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S.A.	77, 78
Children	56
Christian Marriage and Family	56
Church and Its Mission, The	14–15
Church Credential, Local	45, 48, 51
Church Membership, Transfer of Local	44
Church Mobilization	77
Church Planters	51–52
Churches	See Assemblies
Classification of Ministry	45
Colleges	See Endorsed Postsecondary School Representation
Commissions	
Chaplains	77–78
Doctrines and Practices	37, 56–57
Committees	
Credentials	36
Other	37
Resolutions	36–37
Roster	36
Spiritual Life and Discipleship	37
Standing	36
World Missions	73–74
Common-Law Marriage	59
Communion, Holy	13
Composition of Executive Presbytery	17
Conference Status	38
Conscientious Objector	80

Constitutional Declaration	9–10
Reason for being.....	9
Cooperating Assemblies	21
Cooperation, Voluntary	45–46
Cooperation with Other Districts	52
Cooperative Fellowship	9–10, 19–20, 43
Corporate Officers	17
Corporations of the General Council.....	79
Amenability.....	79
Authorization.....	79
Board of Directors	79
Fiscal affairs	79
Recognized corporations.....	79
Credential Absolution	69
Credential Affiliation, Appeal of	52
Credentialing Authority.....	19
Credentials	
Absolution	69
Certified	45, 48–49
Jeopardized	58
Lapsed	54, 54–55, 69
Licensed	45, 49
Local church.....	45, 48, 51
Ministerial status changes	55
Nondisciplinary credential terminations	54–55
Not renewed	55
Ordained	45, 49
Ordination.....	49
Other organizations, Ministers from	47–48
Provisional Certificate of Ministry	48–49
Reinstatement of credentials.....	53–54, 70–71
Authorization.....	70
Eligibility of previously dismissed.....	68
Fee.....	71
Option to refer to General Presbytery	71
Reinstatement of lapsed minister	54
Reinstatement of other than dismissed minister	54

Restoration obligatory	70
Time lapse for dismissed ministers	70
Renewals and reinstatements	52, 53–54, 68, 75
Resigned	55
Referral to General Council Credentials Committee	68–69
Right of appeal	69–70
Surrender of	55, 66–67
Termination	
Affiliation with another church organization	55
Initiative of district	55
Initiative of minister	54–55
Nondisciplinary	54–55
Transcript	53
Transfer	52–53
Transfer of information	55, 68
Validation for ministers working outside the United States	52, 75
Credentials Committee, General Council	36, 49, 63, 68–70
Action of	49, 69
Referral for action	68–69
Relationship between district	63
Right of appeal	69–70
 Date-Setting for the Lord’s Return	 57
Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, The	13
Disabilities, Ministers with	50
Discipline	63–71
Administering redemptively	66
Appeal	
Churches	21
Districts	69–70
Ministers	69–70
Attitude toward those disciplined	62
Causes for	63–64, 66
Charges, Preparation and filing	66
Credential absolution	69
Determination of	66
Dismissal	68–69

District hearing and discipline.....	66–67
Forfeiture of rights.....	66
Hearing, District	66
Initiative in	
District of affiliation responsibility.....	64–65
General Council responsibility.....	65
Prior right	64
Investigation of reports or complaints	65–66
Outside United States	65–66
Within U.S. districts.....	65
Legal representation.....	71
Nature and purposes	63
Notice.....	71
Preparation and filing of charges.....	66
Publication of dismissal.....	70
Referral to Credentials Committee.....	68–69
Reinstatement.....	68, 70–71
Authorization.....	70
Eligibility of previously dismissed.....	68
Fee.....	71
Option to refer to General Presbytery	71
Restoration obligatory	70
Time lapse for	70
Relationship between district and	
General Council Credentials Committees	63
Responsibility of district of affiliation.....	64–65
Responsibility of General Council Credentials	
Committee	63, 65, 69–70
Restoration.....	63, 67–68
Right of appeal.....	69–70
Right of initiative.....	64–65
Authority.....	64
Prior right of district.....	64
Responsibility	64–65
Subsequent dismissal.....	69
Surrender of credentials	55, 66–67
Dismissed/Dismissal of Minister.....	43, 66–67, 68–69
Publication of dismissal.....	70
Dissolution of	
Corporation	21

INDEX

District.....	40
General Presbytery prerogative	40
Loss of recognition	40
Ministry	80
District Councils	19–20, 38–41
Affiliated assemblies	21
Amenability to General Council.....	19–20
Areas of authority	19
Areas of supervision	19
Boundaries	38
Conference status.....	38
Cooperative relationship.....	19–20, 39
Credentialing authority.....	19
Dissolution of district.....	40
Formation of new districts	38
Geographic districts	19
Guidelines.....	38
Language/Ethnic districts	19, 39–40
Language/Ethnic fellowships	41
Membership.....	19
New districts, Formation of.....	38
Officers	39
Presbyters	39
Relationship with ministers	51–52
Relationship with the General Council	19–20, 63
Role of district.....	38
Voting constituency	39
District Membership	
Church–planting ministries	51–52
Church staff members	51
Ministers	51–52, 67
Pastors.....	51
U.S. missionaries.....	51–52
World missionaries.....	52
Divine Healing.....	15, 62
Divine Healing and Professional Medicine	62
Division of an Assembly	44
Status of assembly	44
Status of minister.....	44

Divorce and Remarriage	46–47, 58–60
Abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever.....	46, 59–60
Church leadership	59
Domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child.....	46, 59
Ecclesiastical annulments	47
Membership.....	58–59
Ministerial credentials	60
Performing ceremony for divorced.....	59–60
Preconversion divorce	46, 59, 60
Remarriage.....	59
Spousal infidelity	46, 59, 60
Divorce Due to Abandonment of the Believer by the Unbeliever	46, 59, 60
Divorce Due to Domestic Violence by a Spouse to a Spouse or Child	46, 59, 60
Divorce Due to Spousal Infidelity	46, 59, 60
Doctrines	
Approved	11–16
Disapproved	57–63
Doctrines and Practices, Commission on	37, 56–57
Appointments and terms of office.....	57
Authorization and purpose	56
Vacancies and terminations.....	57
Doctrines and Practices Disapproved	57–63
Abuses of stewardship.....	60–61
Adding conditions to salvation	57
Amillennialism.....	58
Divine healing and professional medicine	62
Divorce and remarriage.....	58–60
Ecumenical relationships, Interdenominational or.....	62
Educational attribution, Accountability in.....	62–63
Eschatological errors	57–58
Improper attitude	62
Intentional failure to comply.....	63
Legalism	57
Ministry in a non-Assemblies of God church.....	61–62
Post-Tribulation Rapture	58
Professional medicine, Divine healing and.....	62

INDEX

Restitution of all things	57
Secret orders	58
Setting a date for the Lord's return	57
Substance usage	63
Unconditional security	57
Violations of ministerial courtesy	61
Worldliness.....	60
Duties of	
Assistant general superintendent.....	31
Executive Director of Assemblies of God	
U.S. Missions.....	32–33
Executive Director of Assemblies of God	
World Missions	32
Executive Leadership Team.....	34–35
Executive Presbytery.....	33–34
General Presbytery	35
General secretary.....	31
General superintendent.....	30–31
General treasurer.....	31–32
Ecclesiastical Annulments	47
Ecumenical Relationships	62
Educational Attribution, Accountability in	62–63
Failure to comply	63
Educational Credentials, Integrity in	
Adequately accredited.....	56
Continuing education	56
Educational Integrity	56, 62–63
Educational Requirements	46
Election of Officers and Presbyters.....	25–30
Nominations and elections	25–28
General presbyters	27–28
Nonresident executive presbyters	26–27, 29
Officers	25–26
Removal for cause	30
Vacancies.....	28–30
Executive officers	28–29

