



CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

FAITH ASSEMBLY OF GOD

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS FAITH ASSEMBLY OF GOD NEW CUMBERLAND, PENNSYLVANIA

PREAMBLE

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the provide for the worship Almighty God, our heavenly father; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Spirit may be honored according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus, 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 the fellowship with and a part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council, and adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the Assembly shall be Faith Assembly of God, city of New Cumberland, state of Pennsylvania.

ARTICLE II. PREROGATIVES

SECTION 1. This assembly 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 into the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of christ." (Ephesians 4:3,13).

SECTION 2. To purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise, either directly or by 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 By-laws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION

While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, this assembly shall enter into full fellowship with assemblies of like precious faith affiliated with Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council and the General Council of the Assemblies of God with its headquarters at Springfield, Missouri and shall share in the privileges, assume the responsibilities and shall conduct its business and ministry in accord with the Constitution and By-laws of the General Council and the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH (Statement of Fundamental Truths)

SECTION 1. THE SCRIPTURE INSPIRED

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

SECTION 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, the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principle of relationship and association as Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Mark 12:29; 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 the 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 may therefore speak with the 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; II 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 as relationship, as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, but that this distinction and relationship as to this mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained. (Luke 1:35; I Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:21-27; 28:19; I Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).

C. Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Accordingly, therefore 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; Zechariah 14:9).

D. Identity and Cooperation 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 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 Ghost is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation, 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 proper name. It is never applied in the New Testament, either to the Father or the Holy Ghost. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God (Romans 1:1-3,7; II John 3).

F. The Lord Jesus Christ, God with us

The Lord Jesus Christ, "Lord Jesus Christ", is proper name. It 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, to the order of time. (Matthew 1:21-23; 11 John 3; I 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 (II 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 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 in all. (Hebrews 1:3; I Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Romans 14:11; I 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 on heaven and on 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 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).

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 (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31,35).
- B. His sinless life (Hebrew 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; 11 Corinthians 5:21)
- E. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; I 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)

SECTION 4. MAN, HIS FALL AND REDEMPTION

Man was created good and upright, for God said, "Let us make man in our image and 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; 2:17; 3:16; Romans 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 the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, and being justified by grace through faith, man becomes heirs of God according to the hope of eternal life (Titus 2:11; 3:5-7; Romans 10: 13-15; Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Ephesians 2:8).

B. 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).

SECTION 6. THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

A. Baptism in Water

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

B. Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements - bread and the fruit of the vine - is a symbol of our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:25); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "until He comes".

SECTION 7. BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

All believers are entitled to, and should ardently expect, and earnestly seek the promise of the Father and 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 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; 15:7-8). With the Baptism in the Holy Spirit comes 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).

SECTION 8. THE EVIDENCE OF THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Baptism 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.

SECTION 9. SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification is the act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God. (Romans 1:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man can 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 the death and resurrection, and by offering daily every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 6:11,13; 8:1,2,13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12,13; 1 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 the Church of the Firstborn, which are written in heaven. (Ephesians 1:22,23; Hebrews 12:23).

Since God's purpose concerning man is to seek and 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 reason-for-being of Faith Assembly 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 (I 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).

This Assembly exists 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; 4:29-31; Hebrew 2:3,4).

B. Adds a necessary dimension in power to a worshipful relationship with God. (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; I Corinthians 12,13,14).

C. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in the New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ (Galatians 5:22-26; I Corinthians 14:12, Ephesians 4:11,12; I Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 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) Evangelizing 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).

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; Matthew 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 Thessalonians 4:16,17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; I Corinthians 15:52).

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 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 37:12,22; 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).

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 was not found 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).

SECTION 16. THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH

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

ARTICLE V. ORDINANCES

SECTION 1.

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 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

The members of this Assembly shall consist of those who have met the requirements for membership as stated in the Bylaws, have been received into membership, and have not been removed from the membership roll. They shall be classified as active and inactive as defined in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII. GOVERNMENT

SECTION 1. The government of this Assembly shall be vested in the congregation, whose action by majority (except when otherwise specified in the Bylaws), shall be decisive in all matters.

