

CONSTITUTION OF CHRIST CHURCH ASSEMBLY OF GOD

ARTICLE 1 NAME

This assembly shall be known as Christ Church Assembly of God.

ARTICLE 2 OBJECT

The object of this Church shall be:

- a. To establish and maintain a place of worship.

~~(b) To execute the church mission statement with God's Word and Worship as our central foundation:~~

1. ——— Evangelize - Attract and win people to Christ through the influence of the gospel (Matthew 5:13,14 & Mark 16:15)
2. ——— Assimilate - Placing believers into meaningful relationship in the body of Christ (Ecclesiastes 4:9 & Acts 2:42,44)
3. ——— Disciple - Moving believers into Christ-like maturity
——— (Matthew 28:19)
4. ——— Train - Equipping believers for a life of ministry
(II Peter 2:9, I Corinthians 12:7, 11, and II Timothy 2:15)
5. ——— Empower - Releasing believers for a life of ministry (Matthew 10:1,5)



Figure 1 - Church Mission

- b. To establish such departments as may be necessary for the propagation of the Gospel and the support of missionary activity.

- c. To have the right to own, hold in trust, use, or otherwise dispose of such property, or personality, as may be needed for the prosecution of its work.
- d. We establish ourselves as a body of Christian believers according to the scriptural plan for the local Church and under the State and Federal laws, that we may worship God as a united body, exercising all other rights and privileges granted to religious bodies in perpetuity as a sovereign body irrespective of any present or future actions or policies set by any fellowship with which we are, or may become, voluntarily associated.

ARTICLE 3 DOCTRINE STATEMENT OF FAITH

~~The human phraseology employed in this statement is not inspired nor 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 truth in the Bible, only that it covers our present needs as to these fundamental matters.~~

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 nor contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full-gospel ministry. No claim is made that it covers all Biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines. All Scripture references are from the KJV/NIV unless otherwise indicated.

1. The Scriptures inspired ~~inspired~~ Inspired

The Bible is the inspired Word of God, a revelation from God to man, the infallible rule of faith and conduct, and is superior to the conscience and reason, but not contrary to reason. (II Timothy 3:15-17; I Peter 1:23-25; Hebrews 4:12)

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 eternal self-existing, self-revealed "I AM" and has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association i.e. as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Mark 12:29; Isaiah 43:10, 11; Matthew 28:19)~~

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)

3. Man, His Fall and Redemption ~~The Diety of the Lord Jesus Christ~~

~~Man 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. (Genesis 1:26, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-21)~~

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 exultation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, 11, 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3).

4. **The Salvation of Man** **The Fall of Man**

(a) — Conditions to Salvation

The grace of God, which bringeth salvation, hath appeared to all men, through the preaching of repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ; man is saved by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, and being justified by grace through faith, he becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 2:11; Romans 10:13–15; Luke 24: 27; Titus 3: 5–7)

(b) — Evidence of Salvation

The inward evidence to the believer of his 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.

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. (Genesis 1:26-27, 2:17, 3:6; Romans 5:12-19)

5. **Water Baptism** **The Salvation of Man**

The ordinance of baptism by a burial with Christ shall be observed as commanded in the scriptures by all who have repented and in their hearts have truly believed on Christ as Savior and Lord. In so doing, they declare to the world that they have died with the Lord to walk in newness of life. (Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:47, 48; Romans 6: 4)

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 Evidence 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 Lord’s Supper** **The Ordinances of the Church**

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 the Lord Jesus Christ; a memorial of His suffering and death; and a prophecy of His Second Coming; and is enjoined on all believers “until He comes”. (John 6:48, 51, 53, 57; Luke 22:19, 20; 1 Peter 1:4)

- a. **Baptism in Water:** The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded by 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 Promise of the Father 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 Ghost Spirit and Fire fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church 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: 1-13 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 comes such experiences as:

- a. an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39),
- b. a deepened reference for God (Acts 2:43, Hebrews 12:28),
- c. an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and
- d. a more active love for Christ, for His Word, and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

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

The full consummation of the baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is evidenced witnessed by the initial physical signs sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance, and by the subsequent manifestation of spiritual power in public testimony and service. (Acts 3:4, 10:44-46; Acts 1:8, 2:42, 43) (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues but is different in purpose and use (1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 28).