General presbyters	30
Nonresident executive presbyters	29
Endorsed Postsecondary School Representation	18, 27
Eschatological Errors	57–58
Ethnic Fellowships	18, 26, 27–28, 29, 41
Ethnic/Language Districts	See Language/Ethnic Districts
Ethnic/Language Fellowships ...	See Language/Ethnic Fellowships
Evangelists.....	44–45
Evangelists Representative	18, 27
Executive Leadership Team	17, 34–35
Duties of.....	34–35
Quorum.....	81
Executive Officers	17, 28–29
Duties of.....	30–33, 34–35
Election of.....	25–26
Executive Leadership Team.....	17, 34–35
Removal for cause	30
Terms of office	17
Vacancies.....	28–29
Executive Presbyters, Nonresident	17, 26–27, 29
Additional representation	27, 29
By area	26, 29
By ethnic fellowship	26–28
Divisions of.....	26–27
Nominations and elections of.....	26–27, 29
Vacancies.....	28–30
Executive Presbytery	17, 29, 33–34
Board of Directors	17
Composition and terms	17
Duties of.....	33–34
Meetings	36
Quorum	81
Fall of Man, The	13
Family	56
Fellowship Partners Offering	42

INDEX

Final Judgment, The	15–16
Financial Responsibility	
Assemblies of God missions	20
Chaplains	52, 78
National office	
Churches	42
Ministers	51, 54
U.S. missionaries	52, 78
World missionaries	52
Formation of New Districts	38
Boundaries	38
Conference status	38
Guidelines	38
Fundamental Truths, Statement of	11–16
General Council	
Affiliated assemblies	20–21
Cooperative fellowship	9–10
Membership	16
Membership, Minimal	43–44
Meetings	16, 36, 81
Order of business	81
Quorum	81
Sessions	16
Voting constituency	16
<i>General Council Operations Manual</i>	34, 35, 72, 77, 81
<i>General Council Organizational Manual</i>	71–72, 77, 81
<i>General Council Policy Manual</i>	
.....	<i>See General Council Operations Manual</i>
General Presbyters/General Presbytery	
Alternate	30
Appeal, Body of	35, 70, 71
Auditors	18, 28
Duties of	35
Election of	27–28
Ex officio members	18
Honorary	18, 28

Meetings	36
Qualifications	17–18
Representation	17–18
Representatives	
Additional representation	18, 28
Auditors	18, 28
By area	28
Ordained minister under 40 years of age	18, 28
Ordained female	18, 28
Assemblies of God U.S. Missions	18, 27
Assemblies of God World Missions	18, 27
District	17, 27
Endorsed postsecondary schools	18, 27
Ethnic fellowship	18, 27–28
Ethnic Relations	18, 28
Evangelists	18, 27
Executive presbyters	18
Hispanic Relations	18, 28
Honorary	18, 28
Responsibilities	17–18
Vacancies	30
General Secretary	
Duties of	31
Election of	25–26
General Superintendent	
Duties of	30–31
Election of	25
General Treasurer	
Duties of	31–32
Election of	25–26
Geographic Districts	19
Godhead, The Adorable	11–13
Healing, Divine	15, 62
Holy Spirit	
Baptism in	14, 45
Initial physical evidence	14

INDEX

Honorary General Presbyters.....	18, 28
Voting privileges	28
Information, Transfer of	55, 68
Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, The.....	14
Integrity in Educational Credentials	56
Intercultural Ministries	77
Interdenominational Relationships.....	62
Judgment, The Final.....	15–16
Language/Ethnic Districts	19, 39–40, 41, 53
Church transfer procedure	40
Cooperative relationship.....	39
Credential transfer procedure	53
Equality of districts.....	39
Recognition qualifications	39
Sponsorship and affiliation.....	39–40
Language/Ethnic Fellowships	41
Language Groups.....	19, 39–40, 41, 51
Lapse of Credentials	54, 54–55, 69
Late Fee	54
Legal Representation	71
Legalism	57
Licensed Minister	19, 31, 36, 45, 49, 51, 54, 55, 63
Local Assemblies	20–21, 41–44
Local Church Credential	45, 48, 51
Mandatory Screening	46
Marriage	
Abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever.....	46, 59, 60
Annulments	47
Christian marriage and family	56

Domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child	46, 59, 60
Entanglement before conversion	58–59
Marriage, Common-law	59
Performing ceremonies	59–60
Preconversion divorce	46, 59, 60
Spousal infidelity	46, 59, 60
Status	46
Matters of Conscience	57
Medicine and Divine Healing	62
Meetings	16, 36
Regular sessions	16
Right of initiative	16
Special sessions	16
Membership	16
Assemblies of God	16
District councils	19, 38
General Council of the Assemblies of God, The.....	16
Minimal guidelines	43–44
Secret orders	58
Transfer of local church	44
Voting constituency	16
Military Service	80
Millennial Reign of Christ, The	15
Minimal Membership Guidelines.....	43–44
Ministerial Courtesy, Violations of.....	61
Ministerial Status Changes.....	55
Ministers.....	See <i>also</i> Credentials, Discipline, and Ministry
Aged Ministers Assistance	50–51
Courtesy violations by	61
Discipline of, See <i>also</i> Discipline	63–71
District of residence	51–52
Relationships	51–52
Renewal of credential	53–54, 68
Status changes	55
Transfer	52–53
Working and residing outside the United States	52, 75

Ministers from Other Organizations	47–48, 55
Ministry.....	15, 44–56
Basic qualifications/requirements	45–48
Assemblies of God polity and doctrines	45
Baptism in the Holy Spirit.....	45
Christian character.....	45
Cooperation to the Fellowship	45–46
Doctrinal position	45
Education	46
Evidence of call.....	45
Salvation.....	45
Categories of.....	48–49
Active.....	48–49
Certified	48–49
Disabled.....	50
Licensed	49
Ordained.....	49
Provisional Certificate of Ministry.....	48–49
Senior-Retired.....	50–51
Certificates	49
Credentials	See Credentials
Described.....	44–45
Discipline of.....	See Discipline
Ecclesiastical annulment	47
Education credentials, Integrity in	56
Education requirements.....	46
In non-Assemblies of God church	61–62
Local church credential.....	45, 48, 51
Mandatory screening.....	46
Marriage	
Abandonment of the believer by the	
unbeliever.....	46, 59, 60
Dissolution	47
Domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse	
or child.....	46, 59, 60
Ecclesiastical annulments	47
Performing ceremonies.....	59–60
Preconversion divorce	46, 59, 60
Spousal infidelity	46, 59, 60
Status.....	46

Ministerial relations	51–52
Affiliation with district of residence	51–52
Amenability	51
Assemblies of God World Missions regional	
credentials validation	52, 75
Cooperation with other districts	52
Non-Assemblies of God church, Ministry in	61–62
Nondisciplinary credential terminations	54–55
Official list	50
Other organizations, Ministers from	47–48
Private ownership of religious institutions	61
Privileged communications	55
Qualifications	
Basic	45–48
Specific	48–49
Renewal of credentials	53–54, 68
Residency requirement	48
Status change	55
Support of national office	50, 54
Transfer	
Certificate of transfer from district	52–53
From Assemblies of God World Fellowship groups	53
From other organizations	47–48
Information	55, 68
Transcript	53
Terminations	55
Women, Eligibility of	47
Working and residing outside the United States	52, 75
Mission, The Church and Its	14–15
Missionary, World	
Candidates	74
Fellowships	75–76
Support of	75
Name	10
National Ministries of the Assemblies of God	71
National Office, Support of the	42, 50, 54
Churches	42

