

# **CONSTITUTION OF THE FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD**

**Adopted the 29<sup>th</sup> Day of February 1984**

**As Amended the 26<sup>th</sup> Day of February 2017**

## **PREAMBLE**

The purpose of this church is to establish and maintain a place for the worship of Almighty God, our heavenly Father; to provide for religious education and 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 a part of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and of the North Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God; and declare that we hereby adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE I. NAME**

The name of this church shall be the FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD, of Waco, McLennan County, State of Texas.

### **ARTICLE II. PREROGATIVES**

#### **SECTION 1.**

This Assemblies of God church shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures, "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace . . . till we all come in the unity of 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" (KJV).

#### **SECTION 2.**

In connection therewith, or incidental thereto, it shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest, or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes; all in accordance with its constitution and bylaws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

### **ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION AND RELATIONSHIP**

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

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

## 1. THE SCRIPTURES INSPIRED

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

## 2. THE ONE TRUE GOD

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

## 3. THE DEITY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

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

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

## 4. THE FALL OF MAN

Man was created good and upright; for God said, GEN 1:26 "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 Ghost, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

### b. The Evidences of Salvation

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

## 6. THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

### a. Baptism in Water

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ

and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47, 48; Romans 6:4)

#### b. Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements (bread and the fruit of the vine) is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus (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 GHOST

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and serving, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-3 1). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Ghost come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

### 8. THE EVIDENCE OF THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY GHOST

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

### 9. SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil and of dedication unto God (Romans 12:1, 2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). By the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:15, 16). Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:1-11, 13; 8:1, 2, 13; Galatians 2:20; 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 First born, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22, 23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

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

- 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 (I Corinthians 12:13).
- c. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of believers being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).

The Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to these reasons-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 worship relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16 and chapters 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 (Galatians 5:22-26; I Corinthians 12:28, 14:12; Ephesians 4:11, 12; Colossians 1:29).

## 11. THE MINISTRY

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the three-fold purpose of leading the Church in:

- a. Evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20),
- b. Worship of God (John 4:23, 24),
- c. Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16).

## 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 burns with fire and brimstone which is the second death (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11, 15; 21:8).

## 16. THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH

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

# ARTICLE V. ORDINANCES

## SECTION 1. WATER BAPTISM

The ordinance of Baptism by immersion in water (Matthew 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 (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12).

#### SECTION 2. THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

### ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP

#### SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Membership in this assembly shall be open 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.

#### SECTION 2. VOTING MEMBERSHIP

All those who meet the Scriptural standards for membership, whose names appeared on the original membership roll of the assembly at the time the assembly was first organized, together with those names which shall be added from time to time, shall constitute the legal voting membership of the assembly, provided they are sixteen (16) years of age or over.

Enrolled members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of the assembly for a period of three (3) consecutive months or more, or cease to contribute of their means to its support, or who may be out of harmony with its teachings or its ministries, or who may have fallen under condemnation through sinful or worldly practices, shall be considered as inactive members and shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to the fellowship, their standing to be settled by the definite action of the assembly through its Board of Deacons. Prior to any business meeting of the assembly the Board of Deacons, with the pastor, shall determine which members are considered inactive.

**[Members of the assembly must be present at a meeting in order to vote; absentee ballots will not be counted.]**

### ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS

#### SECTION 1. OFFICERS

There shall be a Pastor, Board of Deacons, Sunday School Superintendent, Secretary, Treasurer, Trustees, and such other officers and committees as may be needed.

#### SECTION 2. QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS

##### a. PASTOR

The Pastoral candidate shall be an ordained minister in good standing and fellowship with the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

b. DEACONS

The Deacon candidate should be at least twenty-one years of age and shall have been a member of the assembly for at least one year. Candidates should be of mature Christian experience and shall consistently demonstrate behavior and character according to the standards set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

c. OTHER OFFICERS

Any and all other candidates for office shall be members of the assembly and should be striving to live exemplary Christian lives according to New Testament standards of conduct and character.

## **ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS**

### **SECTION 1. PUBLIC MEETINGS**

Meetings for public worship shall be held each Lord's Day and during the week, as may be provided for under the direction of the Pastor and Board of Deacons.

### **SECTION 2. ANNUAL BUSINESS OF 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 officers shall be presented. This meeting shall be held during the month of January or February, as agreed upon by the Pastor and the Board of Deacons. The time and place shall be announced by the Pastor or Secretary. The meeting shall be announced at all services on the two Sundays immediately prior to the date of said meeting.