9. Entire Sanctification

The scriptures teach a life of holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. By the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to obey the command "Be ye holy, for I am holy". Entire sanctification is the will of God for all believers, and should be earnestly pursued by walking in obedience to God's Word. (Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15, 16; 1 Thessalonians 5:23, 24; Romans 8:3, 4).

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and 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 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 the faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the domination 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 Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with Divine 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 Firstborn, which are written in heaven. (Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 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, 12:1-31, 13:1-13, 14:1-40).
- 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, 6:10; Matthew 25:37-40; 1 Corinthians 12:28, 14:12; Ephesians 4:11-21; Colossians 1:29).

11. The Ministry and Evangelism

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

- a. Evangelization of the World (Mark 16:15-20).
- b. Edifying of the body of Christ (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).
- d. 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; Mark 16:18)

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; His coming is the imminent and is the blessed hope of the church. (1 Thessalonians 1:17; Revelations 19:11-16 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52)

14. Millennial Reign of Christ

The revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ from heaven, the salvation of national Israel, and the millennial reign of Christ on the earth are the scriptural promise and the world's hope. (II Thessalonians 1: 7; Revelations 19: 11-16).

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 (Zachariah 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 Lake of Fire The Final Judgment

The devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, and whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, shall be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. (Revelations 19:20; 20:10-15).

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 the 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”.” (1 Peter 3:13; Revelations 12:1 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1-17, 22:1-21).

17. Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27). Rejection of one’s biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Genesis 2:18-25).

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Corinthians 6:18, 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. Anything beyond sexual intimacy in marriage between a man and a woman will be considered sexual immorality.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including but not limited to adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Leviticus 18:23; Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Church’s covenant partners and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the Church in any capacity agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:22).

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of the Church.

ARTICLE 4 ORDINANCES

- (a) The ordinance of Baptism by immersion shall be observed as a command in the Scriptures, by all who fully repented and believed on the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:37-38; Romans 6:3-5).
- (b) The ordinance of the Lord’s Supper should be regularly observed as enjoined upon the believer (Luke 22:19-20).

(c) — Infants and small children shall be dedicated to the Lord in the Assembly whenever requested. (Mark 10:13 – 16).

(d) — The sick should be prayed for by the anointing with oil and laying on of hands, upon request. (Mark 16:18; James 5:14).

ARTICLE 5 AMENDMENTS TO THIS CONSTITUTION

Amendments to this Constitution may be made by a two-thirds majority of the members in any regular or special congregational meetings of the Church, providing that the nature of the proposed amendment is made known at the time when the congregational meeting is announced.

ARTICLE 6 VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION

We recognize ourselves as a body of Christian believers according to the scriptural plan for the local Church and under the laws of the State of Texas.

We recognize ourselves to be a voluntary cooperative fellowship with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and as an active member of the North Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God with national headquarters at in Springfield, MO.

BYLAWS OF CHRIST CHURCH ASSEMBLY OF GOD

ARTICLE 1 MEMBERSHIP

1. Conditions of Membership

The following persons shall be welcomed into the membership in of the Church:

- (a) Those who have come to the true repentance from sin, and
- (b) Have accepted the Lord as their personal Savior, and
- (c) Have been baptized in water; and
- (d) Believe in and desire to subscribe to the Object Article 2: Object, and Doctrine, Article 3: Doctrine Statement of Faith of this Constitution.;
- (e) Complete the newcomers process as prescribed by church leadership, and
- (f) Are at least 18 years of age.

2. Duties of Members Membership Covenant

Members of this church must realize that it is their sacred duty to adorn the Gospel of Christ in all things, and so to act that the name of the Assemblies of God is held in honor and esteem among men.