INDEX

Ministers	54
Senior-Retired ministers	50
Nature	10, 43
New Assemblies	44
New Heavens and the New Earth, The	16
Nominations and Elections	25–30
Non-Assemblies of God Church, Ministry in a	61–62
Nondisciplinary Credential Terminations	54–55
Nonresident Executive Presbyters	See Executive Presbyters
Not Renewed	55
Offering, Fellowship Partners	42
Officers and Presbyteries	
Board of Directors	17
Corporate officers	17
District	39
Duties	30–36
Elections	25–30
Executive Leadership Team	17, 34–35
Executive officers	17, 25–26, 28–29, 30–36, 34–35
Executive Presbytery	17, 26–27, 29, 33–34
General Presbytery	17–18, 27–28, 30, 35
Removal for cause	30
Vacancies	28–30
Official List	
Active	50
Disabled	50
One True God, The	11
<i>Operations Manual</i>	34, 35, 72, 77, 81
Ordained Minister	19, 31, 36, 45, 49, 51, 53, 54, 55, 63, 75
Order of Business	81
Ordinances of the Church, The	13
Baptism in water	13
Holy Communion	13
Ordination	19, 31, 36, 45, 49, 51, 53, 54, 55, 63, 75

Organizational Assistance	43
<i>Organizational Manual</i>	71–72, 77, 81
Other Committees	37
Other Organizations	47–48
Parent Affiliated Churches	21
Parliamentary Order	25
Planting New Assemblies	44, 51–52
<i>Policy Manual</i>	<i>See Operations/Organizational Manuals</i>
Position Papers Information	109
Postsecondary School Representative	18, 27
Postsecondary Schools	18, 27, 46
Post-Tribulation Rapture	58
Practices Disapproved	57–63
Preconversion Divorces	46, 59, 60
Prerogatives	10
Presbyteries	17–18
Presbyters, District	39
Preservation of Affiliation	43
Principles for Fellowship	10
Private Ownership of Religious Institutions	61
Privileged Communications	55
Provisional Certificate of Ministry	48–49
Publication of Dismissal	70
Quorum	81
Rapture	15, 57–58
Date-setting	57
Post-Tribulation	58
Reason for Being	9
Regular Sessions	16

INDEX

Reinstatement

Application for.....	54, 70
Authorization.....	70
Credentials	70–71
Definition of.....	54
District of residence	51–52, 54
Fee.....	54, 71
Lapsed minister	54
Other than dismissed minister	54
Previously dismissed, Eligibility of.....	68
Required after January 15.....	54
Restoration obligatory.....	70
Terminology.....	53–54
Waiting period	54
Relationships	16
Between churches, district councils, and the General Council	20, 43
Between the district and General Council Credentials Committees	63
Ministerial relations	51–52
Relationships, Cooperative Fellowships.....	43
Remarriage.....	59
Removal for Cause (officers).....	30
Removed from the Fellowship, Improper Attitude toward Those	62
Renewals and Reinstatements, Credential	
Expiration date.....	54
Grace period.....	54
Ministers working and residing outside the United States	52, 75
Reinstatement of a lapsed minister	54
Reinstatement of other than dismissed minister.....	54
Renewal of ministers in restoration	68
Support of the national office.....	54
Terminology.....	53–54
Requirements for Affiliation	20
Residency Requirements.....	48

Resolutions Committee	36–37
Appropriateness of resolution.....	37
Presentation format.....	37
Procedure for presentation.....	36–37
Right of sponsor	37
Scriptural interpretation.....	37
Sponsorship policy.....	37
Restitution of All Things	57
Restoration.....	63, 67–68
Administration.....	68
Authority	67
Basis	67
Completion of.....	68
Credentials renewal.....	68
Disposition, Final.....	69
District membership	67
District recommendation.....	68–69
Eligibility of ministerial benefits.....	68
Eligibility of previously dismissed	68
Extent of ministry.....	67
Period of time.....	67
Previous dismissal	68
Procedure and requirements.....	67–68
Publication of	67
Referral for action	68–69
Reports, District and minister.....	68
Requirements	67–68
Right of appeal.....	69–70
Supervision	68
Suspension during	67
Terms and conditions.....	67
Transfer of information.....	55, 68
Right of Appeal.....	21, 69–70
Consideration by General Council Credentials	
Committee	69–70
Filing to General Council Credentials Committee	69
To the General Presbytery	70
Right of Initiative	16, 64–65
Right of Self-Government.....	20

INDEX

Role of the District.....	38
Roster Committee.....	36
Safeguarding the Assemblies	42–43
Salaries, Elected Officers’	35
Salvation, Adding Conditions to	57
Salvation of Man, The.....	13
Conditions to salvation	13
Evidences of salvation, The.....	13
Sanctification	14
Screening, Mandatory	46
Scriptures Inspired, The	11
Second Coming	13, 15
Secret Orders.....	58
Security, Unconditional.....	57
Senior-Retired Ministers	50–51
Aged Ministers Assistance	50–51
Application for retired category	50
Guidelines.....	50
Limitations.....	51
Support of the General Council national office	50
Sessions, Regular	16
Sessions, Special	16
Setting a Date for the Lord’s Return.....	57
Solicitation of Funds	60–61
Sovereign Rights	20
Special Sessions	16
Spiritual Life and Discipleship Committee.....	37
Standing Committees.....	36
Statement of Fundamental Truths	11–16

Stewardship, Abuses of	60–61
Private ownership of religious institutions	61
Solicitation of funds	60–61
Tithing	60
Subordination	20–21
Subsequent Dismissal	69
Substance Usage.....	63
Supervision of District Councils	19
Support, Financial	
Assemblies	20, 21, 42
Ministers	50, 54
Missions/missionaries.....	75, 78–79
Support of the National Office.....	42, 50, 54
Teen Challenge	See Adult and Teen Challenge U.S.A.
Tenets of Faith	11–16
Termination	54–55
Terms of Office	17
Tithing.....	50, 60
Support of the national office	42, 50, 54
Total Giving	21, 42
Transfer	
Between language/ethnic districts and geographical districts	53
Church	40
Credentials	52–53
District.....	52–53
Information	55, 68
Membership.....	44
Property	76
World Fellowship, From Assemblies of God.....	53
U.S. Missions	See Assemblies of God U.S. Missions
Unconditional Security	57
Universalism	57

Vacancies	
Executive officers	28–29
General presbyters	30
Nonresident executive presbyters	29
Removal for cause.....	30
Violations of Ministerial Courtesy.....	61
Voluntary Cooperation and Commitment to the Fellowship.....	45–46
Voting Constituency.....	16, 39
Water Baptism	13
Women, Eligibility of	47
World Missionaries	
Appointment.....	74
Candidates.....	74
Examination criteria.....	74
Ordination.....	75
Specialized service	74
Support of.....	75
World Missions, Assemblies of God	
.....	See Assemblies of God World Missions
Worldliness	60

POSITION PAPERS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL PRESBYTERY

All position papers adopted by the General Presbytery in session may be obtained from the General Council website at www.ag.org under the *Beliefs* tab.

EXHIBIT K



RECEIVED
APR 22 2022
Superintendent

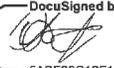
April 18, 2022

Terry Raburn, District Superintendent
Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God
1437 E Memorial Boulevard
Lakeland, FL, 33801

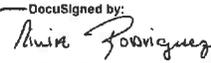
Dear Reverend Raburn:

We the Board of Directors at Brave Church of Miami, Inc. - a sovereign, autonomous, self-governing, and self-determining fellowship - hereby notify you that we have unanimously decided to terminate Brave Church of Miami, Inc's affiliation with the Assemblies of God General Council and District Council, effective immediately.