### **SECTION 3. SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETINGS**

Special business meetings of the assembly may be called when necessary. Announcement of all special business meetings shall be made at all services on the two Sundays immediately prior to the date of the meeting. The Pastor or Secretary shall make the announcements.

- a. A special business meeting may be called by agreement of a majority of the Board of Deacons.
- b. The Pastor shall be empowered to call a special business meeting.
- c. A special business meeting may also be called by petition, having been signed by not less than one-third (1/3) of the voting membership of the assembly, the petition being submitted to the Secretary for announcement. This meeting cannot be called for the purpose of transacting business involving real property or the amendment of this constitution.
- d. A special business meeting for the purpose of transacting business involving real property or amending this constitution shall be called upon a majority vote of the Board of Deacons.

### **SECTION 4. QUORUM**

No record of any business meeting of the assembly shall be made unless one-third or more of the voting members of the assembly shall be present to constitute a quorum.

## SECTION 5. BOARD OF DEACONS

The Board of Deacons with the Pastor as its Chairman shall meet each month for the transaction of routine business for the assembly. The time and place to be announced by the Pastor. In the event the assembly is temporarily without a Pastor or the Pastor is unable to be present, under its Vice Chairman, the Board of Deacons shall be empowered to transact business for the assembly.

## **ARTICLE IX. DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES**

### SECTION 1. SUNDAY SCHOOL

There shall be a Sunday School created and conducted as a branch of the church activities.

### SECTION 2. OTHER DEPARTMENTS

As need arises other departments or committees may be established.

### SECTION 3. RELATIONSHIP

All departments and committees shall be subordinate to the assembly and contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the Pastor and the Board of Deacons, and the Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees or departments.

## **ARTICLE X. FINANCES**

All funds for the maintenance of the assembly shall be provided by the voluntary contributions of tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the organization. Offerings and gifts shall be accepted by the assembly at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the Pastor and the Board of Deacons, and shall be administered by the Board of Deacons (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 16:1, 2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

## **ARTICLE XI. PLEDGE OF ASSETS**

All income and all principal of the assembly, real, personal or mixed, shall be devoted exclusively to the general religious, charitable, or educational purposes set forth in this document. No part of the net earnings of the assembly shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the assembly shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes as set forth herein. No substantial part of the activities of the assembly shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the assembly shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, the assembly shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation and/or assembly exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law).

## **ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION**

In the event this assembly ceases to function as a church body in cooperation with the North Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God, then the title and possession of all remaining assets owned by the assembly shall instantly vest in the North Texas District of the Assemblies of God, Inc., whose headquarters are located at Hurst, Texas, a religious organization that is qualified as a charitable organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. Upon the dissolution of the assembly, the said Council shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the assembly, use and/or dispose of all the assets of the assembly in the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ.

In the event of cessation of this church its Board of Deacons shall within one year thereafter transfer all properties and any remaining assets to the North Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God in accordance with the foregoing provisions, if such transfer is not made within the time prescribed herein or if the aforesaid North Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God shall be unable or unwilling to accept the aforesaid transfer, then said property, real or chattel, shall revert to the General Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., whose headquarters are located in Springfield, Missouri, a charitable organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall forthwith have full authority to use or dispose of the property at their discretion. In the event of the sale of the property by the General Council of the Assemblies of God, the proceeds derived therefrom shall be used by the said General Council in the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ. if the General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be unable or unwilling to accept the aforesaid transfer, then disposition thereof shall be made by the court of McLennan County Texas.

## **ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS**

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the voting membership of the assembly at a special business meeting called for that purpose. Printed copies of such proposed amendments shall have been provided to all voting members present at all services on the two (2) consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting. It shall be understood that this does not apply to the Tenets of Faith which stands regardless of majority.

# **BYLAWS OF FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD**

## **ARTICLE I. DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

### **SECTION 1. PASTOR**

The Pastor shall be the spiritual overseer of the assembly and shall direct all of its activities. He shall be Chairman of the Board of Deacons. He shall be in charge of all business meetings of the assembly except at the time of Pastoral election. 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.

### **SECTION 2. DEACONS**

The Deacon shall serve the assembly in the full spiritual capacity as enjoined by the Scriptures. The Board of Deacons shall conduct the business and financial affairs of the assembly.