Members of the Church are expected to:

- (a) Protect the unity of the Church by:
 1. Acting in love toward other covenant partners,
 2. Refusing to gossip, and
 3. Following the leaders of the church.
(John 13:35; 1 Peter 1:22; Ephesians 4:29; Hebrews 13:17)
- (b) Share the responsibility of the Church by:
 1. Praying for its growth,
 2. Inviting the unchurched to attend, and
 3. Warmly welcoming those who visit.
(1 Thessalonians 1:2; Luke 14:23; Romans 15:7)
- (c) Serve the ministry of the Church by:
 1. Discovering their gifts and talents,
 2. Being equipped to serve by the pastors, and
 3. Developing a servant's heart.
(1 Peter 4:10; Ephesians 4:11-12; Philippians 2:3-5,7)
- (d) Support the testimony of the Church by:
 1. Attending faithfully,
 2. Living a godly life, and
 3. Giving financially.
(Hebrews 10:25; Philippians 1:27; 1 Corinthians 16:2)

- (e) Pursue personal growth by:
1. Having regular personal devotions
 2. Engaging in a small group.
(Psalm 1:1-3; Acts 2:46-47)
- (f) — Spiritual growth.
Members must comply with the laws of spiritual growth and development by setting aside daily some time for Bible reading and private prayer.
- (g) — Separation from the world.
Members must clearly realize the necessity of showing to the world that they have been made new creatures in Christ Jesus; and by the purity of their lives demonstrate that they have put off the old nature with its deeds. This will clearly involve a separation from sin and worldliness and everything not becoming a true disciple of Christ.
- (h) — Family prayer.
Members are urged to give conscientious and uniform attention to the important subject of family worship and are solemnly exhorted to maintain the practice of daily Bible reading and prayer in their home, and to encourage all the members of their family to be present whenever possible at the time of family worship.
- (i) — Active service.
Members must realize that they have been saved to serve, and with the object of doing their utmost in winning other souls for Christ and in spreading the Gospel throughout the earth, they should eagerly dedicate their lives to God and seek earnestly for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as an endowment of power besides being zealous of spiritual gifts for the edification of the church.
- (j) — Support of the ministry.
Members should also eagerly respond to their privilege and duty of consistently tithing of their income weekly or monthly, besides giving offerings and paying such regularly into the treasury of the local church for the support of the ministry and the carrying on of the work of the Lord.
- (k) — Marriage.
Unmarried members are reminded of the scriptural injunction to “Marry only in the Lord”, and “not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers” and to enter into the state of holy matrimony only after serious consideration and earnest prayer for God’s blessing and guidance.
- (l) — Divorce and Re-marriage.
Members are hereby reminded and earnestly exhorted to base their marital relationships upon the teaching of the New Testament.
- (m) — Financial Transactions.
Members are solemnly reminded of the scriptural injunction, “Owe no man anything”, and are exhorted so to order their financial arrangements with this end in view.
- (n) — Abstinance from Offenses.
Members must on all occasions refrain from disloyalty, insubordination, whispering, criticizing, backbiting, or slandering their leaders or other member, thereby removing great hindrances to the progress of the work of the Lord.

- (e) — Penalty.
Offenders to these rules shall be subject to the discipline of the local church council.

3. Admission ~~into~~ into Membership

Those desiring to become members of the Church shall fill out a membership application card. The completed a membership application card should be forwarded to the Church Office. Upon approval of the church council **Pastor's Council**, the senior **Lead** Pastor will publicly extend to **notify** them the right hand of fellowship and the applicant's name shall be placed on the church membership roll.

4. Cessation of Membership

- (a) If any member of the Church is expelled owing to improper conduct or resigns, such member shall thereupon cease to belong to said Church and the church council **Pastor's Council** shall cause such name to be removed from the membership roll.
- (b) If any member is willfully absent from the public services of the Church for an extended period **six months or longer**, except for physical disability or any legitimate reason, as determined by the church council, such member the direction of the **Pastor's** Council shall cease to be regarded as an active member, and his or her name shall be placed on an inactive membership roll.
- (c) — Any member with inactive status may be returned to active status at the discretion and vote of the church council.

5. Eligibility of Members for Voting

No restrictions are placed upon persons who desire to become members of the church, subject to conditions laid down in Article I, Membership, of these Bylaws. However, no **No** member of the church under the age of fifteen (15) or new active member of the Church for less than ninety (90) days shall be permitted to exercise his or her vote in the business affairs of the Church and also in the elections of the church officary.