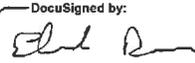
Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

5ABF26C12F1347F...

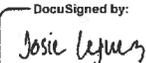
Board President

DocuSigned by:

F57CC4D676204A...

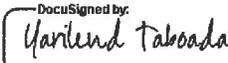
Board Secretary

DocuSigned by:

78DB5B42FF354FF...

Board Treasurer

DocuSigned by:

6459B32DE11A41B...

Board Member

DocuSigned by:

C22F9985681B45F...

Board Member



1300 SW 87TH AVE
MIAMI, FL 33174

PLACE STICKER AT TOP OF ENVELOPE TO THE RIGHT
OF THE RETURN ADDRESS. FOLD AT DOTTED LINE
CERTIFIED MAIL



7022 0410 0001 8232 0228

APR 22 2022



1020



33801

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FCM LETTER
MIAMI, FL
33144
APR 20, 22
AMOUNT
\$7.38
R2304M115387-30

Penimular Florida District
Council of the Assembly of God
Attention: Terry Raburn, District Superintendent
1437 East Memorial Boulevard
Jalaland, FL 33801

LEADING PEOPLE TO LOVE PEOPLE

33801-213137

PAVEMIA@icdn.x @BRAVEMIAMIA

EXHIBIT L



Maybe: Yari Lend >

Damn ..

Well....

I hope you get your peace. This is all disappointing and I'm so upset that these things actually happened. I'm very, very sad. And to be honest I would hate for you to take it to the assemblies of God. I love you and I'm rooting for you but I feel like that would ruin his whole life- and a church that he is running. Again, NO ONE is perfect. It sucks that all this happened to you and there wasn't proper closure. I'm sorry.



That's exactly why I'm doing it, he's the opposite of a pastor, he is a demon. Ruining lives the last thing he should be doing is running a church.

He is a danger to people. He is a liar and a hypocrite.

Read 12/19/21



Calling it a night. Love you. Be blessed. Take care and ttyl



iMessage



1:52 ↩



Maybe: Yari Lend >



I think you'll tell on him just to get back at him for the way he hurt you.

No I'm telling on him bc he's RUINING LIVES!

Because he has moved on (in a crappy way) but he's not gonna hurt you anymore. Both of you have moved on. Or should have moved on.

EXHIBIT M

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF
BRAVE CHURCH OF MIAMI, INC.

To provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, irrespective of social position or worldly possessions; to establish and maintain a place where the Bible, the Word of God, is taught in all its fullness; to worship the one true God; for the propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ both at home and in foreign lands, this fellowship shall be governed by the following constitution and Bylaws:

Preamble

Whereas, we, being an incorporate body of people of like precious faith, believing in the Lord Jesus Christ individually for eternal life through His vicarious death and the power of His resurrection; believing the Bible to be God's Word and the revelation of His will to man and accepting it as our all sufficient rule for faith and conduct; and believing that Christian fellowship, mutual edification and evangelical effort, in and through, the form and body of local churches is God's ordained order for His people, and, that those of each local church are enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship, counsel, and instruction in the Word of God, and the work of the ministry; and for the exercising of those mutual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament; and that the local church is charged by the Word of God and the light of that Word by the Spirit in all godly fear and love; and believing that those things are essential to obtaining the Christian goal, "Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father in heaven is perfect," and further, believing that God has called us, anointing us to emphasize the fullness of the gospel in and through the Baptism with the Holy Ghost (which is our distinctive testimony) according to the Scriptures; (Acts 1:4,5; 2:4,39; 10:44-47; 19:2,6)

Therefore, we have accepted the following Statement of Fundamental Truths:

Statement of Fundamental Truths

1. The Holy Bible. The Holy Bible, and only the Bible, is the authoritative Word of God. It alone is the final authority for determining all doctrinal truths. In its original writing, the Bible is inspired, infallible and inerrant (see Proverbs 30:5; Romans 16:25,26; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21)
2. The Trinity. There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit. These three are coequal and coeternal (see Genesis 1:26; Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 3:16,17; 28:19; Luke 1:35; Hebrews 3:7-11; 1 John 5:7)
3. Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity. On earth, Jesus was 100 percent God and 100 percent man. He is the only man ever to have lived a sinless life. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed miracles, died on the Cross for humankind and, thus, atoned for our sins through the shedding of His blood. He rose from the dead on the third day according to the Scriptures, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return

again in power and glory (see Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1,14; 20:28; Philippians 2:5,6; 1 Timothy 2:5, 3:16).

4. The Virgin Birth. We believe Jesus Christ was conceived by God the Father, through the Holy Spirit (the third person of the Trinity) in the virgin Mary's womb; therefore, He is the Son of God (see Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18, 23-25; Luke 1:27-35).

5. The Redemption of Man. We believe Humanity was created good and upright for God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness." But man, by voluntary transgression, fell, and his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God (see Genesis 1:26-31; 3:17; Romans 5:12-21).

6. Salvation. We believe we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ: His death, burial, and resurrection. Salvation is a gift from God, not a result of our good works or of any human effort (see Romans 10:9-10; Acts 16:31; Galatians 2:16; 3:18; Ephesians 2:8,9; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 9:22).

7. Repentance. We believe repentance is the commitment to turn away from sin in every area of our lives and to follow Christ, which allows us to receive His redemption and to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Thus, through repentance we receive forgiveness of sins and appropriate salvation (see Acts 2:21; 3:19; 1 John 1:9).

8. Sanctification. We believe sanctification is the ongoing process of yielding to God's Word and His Spirit in order to complete the development of Christ's character in us. It is through the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God that the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. (See Romans 8:29; 12:1,2; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 6:14-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 5:23; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 2:11).

9. Jesus' Blood. We believe the blood Jesus Christ shed on the cross of Calvary was sinless and is 100 percent sufficient to cleanse humankind from all sin. Jesus allowed Himself to be punished for both our sinfulness and our sins, enabling all those who believe to be free from the penalty of sin, which is death (see John 1:29; Romans 3:10-12,23; 5:9; Colossians 1:20; 1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5, 5:9).

10. Jesus Christ Indwells All Believers. We believe Christians are people who have invited the Lord Jesus Christ to come and live inside them by His Holy Spirit. They relinquish the authority of their lives over to Him, thus making Jesus the Lord of their lives as well as Savior. They put their trust in what Jesus accomplished for them when He died, was buried, and rose again from the dead (see John 1: 12, 14:17,23; 15:4; Romans 8:11; Revelation 3:20).

11. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit. We believe the baptism in the Holy Spirit, given at Pentecost is the promise of the Father. It was sent by Jesus after His ascension to empower the Church to preach the gospel throughout the whole earth with speaking in other tongues. (See Joel 2:28,29; Matthew 3:11; Mark 16:17; Acts 1:5, 2:14, 17, 38, 39; 8:14-17; 10:38,44-47; 11:15-17; 19:16).

12. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is manifested through a variety of spiritual gifts to build and sanctify the Church, demonstrate the validity of the Resurrection, and confirm the power of the gospel. The lists of these gifts in the Bible are not necessarily exhaustive, and the gifts may occur in various combinations. All believers are commanded to earnestly desire the manifestation of the gifts in their lives. These gifts always operate in harmony with the Scriptures and should never be used in violation of biblical parameters (see Romans 1:11; 12:48; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31; 14:140; Ephesians 4:16; 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:5-16; Hebrews 2:4; 1 Peter 4:10).