1. The Deacons shall find their identity from the Scriptural statements concerning Deacons and shall function in the spirit of Acts 6, 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. They shall assist the Pastor in all matters pertaining to the spiritual life of the assembly and in the ministry of its ordinances. They shall administer church discipline when necessary.
2. The Board of Deacons shall see that all funds are deposited into a F.D.I.C. insured institution in the name of the assembly and shall authorize and oversee the disbursement of all funds. Record of all transactions involving these funds shall be maintained for at least seven (7) years.
3. The Board of Deacons shall recommend an annual budget to the assembly at the annual business meeting. The Board of Deacons can increase the budget as needed provided the financial condition of the assembly warrants and notice of such revision is posted on the church bulletin board for at least two (2) Sundays within thirty (30) days of such revision.
4. Affairs of church government shall be conducted by the Board of Deacons except those requiring ratification by the membership in session; in such cases the Board of Deacons shall present their recommendation.
5. The Board of Deacons shall meet within fifteen (15) days following the annual business meeting to appoint the Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice Chairman from among its members.
6. The Board of Deacons shall provide for an annual audit of the financial records of the assembly and submit the auditor's report to the Treasurer for certification per Article I, Section 4, no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the annual business meeting of the assembly.
7. An annual revision of the membership roster of the assembly as required under Article III, Section 5, shall be performed by the Board of Deacons.
8. After a vacancy occurs in an office elected by the voting membership, the Board of Deacons, shall appoint within forty-five (45) days a replacement to serve the remainder of the term, or a special business meeting must be called to elect a replacement to serve the remainder of the term.

### **SECTION 3. SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT**

The Sunday School Superintendent shall be responsible for and have authority to organize and staff an efficient Sunday School program for the assembly. He shall be directly responsible to the Pastor and shall closely coordinate his work with the Pastor. The Pastor and the Sunday School Superintendent shall be responsible for

the appointment of all officers, teachers, and other workers of the Sunday School, and in consultation with the workers of the school, shall determine policies and programs of the school.

#### SECTION 4. TREASURER

1. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the maintenance of all financial records of the Assembly. He shall oversee the disbursement of all funds of the Assembly, as well as the deposit of funds on a regular basis.
2. The Treasurer of the assembly shall be required to verify, from the records provided by the Board of Deacons, that all funds of the assembly are deposited and disbursed per Bylaws Article I, Section 2, 2.
3. The Treasurer shall review the annual audit of the financial records of the assembly and certify that the annual report accurately reflects the financial records of the assembly.
4. The Treasurer shall report to the assembly the financial condition of the assembly at the annual business meeting and at a regular service during the month of August. The Treasurer shall choose the service for this report, but must advise the Pastor at least seven (7) days prior to the service.

#### SECTION 5. SECRETARY

1. The Secretary shall serve the Board of Deacons and the assembly. The Secretary shall keep written minutes of the official meetings of the Board of Deacons and of the annual and special business meetings of the assembly, and obtain approval at the next meeting of the appropriate body.
2. The Secretary shall keep a record of the acceptance of new members into the assembly and enter the names of the new members into the minutes of the next meeting of the Board of Deacons.
3. The Secretary shall prepare and sign documents as instructed by the assembly or the Board of Deacons. The Secretary shall be the custodian of all legal documents and provide for storage in a safety deposit box.
4. In cases where the Secretary is not present at an official meeting of the Board of Deacons, or of the assembly, minutes of such meeting shall be compiled for the Secretary by a designated member of the Board of Deacons who is present.
5. The Secretary shall maintain a record of all resolutions that are not completed, and present this record at each meeting of that body.

## **ARTICLE II. ELECTION AND TERMS OF OFFICE**

#### SECTION 1. PASTOR

1. The Pastor shall be elected to serve an indefinite period of time.
2. In the absence of a Pastor, the Board of Deacons under its Vice Chairman shall determine the selection procedure for Pastoral candidates. The voting membership shall consider and elect or eliminate one candidate at a time. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of all votes cast shall be required to constitute election. The vote shall be by secret ballot.
3. The Board of Deacons shall be required to call a special business meeting at any time during the Pastor's tenure of office for the taking of a vote of confidence if either of the following occurs:
  - a. A motion to call for a vote of confidence by the Assembly is passed by the Board of Deacons by a

vote of not less than a majority of the full Board of Deacons.