SECTION 2. There shall be an Official Board consisting of the Pastor, and five deacons, two of whom shall serve as Secretary and Treasurer. This Official Board shall act as trustees of the assembly and shall serve in the administrative capacity in caring for business and carrying out the policies established by the congregation.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

SECTION 1. Meetings for public worship shall be held each Lord's Day and during the week as may be considered convenient by the congregation.

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 may be called as need shall arise in the manner hereinafter provided by the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX. DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES

The Assembly shall hereby provide for the establishment of Sunday School Department, Youth Department, Home and Foreign Missionary Committees, or any other departments or committees as the need of the work may require. All such departments shall be subordinate to the Assembly and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the Pastor and the Official Board, and the Pastor shall be 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 or the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the organization.

ARTICLE XI. PROPERTY

All real property of the Assembly shall be deeded to the Assembly and held in its corporate name. No such property of the Assembly shall be sold, leased, or mortgaged or otherwise disposed of without the same having first been recommended by a vote of at least two-thirds of the voting membership who are in attendance at a regular meeting or a special meeting of the Assembly which has been called for the consideration of the proposal. The Pastor and the Secretary or other trustee of the Assembly shall certify in conveyance, lease, or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized and recommended by a vote of the assembly. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended or changed by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the Assembly, who are in attendance at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made at all the services on at least two Sundays preceding the time of such meeting and a copy of the proposed change shall have been given to all voting members.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for membership in this Assembly shall be:

- A. Evidence of a genuine experience of regeneration (the new birth). John 1:12,13; 3:8; 1 Peter 1:18-25.
- B. Evidence of a consistent Christian life. Romans 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13, 14; Ephesians 4:17- 32; 5:12,15; 1 John 1:6,7.
- C. To fully subscribe to the tenets of faith as set forth in the Constitution adopted by the Assembly.
- D. Willingness to contribute regularly to the support of the Assembly by tithes and offerings.
- E. Faithful attendance of the church and its ministries.
- F. Agreement to be submissive to the authority of the Pastor and Official Board in all matters pertaining to the church and its ministries.

SECTION 2. RECEPTION

- A. 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.
- B. The Pastor shall present the names of those applying for membership to the Board, who shall act upon said applications and render a final decision. All persons who shall meet the membership requirements and have been passed upon favorably shall be received into membership publicly at any convenient service and their names inscribed on the membership roll.

SECTION 3. CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP

A. ACTIVE 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.

B. INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Enrolled members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of the Assembly for a period of three months or more, and who shall cease to contribute their means to its support, or who shall be under charges for misconduct, 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 will be settled by the definite action of the Assembly through its elected officers.

C. JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

There shall be a nonvoting Junior Membership for the young people between 13 and 16 years of age who give evidence of having received Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and who meet the qualifications for membership established by this Assembly.

D. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Honorary members shall consist of those members who have entered the ministry as District Officers, Pastors, Evangelists, Missionaries, Religious Educators, or those serving in the Armed Services, which makes it impossible to serve as active members. Honorary membership recognition shall continue as long as the active member maintains a consistent Christian life and remains sound in doctrine and maintains a cooperative attitude towards the home Assembly.

E. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Deacons shall be authorized to make provisions for the associate (nonvoting) members when such persons may have to be absent from their home Assembly for prolonged periods of time, such as attending college in a city where this church is not located.

SECTION 4. DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

A. Any member of the Assembly who shall willfully absent himself from the regular services for a period of three consecutive months, or who shall be under charges shall be suspended from the active, voting membership pending investigation and final decision in his case. The Official Board shall decide upon the case.

B. Unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the Tenets of Faith held by this Assembly shall be considered sufficient ground upon which any person may be disqualified as a member. Matthew 18:15-19; Romans 16:17,18; 1 Corinthians 5:11; Galatians 1:8,9; Titus 3:1-15.