13. The Church. We believe the Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of Jesus' Great Commission. We believe every person born of the Spirit is an integral part of the Church as a member of the Body of believers. We believe there is a spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ (See John 17:11,20,23; Ephesians 1:22; 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:23).

14. Water Baptism. We believe that following faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the new convert is commanded by the Word of God to be baptized in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (see Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38).

15. The Lord's Supper. We believe in a unique time of communion in the presence of God when the elements of bread and grape juice (a representation of the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ) are taken in remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross (see Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12,36-38; 10:47, 48; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:23-26).

16. Resurrection. We believe Jesus Christ was physically resurrected from the dead in a glorified body three days after His death on the cross. As a result, both the saved and the lost will be resurrected. They that are saved to the resurrection of life, and they that are lost to the resurrection of eternal damnation (see Luke 24:16, 36, 39; John 2:19-21; 20:26-28; 21:4; Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15:42;44; Phil. 1:21-23; 3:21).

17. Heaven. We believe Heaven is the eternal dwelling place for all believers in the gospel of Jesus Christ (see Matthew 5:3,12,20; 6:20; 19:21; 25:34; John 17:24; 2 Corinthians 5:1 Hebrews 11:16; 1 Peter 1:4).

18. Hell. We believe that after living one life on earth, the unbelievers will be judged by God and sent to hell where they will be eternally tormented with the devil and the fallen angels (see Matthew 25:41; Mark 9:43-48; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 14:9-11; 20:12-15; 21:8).

19. The Second Coming. We believe Jesus Christ will physically and visibly return to earth for the second time to establish His kingdom. This will occur at a date undisclosed by the Scriptures (see Matthew 24:30; 26:63, 64; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; 2 Thessalonians 1:7,8; Revelation 1:7).

20. **Biblical Morality:** The Holy Bible is our guideline that determines morals. This Church stands for the truest sense of biblical, moral absolutes and principles. This Church has the right to govern itself in all matters of ministry, operation, employment and conduct through a fundamental, conservative, interpretation of the Bible. In matters pertaining to sexual orientation and sexual immorality, this Church holds to all rights protecting its position against these things as well as other cultural deviations from the Bible, whether stated or unstated in these Bylaws. The biblical definition of marriage is a Godly covenant that is a mutually exclusive, monogamous relationship between one man and one woman. This Church as a religious organization has the right to deny or remove membership, area of service in ministry, employment or other privileges or associations to anyone chooses, endorses, or claims a lifestyle, orientation, persuasion, position, etc., contrary to the or the church's position on these matters, whether stated or unstated. These are recognized as doctrinal issues and rights that shall not be infringed upon. However, this right is not to be construed any manner that could influence or institute bigotry, hatred, or harm against those who practice or approved of such lifestyles, orientations, persuasions, or positions. This Church shall be a body that exemplifies the love of God and the grace of Jesus to all people, regardless of their circumstances, choices, persuasions, or lifestyles. However, showing compassion and grace should not be interpreted approval of such things. (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 15:19, 18:15-17; Romans 1:18-28; 1 Corinthians 6:9,18; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:3; Colossians 3:5, Hebrews 13:4)

ARTICLE I

Name

As stated in the Articles of Incorporation, the name of this corporation shall be Brave Church of Miami Inc.

ARTICLE II

Offices

The principal office of Brave Church of Miami, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the Brave Church, shall be located at the address set forth in the Articles of Incorporation. The Corporation may have such other offices, either within or without the State of Incorporation, as the Board of Directors may determine.

ARTICLE III

Membership

(Paragraph 1) **Qualifications for Membership.**

Members shall be all people age 16 and older, who have given consistent financial support to Brave Church and have completed Brave Life, or any other like discipleship established at Brave Church. A member ceases to be a member after 6 months without giving financial support to

Brave Church. If a member is removed due to lack of financial support, the member will not be notified of their removal.

(Paragraph 2) Removal from Membership.

A Member may be removed from membership by a majority vote of the Board of Directors for any reason. The member shall be notified in writing within seven (7) days of such a decision to remove said member by a member of the Board of Directors. The notification shall provide the member with "good reason" for their dismissal. The decision of the Board of Directors in all matters relating to membership shall be final and there is no other recourse or appeal by any Member once such a decision has been made.

ARTICLE IV

Government

Brave Church, Inc. is governed by the congregation, the Board of Directors of the Corporation, the Executive Staff of the church, the office of the senior pastor and the overseers. The membership determines the spiritual tone, strength, and direction of the church by wisely selecting the senior pastor. The Board of Directors are to serve the church by setting policy in the management of the church Corporation and making the major financial decisions for the church. The Executive Pastoral Staff is the second level of pastoral leadership for the church to supply council, support, and accountability to the senior pastor. The senior pastor is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day ministry of the church, and the Board of overseers is to protect the church through counsel, prayer and, if required, the discipline of the senior pastor.

ARTICLE V

Members

Section 1. General Authority to Select a New Senior Pastor.

Should the church need a new senior pastor, two methods are provided for the membership selection of a new senior pastor. One method involves the participation of the departing pastor; the other method does not. The founding pastor of the church need not be officially confirmed by the membership therefore, he is exempted from Article Five.

Section 2. Member Process with the Participation of the Departing Pastor.

(Paragraph 1) Departing Pastor Participates in Replacement.

If the senior pastor is in good standing with the church and is removing himself because of retirement or relocation, the following is the selection process:

(Paragraph 2) Member Vote

The senior pastor may choose up to two candidates. The first candidate is to speak in the primary services over 3 individual weekends. Then the senior pastor is to formally recommend this candidate during a Monday night meeting of the membership. The meeting is to be announced

in the primary services of the church and held eight days later on a Monday night. Any meeting of the membership for pastoral selection requires a roll call of all legal members on record at Brave Church, Inc. The quorum for the meeting will be the members present at the meeting. At that meeting, the departing senior pastor and the candidate must leave. Then the Directors are to conduct a secret ballot vote and, with a minimum two-thirds (2/3) vote, the candidate shall be accepted. If that candidate fails, the second candidate chosen by the senior pastor is afforded the same opportunity as the first. If the second ballot fails, the process outlined in Section 3 shall be followed. The ballots are to be counted by the Directors and their spouses.

Section 3. Congregational Process without Departing Pastor's Participation.

(Paragraph 1) Departing pastor Unavailable.

If the senior pastor is removed by the overseers, is deceased, or cannot or will not participate in the selection process of the new senior pastor for any reason, the following shall be the process for selecting a new senior pastor:

(Paragraph 2) Formation of Pastoral Selection Committee.

A pastoral Selection Committee of seven people will be comprised of the two senior full time pastoral staff members not related to the Senior Pastor as determined by the senior pastor on a calendar year basis and included in the Board of Directors minutes, the Secretary, the Treasurer and 2 overseers. If there are not two full time pastoral staff members, the membership may elect people who are familiar with the day-to-day work of the church. The committee itself is to vote and select a chairperson and co-chairperson by majority vote.

(Paragraph 3) The duty of the Pastoral Selection Committee is to provide an interim pastor or guest speakers to conduct church services. However, neither an interim pastor nor a replacement speaker shall have the corporate powers of President.