- b. A petition is submitted to the Secretary of the Board of Deacons requesting a vote of confidence, provided it is signed by not less than one-third of the active voting members of the assembly.
4. If a vote of confidence is taken and the Pastor fails to receive a two-thirds majority vote, the Board of Deacons shall be required to secure his resignation.

#### SECTION 2. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A nominating committee consisting of the Pastor as Chairman and four members from the assembly selected by the Board of Deacons shall serve to nominate all candidates for the remaining offices in this article unless otherwise stipulated. Term of service shall be one year. Each member of the committee shall be replaced or reappointed yearly, with no limit to years of service.

#### SECTION 3. DEACONS

1. The Board of Deacons shall be elected by the voting membership at the annual business meeting from among the nominees submitted. Election shall be by majority vote by secret ballot.
2. Term of office shall be three years. Each member shall be limited to three consecutive full terms of office, with at least a ten-month time lapse before again becoming eligible for reelection.
3. The Board of Deacons shall consist of not less than five and not more than fifteen members; the number being determined annually by the assembly.

#### SECTION 4. SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

The Sunday School Superintendent shall be appointed by the Pastor and serve under his direction.

#### SECTION 5. SECRETARY

The Board of Deacons shall appoint on an annual basis a Secretary to serve both the Board of Deacons and the church. The Secretary shall be a member of the Board of Deacons. The Secretary shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.

#### SECTION 6. TREASURER

The Board of Deacons shall appoint on an annual basis the Treasurer. The Treasurer may or may not be a member of the Board of Deacons. The Treasurer shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.

## **ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP**

### SECTION 1. THE STANDARD OF MEMBERSHIP

The standard of membership in this assembly shall be:

1. Evidence of a genuine experience in regeneration - the new birth (John 1:12, 13; 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:18-25).
2. Evidence of a consistent Christian life (Romans 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13, 14; Ephesians 4:17-31; 5:1, 2, 15; 1 John 1:6, 7).
3. To fully subscribe to the tenets of faith and agree to abide by the rules of order adopted by the assembly as set forth in the constitution and bylaws.
4. Willingness to contribute regularly to the support of the assembly according to his or her ability.

### SECTION 2. RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

1. Persons desiring to become active members of the assembly shall make the fact known to the Pastor who shall examine the applicant according to the standard of membership.
2. The Pastor shall present the names of those who apply for membership with his recommendation to the Board of Deacons who shall act upon said recommendation and render a final decision. All persons who shall have met the membership requirements and have been passed on favorably shall be received into the assembly publicly at any of the regular Sunday services and their names inscribed on the roster.

### SECTION 3. DISCIPLINE

Unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith held by the assembly shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member (Matthew 18:15-18; Romans 16:17, 18; 1 Corinthians 5:11; Galatians 1:8, 9; Titus 3:1-15).

### SECTION 4. TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

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

1. The Pastor and the Board of Deacons shall be authorized to revise the membership roster of the assembly annually, and to remove from the list of active members all names of those who may have become deceased during the year, together with the names of those who may have withdrawn from the fellowship, or who may have fallen into sin and whose lives may have become inconsistent with the standards and teachings of the assembly.
2. If a name is removed for cause, the one whose name is removed shall be notified of the action of the Pastor and Board of Deacons by the Pastor or Secretary. If appeal is made to the Board for reconsideration of their action and reinstatement is not granted, the dismissed member may appeal to the congregation. The action of the assembly, by majority vote, shall be considered final (Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 16:17, 18; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15.)

## **ARTICLE IV. OTHER DEPARIMENTS**

All other departments shall be conducted as branches of the assembly and shall be under the general supervision of the Pastor and the Board of Deacons.

## **ARTICLE V. PROPERTY**

### **SECTION 1.**

All real property shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the name of the assembly by the Board of Deacons and their successors in office.

### **SECTION 2.**

No real property of the assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged or otherwise alienated without the authorization of at least a two-thirds majority vote of the membership present at a special business meeting called for that purpose.

### **SECTION 3.**

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

## **ARTICLE VII. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

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

1. Devotion
2. Reading of previous minutes by Secretary
2. Report of the Treasurer
4. Report of Committees
5. Unfinished business
6. Election of officers
7. New business
8. Adjournment

## **ARTICLE VIII. PARLIAMENTARY ORDER**

In the conducting of its affairs the church shall be governed by parliamentary procedures 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 IX. AMENDMENTS**

The Bylaws may be amended at any annual or special business meeting of the assembly by a majority vote of the membership present.