6. Settlement of Disputes

- (a) In the case of members having grievances against or disputes with the any member of the pastoral staff or any member of the church council **Pastor's Council**, or other **any** member s of the Church, such grievances or disputes shall not be discussed in any public or general congregational meeting of the Church.
- (b) Failing individual private settlement, these matters shall in all cases be dealt with upon scriptural bases, according to Matthew 18:15. Failing settlement by two or three witnesses, these matters shall be brought before the church council **Pastor's Council**, who will act for and on behalf of the Church, for impartial hearing of both sides and consequent just and final decision.

7. Discipline of Members

If any member of the Church ceases to believe in and accept any or all the doctrines as set forth in Article 3 of the Constitution or in the opinion of the church council **Pastor's Council** thereof is guilty of improper conduct as a member of the body of the Lord Jesus, such Council shall be empowered, after having carefully reviewed the case, to subject such a member to any of the following penalties:

- (a) To be suspended from membership a stated time.
- (b) To be called upon to resign **removed from membership**.

ARTICLE 2 GOVERNMENT

This Church shall be governed by the local form of church government, that is to say, that the Church is controlled or governed by its ~~church council~~ **Pastor's Council** being autonomous within the limits prescribed by this Constitution.

- (a) ~~Church Council~~ **Pastor's Council**
The ~~church council~~ **Pastor's Council** shall consist of the ~~senior~~ **Lead** Pastor and the elected deacons. The ~~Church Council~~ **Pastor's Council** shall meet regularly (a minimum of once a quarter) for the purpose of conducting the business of the Church in a systematic manner.
- (b) ~~A member of the church council shall be appointed as~~ **The Lead Pastor shall appoint a vice-chairman of the council from the Pastoral Staff, and he or she shall preside over all congregational meetings of the Church or the church council Pastor's Council in the absence of the senior Lead Pastor, and shall preside over all meetings pertaining to the senior pastor. An official of the North Texas District of the Assemblies of God must preside over any meeting pertaining to the Lead Pastor.**
- (c) A two-thirds majority **vote** of the active membership ~~vote~~ of the Church shall be considered a veto of any decision or act of the ~~church council~~ **Pastor's Council**.
- (d) A simple majority of the membership of any council or committee shall be considered a quorum.
- (e) In the event there is misconduct or willful neglect of duties on the part of any ~~church council~~ **Pastor's Council** member, his or her office shall be declared vacant by the council and a successor shall be appointed **by the Pastor's Council** as soon as possible. **Any action that removes a Council member requires a two-thirds majority vote of the Council.**

ARTICLE 3 CHURCH OFFICERS

The following persons shall be regarded as officers of this Church:

1. **Senior Lead** Pastor

- (a) The ~~senior~~ **Lead** Pastor of the church shall be a ~~man~~ **person** of mature experience, who shall be a fully ordained minister of the General Council of the Assemblies of God in which this Church is located. Further, he **or she** shall have read and accepted the present constitution and ~~by-laws~~ **bylaws** of this local Church.
- (b) Upon the recommendation of the ~~church council~~ **Pastor's Council**, the ~~senior~~ **Lead** Pastor shall be elected to the office by two-thirds majority vote of the ~~voting~~ **active** members of the Church present at any regular or special congregational meeting.
- (c) The ~~senior~~ **Lead** Pastor is designated in the Scriptures as the head of the Church under the leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ and is referred to under the title "Pastor" (Ephesians 4:11), "Overseer" (Acts 20:28), and "Shepherd" (1 Peter 5:13).