(Paragraph 4) The committee is to recommend a new senior pastor as soon as an acceptable candidate is available. That person must be a licensed or ordained minister of the gospel. He must be approved by three of the five members on the Board of Overseers before being presented to the church. Once the committee recommends a senior pastoral candidate, that person is to speak in the primary services over 3 individual weekends. Afterward, a meeting of the membership shall be publicly called on a Monday night, chaired by a member of the Board of Directors selected by that board. At that meeting church members shall vote by secret ballot to either accept or reject the pastoral candidate. Directors and their spouses are to count the ballots. A minimum two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members attending the meeting is required to elect the next senior pastor. When a two-thirds (2/3) majority in favor of the candidate does not occur, the Pastoral Selection Committee shall seek another candidate.

(Paragraph 5) Staff Administration During Transition.

During the selection process, members of the church staff are to continue in their positions. Should staff or financial problems arise, the directors have authority to alter the roles of staff members, including dismissal if necessary in the judgment of the Directors When the new senior

pastor is in place, he has full authority to select his own staff, replacing existing staff members, if he should choose, according to the severance agreements.

(Paragraph 6) Absentee Ballots.

Absentee balloting may be provided for by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI

Board of Directors of the Corporation

Section 1. General Powers.

The major financial affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by the Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the Directors, whose members shall have a fiduciary obligation to the Corporation.

Section 2. Functions.

(Paragraph 1) Provide Facilities

The Directors vote in accordance with these Bylaws in order to conduct the major business decisions of the corporation. The Directors oversee the provision of the physical facilities needed by the church Body. They also coordinate any construction projects that require a loan.

(Paragraph 2) Exclusive Authority

The Directors are the only body within the Corporation or church Body with the authority to (1) buy and sell real estate, (2) borrow money and/or (3) secure real estate leases.

(Paragraph 3) Counsel

The Directors are to provide counsel to the senior pastor regarding the major financial affairs of the church.

Section 3. Financial Guidelines.

(Paragraph 1) Moneys Available to Directors.

In order to provide for the physical needs of the church, the Directors have available to them 100% of all unrestricted moneys accumulated in any type of savings account (including stocks, bonds, CDs, mutual funds, etc.) And all assets in land and property. In addition, the Directors may direct any expenditures up to 35% of the unrestricted income of the church from tithes, offerings, interest, and investments. (Current undesignated income is 90% of the undesignated income of the previous year.) From the 35% of church income at the Directors' disposal, payment must be made on all debts and real estate leases of the Corporation.

(Paragraph 2) Annual Financial Review.

If the income of the church exceeds \$250,000 per year, the Directors shall obtain an annual review performed by an independent Bookkeeper.

(Paragraph 3) Annual Financial Review Committee.

The Directors shall appoint the secretary, the treasurer and two other members of the Board of Directors to serve as a financial review committee. After reviewing the annual financial report, committee members are to report their findings at a meeting of the Board of Directors.

(Paragraph 4) Conflict of Interest.

In order to avoid a conflict of interest, all the following criteria must be met to complete any business transaction between a Board of Director and the Corporation:

1. The director with whom the transaction is being considered is excluded from any discussions for approving the transaction and shall not be present at the vote for said transaction.
2. The Directors consider competitive bids or comparable valuations.
3. The Directors act upon and demonstrate that the transaction is in the best interest of the Corporation.
4. The transaction must be fully disclosed in the end of year reviewed financial statements of the Corporation.

Section 4. Appointment, Number, Term and Qualifications.

(Paragraph 1) Number and Selection.

The Board of Directors shall be composed of at least three and not more than seven members, who are appointed by the senior pastor and approved by a simple majority vote of the existing Board of Directors.

(Paragraph 2) In the initial startup of the Corporation, the senior pastor shall appoint Directors that shall serve in a temporary capacity for 1 year. At the end of the first year of the church's existence, the senior pastor has the ability to replace any or all of the Directors.

(Paragraph 3) Directors may not be employees of the Corporation or staff members of the church, nor can they be married to employees or staff members. The only exception to this is in the case of the senior pastor. The senior pastor is a member of the Board of Directors with full voting privileges. In the event of a tie in any matter, the senior pastor shall cast the deciding vote.

(Paragraph 4) The term of office for each Board of Director will be 5 years. Each seat will stagger its term of expiration one per year with two seats expiring every 5th year. For example, seat one will expire at the end of year 5, seat two will expire at the end of year 6, etc. At the end of each seat's term, the senior pastor may extend the director's service at his discretion up to another term. There are no term limits.

(Paragraph 5) If a seat becomes vacant in the middle of a 5-year term, the new occupier of the seat will serve the remainder of the term and then the senior pastor may decide to renew them for another 5-year term.

(Paragraph 6) The purpose of this staggering is to keep from having too much change on the Board at one time, thus disrupting the rhythm and unity of the Board of Directors.

(Paragraph 7) Removal.

The senior pastor may dismiss Directors without cause, but at a rate that does not exceed one dismissal every six months. In the event that the office of pastor is vacant, the Directors may appoint or dismiss Directors subject to the same limitations that apply to appointments and dismissals by the senior pastor.

(Paragraph 8) Exclusive Role.

Because the Directors are responsible for the major financial decisions of the church, they must resign their positions on the Board if they ever become staff members or take any other paid position within the church. Volunteer work within the church is encouraged, but paid positions may constitute a conflict of interest.

Section 5. Meetings.

(Paragraph 1) Frequency of Meetings.

A meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held at least twice a year. The senior pastor, or any director may call a meeting at any time, under the condition that a majority of the Directors attend the meeting and all Board members are notified.

(Paragraph 2) Leadership of Meetings.

If at all possible, the senior pastor is to attend and lead each Board of Directors meeting. If the pastor is not able to lead the meeting, the Board of Directors must choose a leader for that meeting and proceed in order, with an appointed member keeping minutes for the record. Any motions passed and recorded in a meeting without the pastor may not take effect until the following meeting with the pastor present when the minutes of the previous meeting are approved.

(Paragraph 3) Location of Meetings.

Any meeting of the Board of Directors may be held at such place or places as shall from time to time be determined by the Directors or fixed by the senior pastor and designated in the notice of the meeting. Teleconferences or Internet conferences are acceptable, if necessary, but are not to be the norm for meetings of the Board of Directors.

(Paragraph 4) Written Notice of Meetings.

Whenever a written notice is required to be given to any director, these three rules apply. (1) Such notice may be given in writing by fax, mail, or email at such an address or fax number that appears on the books of the Corporation and such notice shall be deemed to be given at the time the notice is faxed, mailed, or sent. (2) The person entitled to such notice may waive the notice by signing a written waiver before, at or after the time of the meeting. (3) The appearance of such person or persons at the meeting shall be equivalent to signing a written waiver of notice.

(Paragraph 5) Regular Meetings.

The Directors may establish regular meetings. No notice shall be required for any regular meeting.

(Paragraph 6) Directors Action Without Meeting.

Any action that could be taken at a meeting of the Board of Directors may be taken without a notice if a majority of Directors participate with the pastor or present. Such action shall be effective as of the date of the meeting.

(Paragraph 7) Teleconferencing.

At any meeting of the Board of Directors, any person may participate in the meeting by telephone provided all members of the Directors present at the meeting or by telephone can hear and speak to each other. Participation by telephone shall be equivalent to attending the meeting in person.

(Paragraph 8) Quorum.

A simple majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction or business at any meeting. The act of a majority of the Directors shall be the act of the Board of Directors. In the absence of a quorum at any meeting, a meeting of the Directors present may adjourn the meeting without further notice until a quorum shall be established.

Section 6. Compensation.

Directors, as such, shall not receive any salaries for their services.