SECTION 5. TRANSFER

Members in good standing who may wish to be transferred to some other congregation, may apply to the Secretary for a letter of transfer, which shall be granted on the approval of the Pastor and the Board, said letter to be signed by the Pastor and the Church Secretary.

SECTION 6. MEMBERSHIP ROLL REVIEW

The Pastor and the Board shall be authorized to review the membership roll of the Assembly as needed and to remove from the list of members all names of those who have become deceased, together with the names of those who may have withdrawn from the fellowship or

have fallen into sin and whose lives may have become inconsistent with the standards and teachings of the Assembly. If a name is removed because of unscriptural conduct, the one whose name has been removed shall be notified of the action of the Pastor and Board for reconsideration of their action and reinstatement. If this is not granted, the dismissed member may appeal to the membership. The action of the membership, by a majority vote shall be considered final. Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 16:17,18; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5; II Thessalonians 3:6-15.

ARTICLE II. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1. PASTOR

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 all the services of the Assembly and shall arrange for all special meetings, conventions, or revival campaigns. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the Assembly without his approval.

SECTION 2. THE OFFICIAL BOARD

The Official Board shall act in an advisory capacity with the Pastor in all matters pertaining to the Assembly in its spiritual life and the ministry of its ordinances. 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 that the pastorate shall become vacant.

The Official Board shall arrange for its own meetings as may be necessary for the discharge of its duties. Meetings may be called by the request of any three Board members; and at least 50% of the Board shall constitute a quorum, provided notice has been given to all members in ample time. When the pastorate is vacant, the Board may elect its own Chairman to serve until the pastorate is filled.

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 the policies established by the congregation to whom questions of importance should be referred with the recommendation of the Board.

SECTION 3. SECRETARY

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Official Board and of the annual and special meetings of the Assembly. He shall keep a record of the membership of the Assembly and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of his duties. He shall be the custodian of all legal documents, and be in possession of the corporate seal.

SECTION 4. TREASURER

The treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Assembly and shall receive and disburse the same under the direction of the Pastor and the Official Board. He shall deposit all funds in his care at the earliest, most convenient time in a responsible bank in the name of the church and make all reimbursements by check. He shall keep a true and accurate record of all monies received and disbursed. He shall make reports as may be requested. His books shall be audited under the direction of the Pastor and the Board once a year and when he may retire from office.

ARTICLE III. ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES

SECTION 1. ELECTIONS

A. The Pastor shall be elected to serve for an indefinite period of time. The Pastor shall be nominated by the Official Board who, when serving as a Nominating Committee, shall invite the District Superintendent or other District Officer designated by him to sit with them. Any member of the Assembly may suggest names for the consideration of the Committee; but no name shall be placed in nomination, and no prospective Pastor shall be contacted until recommendation of the District Superintendent concerning him has been received.

A member of the District Officially shall preside at the business meeting for election of the Pastor. Election shall be by secret ballot, and a two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election.

B. The Deacons shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee from the membership of the Assembly. Election shall be by secret ballot and a majority of all votes cast shall be required for an election: Their terms of office shall be for three years, and arranged so that one-third of terms shall expire each year except for the initial election of the Official Board when one deacon shall be elected for a period of one year, two deacons for a period of two years, and two deacons for a period of three years. Thereafter elections will be held to fill offices of deacons whose terms have expired.

C. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be chosen by the Official Board from their number. Their terms of office shall begin at the time of election and continue for one year or until their successors are chosen.

D. Requirements for Officers

1. They must meet all the minimum requirements for membership as outlined in this Constitution.
2. They must be at least twenty-one years of age.
3. They must have been active in this Assembly at least one year prior to their election.
4. They shall have received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4 or should be earnestly seeking such.
5. They shall also meet the scriptural character traits as seen in I Timothy 3:1-14 and Titus 1:5-9.
6. Membership to the Official Board is limited to one member of the immediate family (same household).