- (d) He **or she** shall perform all those duties, which properly belong to the scriptural ideal of a pastor.
- (e) The call of the ~~senior~~ **Lead** Pastor shall be indefinite. It may be terminated by:
 1. Retirement: The circumstances of which shall be determined by agreement between the ~~senior~~ **Lead** Pastor and the ~~church council~~ **Pastor's Council** and ~~be ratified by two-thirds of the active voting members of the church present at a regular or special congregational meeting.~~
 2. Resignation: Notice of not less than two weeks or more than one month must be given to the ~~church council~~ **Pastor's Council**. This time may be adjusted by the consent of the ~~church council~~ **Pastor's Council**.
 3. A vote of no confidence from the ~~church council~~ **Pastor's Council** and ratified by a two-thirds **majority** vote of the active ~~voting~~ membership of the Church.
- (f) A vote of confidence may be requested by the ~~senior~~ **Lead** Pastor, a two-thirds majority of the council, or by petition according to Article X. (Revised)

2. ~~Associate Pastors~~ Pastoral Staff

Such ~~associate pastors~~ **Pastoral Staff** as may be appointed by the ~~senior~~ **Lead** Pastor upon the approval of the ~~church council~~ **Pastor's Council**.

3. ~~Elders~~ Overseers

~~At the discretion of the senior pastor and church council, elders may be appointed to assist in the spiritual oversight of the church.~~

Overseers shall provide oversight and accountability to the Lead Pastor, assist the Pastor's Council in selection of the Lead Pastor, and protect the Church through counsel, prayer, and if required, the discipline of the Lead Pastor.

- (a) **The members of the overseers shall be clergy, from inside and/or outside the Church, who know and love the Church and its Lead Pastor. Clergy employed by the Church cannot serve as an Overseer.**
- (b) **There shall be no less than three Overseers. So long as the Lead Pastor is in good standing, Overseers shall be nominated by the Lead Pastor, and confirmed by a majority vote of the Pastor's Council, at a rate that does not exceed one new Overseer per twelve months. The term of service for each Overseer shall continue until he or she resigns, is deceased, or is removed in accordance with these Bylaws. An Overseer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Church. Such a resignation shall take effect on the date of the receipt of such notice; and the acceptance of resignation shall not be necessary to be effective.**
- (c) **The Lead Pastor may remove Overseers, with or without notice and with or without cause, but at a rate that does not exceed one removal per twelve months. The Lead Pastor may remove Overseers at a rate of more than one removal per year only upon confirmation by a majority vote of the Pastor's Council.**
- (d) **In the event of a vacancy by an Overseer that causes the total number of Overseers to be less than three, the Lead Pastor shall be given a reasonable amount of time to nominate a new Overseer, to be confirmed by a majority vote of the Pastor's Council. In the event that the office of Lead Pastor is vacant, the individual who was duly elected as the Secretary may**

nominate or remove Overseers, subject to the same limitations that would otherwise apply to nominations and removals by the Lead Pastor.

- (e) If disciplinary action is being considered or an investigation of the Lead Pastor is underway, no changes in the composition of the Overseers shall be made until the Overseer's work is completed and such findings are reported to the Pastor's Council and Pastoral Staff.

4. Secretary - Treasurer

- (a) The Secretary and Treasurer shall be appointed by the church council, Pastor's Council. They shall be persons of mature business experience, sound Christian character, and a member of this local Church for five years. In the event that the Secretary and/or Treasurer are not elected Council Members, they shall not be voting members of the church council Pastor's Council.
- (b) The Secretary shall be the custodian of all legal documents pertaining to the Church.
- (c) The Secretary shall keep a minute book in which shall be entered notes of all the proceedings of every general or special congregational meeting of the church council Pastor's Council and of the membership.
- (d) The Treasurer shall keep oversee the financial records in which shall be kept an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements and shall make a periodic report to the church council Pastor's Council and general congregational meetings of the Church.
- (e) With the object of placing the financial affairs of the Church upon a sound, satisfactory basis, all transactions shall be executed in such a manner that the transactions can be audited by a state certified accountant.

5. Deacons Council Members

Qualifications:

- (a) The board of deacons the Pastor's Council shall consist of at least six individuals of mature experience.
- (b) The qualifications of a Deacon Council Member shall be as follows:
 1. They must meet the scriptural qualifications outlined in 1 Timothy 3:6-13 and Acts 6:3.
 2. They must have been a Christian for a period of not less than three years.
 3. They must have been a member of this local Church for a period of not less than one year.