ARTICLE VII

Senior Pastor of the Church/President of the Corporation

Section 1. The Office of the Senior Pastor

(Paragraph 1) The Dual Role. Because Brave Church of Miami Inc. has two complementary branches the spiritual Body of believers and the legal Corporation it is the senior pastor who administratively bridges the gap between the two branches. This dual role can sometimes be awkward: The senior pastor is primarily responsible for the spiritual life of the church; therefore, he must be in a position corporately to ensure that financial strength is directed toward the ministries of his choice.

(Paragraph 2) Responsibilities of the Senior Pastor.

It is the senior pastor's responsibility to:

Provide biblical vision and direction for the congregation; Define and communicate the church's purpose; Oversee and coordinate the day-to-day ministry of the congregation and administration of the church; Appoint a Board of overseers pursuant to Article VIII. Recognize and enlist apostolic, prophetic, evangelistic, pastoral and teaching ministries, along with elders, deacons and additional staff members as he deems biblical and necessary for the healthy spiritual development of the Body of believers; Select Directors pursuant to Article VI who will help oversee the business of the Corporation; Staff the church as he deems necessary to help administrate the affairs of the Corporation;

(Paragraph 3) The Pastor's Spiritual Leadership.

The senior pastor may work with overseers, elders, deacons or anyone serving in the functions or offices as outlined in Ephesians 4:11-13 in whatever way he determines is biblical to serve the spiritual needs of the congregation. Additionally, the senior pastor may budget moneys, hire staff, develop projects, create small groups, programs, or other ministries according to his convictions and biblical understanding. He shall have the authority to appoint and approve any assistants necessary to properly carry on the work of the church.

(Paragraph 4) The Pastor's Responsibility for Services Times, order of services and the leadership of services are to be determined by the senior pastor or by the spiritual church structure he establishes. No person shall be invited to speak, teach, or minister at a service held in church-owned facilities, or in the name of the church, without the approval of the pastor or the appropriate member of the established church ministry team as determined by the senior pastor.

(Paragraph 5) All Pastors at Brave Church hold the privilege to either accept or deny invitations to perform weddings at their own discretion.

Section 2. The Office of the President.

(Paragraph 1) The President.

The Corporation finds its leadership under the Lord Jesus Christ and in its president. The senior pastor shall serve as the president and chief executive officer of the Corporation. If possible, he shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and shall see that all orders and resolutions of the Board are put into effect. He shall execute in the name of the Corporation all deeds, bonds, mortgages, contracts, and other documents authorized by the Board of Directors. He shall be an ex-officio member of all standing committees and shall have the general powers and duties of supervision and management usually vested in the office of the president of a corporation.

(Paragraph 2) The President's Role with Board of Directors.

The president is the voting chairman of the Board of Directors. He calls meetings and determines the agenda in consultation with the Directors. The president shall make selections to the Board of Directors from the church membership at a rate not to exceed one new appointment every six months in accordance with Article Six. The president may also dismiss Directors, but at a rate that does not exceed one dismissal every six months in accordance with Article six.

(Paragraph 3) The President's Administrative Role.

The president is the senior administrator of the church. He is ultimately responsible for all day-to-day administrative decisions of the church.

(Paragraph 4) The President's Role with Staff.

The president hires, directs and dismisses staff. As the senior pastor, his call is confirmed to the church through the congregation, and those hired by him are to assist him in fulfilling this calling.

(Paragraph 5) The President's Role in Establishing Salaries.

The president determines all salaries and writes pay scales for full-time salaried employees. Pay scales shall be explained to new full time salaried employees. Changes in pay scales will be given in writing to the affected employees. If a severance pay agreement is established, that too must be given to the employee in writing. In addition, all part time salaries and hourly wages are variable and are to be determined between the president and the employee.

(Paragraph 6) The President's Salary Exceptions.

The salary of the president is to be determined by the Board of Directors consistent with the pay scale for similar ministries with the following two exceptions:

1. Housing. The president (senior pastor) may live in a parsonage owned and maintained by the Corporation. The Board of Directors shall choose the parsonage.

2. Transportation. The senior pastor shall be provided with two automobiles, which will be maintained by the corporation. The Directors shall determine the cost of the automobiles. The corporation shall then purchase or lease the vehicle of the pastor's choice within the budget allowed. Each automobile is to be kept for six years. During his first three years of service at the church, only one automobile shall be provided; then, at the beginning of the fourth year, the second shall be purchased or leased. Henceforth, a new vehicle is to be purchased or leased every three years. If the president chooses to replace a vehicle before six years expires, the value remaining in the previous vehicle is the maximum that may be spent unless the president contributes personal funds toward the purchase of the replacement vehicle. No additional funds may be added by the Corporation for the purchase of a vehicle out of sequence.

(Paragraph 7) Optional Benefits.

After the senior pastor has served for a minimum of 5 consecutive years, the Directors may provide additional benefits unique to the senior pastoral position by majority vote of a quorum of the Directors. They may, for example, choose to provide an additional retirement benefit to compensate for the senior pastor's inability to build equity in a home while living in a church owned parsonage. The Directors may also choose to reduce the amount of time the senior pastor is required to keep a vehicle before replacing it. These benefits and others like them such as bonuses and gifts must be initiated by the Directors rather than the senior pastor because these benefits are optional and not required. They are purely an attempt to reward many years of faithful service.

(Paragraph 8) Budget.

After the church is one year old, an annual budget must be prepared. The budget is not to exceed 100% of the previous year's undesignated income. The president is to write the budget for 65% in order to finance the basic ministry needs of the church (salaries, taxes, bills, missions, benevolence, department financial allocations, etc.). He is free to reflect his values and wisdom in his budget portion. Then, the president is to work with the Directors to add their 35 percent to the budget.

(Paragraph 9) Expenditures.

Budgeted amounts are not to be considered actual moneys available. The president can only spend actual funds that are available, and those moneys are to be spent according to the budget.

The president may not borrow money, sign leases, buy or sell real estate, or make any arrangements that could force indebtedness upon the church. Should the church borrow, the Directors may give the president authority to spend those moneys on the project for which the funds were borrowed. All undesignated moneys available to the Corporation above budgeted amounts are deemed discretionary and are available to be spent by the president, but he may only obligate funds currently on hand.

ARTICLE VIII

Overseers

(Paragraph 1) Brave Church Requirements for Overseers.

The members of the Board of overseers must be active pastors in respected congregations who know and love Brave Church and the pastor. They must agree to make themselves available at their own expense to serve Brave Church if requested by the Board of Directors and must be willing to provide spiritual protection to the church through prayer and by exemplifying honorable Christian lives.

(Paragraph 2) Biblical Qualifications for Overseers.

"Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family well, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap." (1 Timothy 3:27)

(Paragraph 3) Selection and Function of Overseers.

A Board of overseers will be nominated by the pastor and confirmed by the Board of Directors by majority vote. The pastor will be accountable to the overseers in the event of alleged misconduct in compliance with Article Thirteen.

(Paragraph 4) Installing New Overseers.

The senior pastor and the Board of Directors may replace overseers at a rate of one per year and enter that change into the minutes of a Board of Directors meeting. If disciplinary action is being considered, changes in the Board of overseers may not be made until its work is completed.

(Paragraph 5) Number of Overseers.

The number of overseers that make up the Board of overseers must be at least 3 and no more than 5 at any time and are to be recorded in the minutes of the Directors meeting.

ARTICLE IX

Elders

(Paragraph 1) Spiritual Role

The elders are to serve the congregation and the senior pastor for the development of the spiritual life of the church. These people and their spouses are to help create a positive spiritual climate within the church Body. They are neither a governing or corporate board, but a spiritual body called to create and maintain stability in potentially negative situations.

(Paragraph 2) Definition.

The elders are people who function within the local church as ordained pastoral staff of the church. They meet the biblical qualifications for eldership and function in that calling.

(Paragraph 3) Functions.

The functions of the elders are to:

1. Maintain and teach by living a godly, Christian lifestyle;
2. Provide a prayer shield for the local church;
3. Defend, protect and support the integrity of the local church;
4. Pray for the sick;
5. Mediate disputes among the brethren;
6. Counsel;
7. Contact the Board of overseers to initiate investigation and potential discipline of the senior pastor;
8. Represent the church to other local churches.

(Paragraph, 4) Biblical Qualification for Eldership.

An Elder must follow the biblical pattern of eldership in the spirit of Titus 1:69.

ARTICLE X

Officers

Section 1. Officers.

The officers of the Corporation shall be a president, , secretary and a treasurer and any other officers that the Directors may authorize from time to time.

Section 2. Appointment, Election and Term of Office.

(Paragraph 1) Appointment of the President.

The appointment responsibilities of the president listed in Articles Five and Seven.

(Paragraph 2) Appointment of the Secretary, and Treasurer.

The secretary, and treasurer are to be nominated by the president and approved by the Board of Directors. The term of this office is indefinite. Should the Directors fail to approve of the nomination from the president, other nominations must be made until a candidate suitable to the Directors is nominated. The president may remove the secretary, or treasurer.

(Paragraph 3) The secretary, and treasurer shall be a member of the Board of Directors.

(Paragraph 4) New Offices.

New offices may be created and filled at any meeting of the Board of Directors. Each officer shall hold office until his successor has been duly elected and qualified.

Section 3. Removal of Officers.

(Paragraph 1) Overseers' Responsibility for the President.

The overseers of the church may discipline or remove the president according to Article Thirteen.

(Paragraph 2) Directors' Responsibility for All Other Officers.

Any officer elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by the Board when the best interests of the Corporation would be served thereby, but such removal shall be without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the officer so removed.

Section 4. Powers of Officers.

(Paragraph 1) The President.

The powers of the president are listed in Article Seven.

(Paragraph 2) The Secretary.

As secretary, the secretary shall attend all sessions of the Board of Directors and shall act as clerk thereof to record (or have recorded) all votes and the minutes of all proceedings in a book to be kept for that purpose. This person shall oversee the keeping of the membership rolls of the corporation, and in general perform the duties usually incident to the office of secretary, and such further duties as shall be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Directors or the President.

(Paragraph 3) The Treasurer.

The treasurer shall oversee the keeping of full and accurate accounts of the receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the corporation. The treasurer shall also oversee the deposit of all moneys and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the Corporation in such banks and depositories as may be designated by the president. The treasurer does not determine expenditures but does oversee the disbursement of the funds of the Corporation as may be ordered by the Board of Directors or the president. This person shall perform the duties usually incident to the office of treasurer and such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Directors or the President.

(Paragraph 4) Year End Financial Statements.

The treasurer is to provide to the Board a report on the previous year's income and disbursements.

(Paragraph 5) Cash Flow Statements.

The treasurer is to work with the president to review and prepare an annual cash flow statement that must accompany all giving receipts to members. That report is to include the specific amounts of cash remuneration received from the church to specific pastor staff members.

Benefits, support staff salaries and other items may be grouped together, but the cash portion of the pastoral packages must be itemized individually.

(Paragraph 6) Public Availability of Annual Financial Statements.

The treasurer shall insure that current reviewed financial statements are available to members upon written request, and that the previous year's cash flow statements are available to all contributors to the church.

Section 5. Director's Selection of Additional Officers.

In the absence of any officer of the corporation, except the president, or for any other reason that may seem necessary to the board, the Board of Directors, by a majority vote, may delegate the duties and powers of that officer for the time being to any other officer, or to any director.

ARTICLE XI
Business Practices

Section 1. Fiscal Year.

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be the Calendar Year.

Section 2. Contracts.

The Board of Directors may authorize any officer or officers, agent, or agents of the Corporation, in addition to the officers so authorized by these Bylaws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation. Such authority may be general or may be confined to specific instances.

Section 3. Checks, Drafts or Orders.

All checks, drafts, orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Corporation shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the Corporation, and in such manner, as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors. In the absence of such determination by the Board of Directors, such instruments may be signed by the President of the Corporation in accordance with their duties outlined in these Bylaws.

Section 4. Deposits.

All funds of the Corporation shall be deposited to the credit of the Corporation in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the Board of Directors may select in accordance with these Bylaws.

Section 5. Gifts.

The president/pastor may accept on behalf of the Corporation any contribution, gift, bequest, or device for any purpose of the corporation.

Section 6. Books and Records.

The corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records of account. The Corporation shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of its members, Board of Directors, committees having and exercising any or the authority of the Board of Directors and any other committees. It shall keep at the principal office a record giving the names and addresses of all Board members entitled to vote.

ARTICLE XII

Church Ministry

Section 1. Minister Ordination and Licensing.

Brave Church reserves the right to ordain, license, or commission individuals as ministers of the gospel to perform the ordinances and ceremonies of the church including, but not limited to, marriage, baptism, communion, and funerals.

Section 2. Ministry Training.

The senior pastor and his staff may establish a School of Ministry, setting forth a prescribed curriculum and course of study leading to ordination and licensing of ministers.

ARTICLE XIII

Church Discipline

Section 1. Disciplining Church Members. Only members are subject to church discipline.

Section 2. Disciplining the Pastor.

(Paragraph 1) Criteria for Discipline.

Should the senior pastor demonstrate immoral conduct, financial practices, or theological views, which may require either personal correction or termination of his position, the Executive Pastoral Team shall contact the senior pastor and then contact the Overseers if the executive team deem necessary for investigation and evaluation of any appropriate discipline.

(Paragraph 2) Process for Investigation.

Should the overseers be asked to investigate alleged pastoral misconduct, a majority of the overseers is required to take disciplinary action. With such a majority, the overseers shall assume complete authority over the senior pastor. They may decide by majority vote to remove him from his position or to discipline him in any way they deem necessary. The overseers have no authority in Brave Church, Inc. unless contacted by the Executive Pastoral Team, and then only insofar as permitted in these Bylaws.

(Paragraph 3) Motivation.

It is the intention of the Corporation to protect the hearts of all involved in matters of pastoral discipline. Using the method outlined in these Bylaws, the "sheep" never have to pass judgment upon their "shepherd".

ARTICLE XIV

Amendment of Constitution and Bylaws

Amendment of Constitution and Bylaws

These Constitution and Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed, and new Bylaws may be adopted, by at least a 65% vote of the Board of Directors at any regular Board meeting. At least five days advance written notice of said meeting shall be given to each member of the board. The written notice must explain proposed changes. These Bylaws may also be altered, amended, or repealed, and new Bylaws may be adopted by consent in writing signed by all members of the Board of Directors.

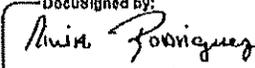
Constitution and Bylaws were approved by the Board of Directors of Brave Church, Inc. on March 27th, 2022.

List of Officers and Board of Directors:

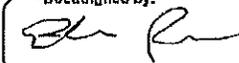
DocuSigned by:

5ABF28C12F1347F...

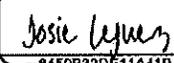
(President)

DocuSigned by:

F570C4D070204A1...

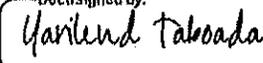
(Secretary)

DocuSigned by:

1C43105FFEDARUJ...

(Treasurer)

DocuSigned by:

0466B32DE11A41B...

(Board Member)

DocuSigned by:

022F0095601B46F...

(Board Member)