Duties:

The duties of a Deacon Council Member shall be:

- (a) To act in selection and recommendation of the senior Lead Pastor of the Church in partnership with the Overseers.
- (b) To act in the financial administration of the affairs of the Church.
- (c) To act in the examination of applicants for membership.
- (d) To assist the Pastoral Staff.

6. Trustees Finance Committee

There may be a Board of Trustees Finance Committee appointed by the Lead Pastor and approved by the church council Pastor's Council consisting of at least three persons of good report, and sound Christian character, and good business judgement. If appointed, the

~~Board of Trustees~~ **Finance Committee** shall be the custodians of the church property and shall be responsible for the care of same. ~~The Trustees shall be appointed by the church council.~~

ARTICLE 4 TERM OF OFFICE OF CHURCH OFFICERS

- (a) ~~The term of office for the Associate Pastors, Elders, Secretary-Treasurer, Trustees, Sunday School officers, and staff shall be for a period established by the church council, except when dismissed from office by the Council or church.~~
- (a) The term of office of ~~Deacon~~ **Council Member** shall be for a period of three years. Two ~~Deacons~~ **Council Members** shall be elected each year. No ~~Deacon~~ **Council Member** may succeed themselves in office.

ARTICLE 5 NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- (a) ~~The Church Council~~ **Pastor's Council** ("Council") shall serve as the nominating body for Council members. The Council shall designate a period of not less than two weeks (including two Sundays) when congregation members can submit names to be considered by the Council. Any **active** member of the ~~congregation~~ **Church** can present an equal number of names as there are vacancies.
- (b) After ~~insuring~~ **ensuring** that a proposed nominee is qualified (pursuant the Church Constitution and Bylaws) and is willing to be considered for election and service, the Council will be responsible for conducting interviews of all remaining qualified nominees in accordance with a written nomination process to be included within the Church's policies and procedures manual.
- (c) After interviews, the Council shall have a designated time of prayer to consider the names and information gathered. The Council will be charged with and will work towards fairly identifying an optimum slate of qualified candidates for election to the Council, which slate shall be not less than four and not more than six **candidates**. The slate of candidate names shall be made public to the ~~congregation~~ **members** at least two Sundays prior to the election.
- (d) At a duly authorized congregational meeting, the eligible voting members will vote "yes" or "no" on the entire slate of candidates—not on the individual names.
 - (1) If the simple majority vote on the entire slate is "yes," after prayer, the vacancies (due to expiration of a term) on the Council shall be filled by random drawing of the necessary number of persons from among the entire slate of candidates.
 - (2) If the simple majority vote on the entire slate of candidates is "no," the congregation will then vote on the individual names which are listed on the slate of candidates in accordance with the following procedure:
 - a. There will be no nominations from the floor—only the names of individuals listed on the original slate of candidates shall be considered for election.

- b. All votes will be by secret ballot, the results of which shall be determined by a simple majority of eligible voting members.
 - c. For each vacancy, if there should be no election on the first ballot, the two individual candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be further balloted upon until an election is declared by simple majority vote of eligible voting members.
- (e) Absentee ballots may be submitted for ~~Deacon~~ **Council Member** elections by an eligible voting members as defined by Article 1: Membership, Section 5. The absentee ballot must contain a “yes” or “no” vote on the entire slate of candidates and must be signed by the eligible voting members. The absentee ballots will be provided to the designated tellers prior to the vote.

ARTICLE 6 VACANCIES

When a vacancy in the office of the ~~senior~~ **Lead** Pastor shall occur, an Interim Pastor shall be arranged for by ~~the Overseers in consultation with the Church Council~~ **Pastor’s Council** until such time as a ~~senior~~ **Lead** Pastor can be chosen according to Article 3: Church Officers, Section (a) of the Constitution.

In the event that one of the ~~Deacons~~ **Council Members** declines to act, resigns, dies, or is suspended from the Council or from the membership of the Church, the remaining members of the ~~church council~~ **Pastor’s Council** shall be empowered to appoint a new ~~Deacon~~ **Council Member** to fill out the unexpired term, due consideration being given to the voting of the **active** church members at the last general meeting of the Church.

ARTICLE 7 FINANCE

- (a) **The Church shall be financed according to the scriptural method (e.g., by tithes, offerings, etc.).**
- (b) **The disbursement of all funds shall be under supervision of the ~~church council~~ Pastor’s Council.**
- (c) **The Pastoral Staff shall be given regular and adequate financial support; the amount and manner of which shall be determined by agreement between the Pastoral Staff and the ~~church council~~ Pastor’s Council.**
- (d) **The ~~Church Council~~ Pastor’s Council shall not borrow funds or otherwise obligate by debt the Church in excess of 5% 10% of the annual tithe and offerings from the previous year without the approval of a simple majority **vote** of the ~~voting~~ **active** membership **present** at a duly authorized congregational meeting.**

ARTICLE 8 MEETINGS

1. Regular Church Services

The time and place of the regular church services shall be determined by the ~~senior~~ **Lead** Pastor and ~~church council~~ **Pastor's Council**.

2. Congregational Meetings

In order to facilitate the conduct of business in an orderly and satisfactory manner, congregational meetings shall be governed by the accepted rules of parliamentary procedure.

3. Time of Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting of the Church shall be held during the first quarter of each year.

4. Special Congregational Meetings

Special congregational meetings of the Church may be called by the:

- (a) ~~Senior~~ **Lead** Pastor
- (b) Secretary of the Church upon a written order of a simple majority of the ~~church council~~ **Pastor's Council**; or
- (c) Secretary of the Church upon a signed petition of at least one-third of the active ~~voting~~ membership of the Church exercising the right of initiative.

5. Notice of Congregational Meetings

Notice of all regular or special congregational meetings of the Church shall be announced not less than ten days before the date of the proposed meeting, including two Sundays. The nature of the business to be discussed shall be announced at the same time.

**ARTICLE 9
QUORUM**

The active ~~voting~~ membership present at a duly authorized congregational meeting shall constitute a quorum.

**ARTICLE 10
RIGHT OF INITIATIVE**

- (a) Any active member of the Church may exercise the right of initiative in the calling of a special congregational meeting of the Church by presenting a petition to the secretary or ~~senior~~ **Lead** Pastor signed by at least one-third of the active ~~voting~~ membership of the Church.
- (b) Upon the reception of such a petition duly signed by required number of members, the ~~senior~~ **Lead** Pastor or Secretary shall proceed to announce the desired congregational meeting, as prescribed in Article 8, Meetings, Section 5, of the Constitution.

**ARTICLE 11
AMENDMENTS TO THIS ~~BY-LAWS~~ **BYLAWS****

Amendments to this ~~By-Laws~~ **Bylaws** may be made by a two-third majority vote of the active voting membership in any regular or special congregational meetings of the Church, providing that the nature of the proposed amendment is made known at the time when the congregational meeting is announced.

~~(b) Notice of all regular or special congregational meetings of the Church shall be announced not less than ten days before the date of the proposed meeting, including two Sundays. The nature of the business to be discussed shall be announced at the same time.~~

ARTICLE 12 PROPERTY RIGHTS

- (a) All assets, including all real and personal property, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the Church or corporate name.
- (b) All assets held shall be pledged toward the performance of religious functions.
- (c) No real or personal property of the Church valued in excess of 5% **10%** of the annual tithe and offerings from the previous year shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without the same shall have been authorized by at least two-thirds majority of the **active** voting membership of the Church present at a duly authorized congregational meeting.
- (d) The Secretary **or** Treasurer of the Church shall certify when the conditions of Article 12, Property Rights, Section (c) are met, that the same has been duly authorized by the vote of the Church. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.
- (e) In the event of dissolution of this Church, all assets, after payment of all outstanding debts and obligations shall vest in non-profit religious organizations which are non-profit religious bodies not inconsistent with State and Federal laws set forth in Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

~~ARTICLE XIII: CHURCH DEPARTMENTS, MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS~~

- ~~(a) The church council shall establish departments, ministries, and organizations which it deems necessary to ensure that the mission and ministry of the church are executed.~~
- ~~(b) Departments, ministries, and/or organizations that require church investments exceeding 5% of the annual tithe and offering from the previous year shall be authorized by at least two-thirds majority of the voting membership of the church present at a duly authorized congregational meeting.~~