E. There shall be a Nominating Committee appointed by the Pastor for all elected church offices except the Pastor. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Pastor, two members of the official Board, and two members in good standing.

SECTION 2. VACANCIES

A. PASTOR

1. In the event a Pastor has serious charges preferred against him, or he departs from the Tenets of Faith, or his ministry has ceased to be effective, or no provision has been made for the termination of his ministry, power is vested in the Official Board to ask for the resignation of the Pastor at any regular business meeting. If such resignation is refused, the pastorate shall not be considered vacant until the action of the Official Board has been considered by a two-thirds majority vote of the congregation at a meeting called for the purpose, such meeting to be presided over by District Officer. When a vacancy in the pastorate shall occur, a supply speaker shall be arranged for by

the Official Board until a pastor shall be chosen as prescribed in Section 1 of this Article. In the case of a pastor's removal from office, a report of such action shall be made to the District Officer.

2. It shall be agreed between Pastor and the Assembly at the time of his election that should he resign 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 cases involving moral turpitude) at least thirty days in which to vacate the pulpit plus a thirty day grace period if necessary or else pay him sixty days salary and benefits.

B. OTHER OFFICES

1. Any member of the Official Board may be asked to resign by a majority vote of the Official Board, for any good and sufficient cause. If such resignation is refused the position shall not be considered vacant until the action of the Official Board has been confirmed by a majority of the voting members of the Congregation.

2. In the event that a member of the Official Board is unable to complete his term of office for any reason, the Pastor along with the remaining members of the Official Board shall appoint a qualified member of the Assembly to fill the remainder of this. unexpired term.

ARTICLE IV. DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. SUNDAY SCHOOL

A. There shall be a Sunday School Department which shall meet regularly to teach the Word of God and promote Christian discipleship through the Word of God.

B. All officers and teachers of the Sunday School shall be appointed by the Pastor and ratified by the Official Board.

C. The Official Board shall appoint a Sunday School Superintendent from the membership of the church. The requirements for this office shall be:

1. membership of the Assembly in good standing.
2. Faithful Sunday School and Church attendance.
3. A vision and burden for the Sunday School ministry.
4. Administrative ability.
5. Ability to train officers and staff.

The term of office of the Sunday School Superintendent shall be one year at which time the Sunday School Superintendent's performance shall be reviewed by the Pastor and Board for possible reappointment or replacement whichever is deemed best by them.

D. All teachers and officers will use only materials approved by the Pastor and Board for their classes which are in full agreement with our Tenets of Faith.

SECTION 2. YOUTH

A. The young people of the Assembly shall be organized as the Youth Department.

B. The Youth Department shall be under the general supervision of the Pastor and the Official Board. It shall be conducted as a branch of the Assembly. The Pastor and Official Board shall appoint a youth leader or leaders, if deemed necessary, from the membership of the Assembly. These leaders shall be qualified individuals who meet all the requirements for membership, who faithfully attend the church, and who have a burden for youth. The youth group shall have the right to elect their own officers with the provision that the President and Vice-President, be nominated by a nominating committee comprised of the youth leaders and Pastor. All youth elections will be valid only after they are ratified by the Official Board.

C. All Youth materials and activities shall be approved by the Pastor and Board. These materials and activities shall be in keeping with our Tenets of Faith and reflect conduct consistent with them.

SECTION 3. OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES

Other departments and committees, either special or standing, may be created by the Pastor and the official Board as need may arise. The Pastor shall be a member of all committees by virtue of his office. Such departments and/or committees shall be under the general control of the Official Board and Pastor.

ARTICLE V. ADDITIONAL STAFF

SECTION 1.

Additional church staff, such as secretaries, assistant pastors, youth pastors, music directors, etc. may be added at any time as deemed necessary by the Pastor. The need for the addition of staff shall be agreed upon by the Pastor and a majority of the Official Board.

SECTION 2.

The Pastor shall be responsible for hiring and/or releasing all staff members. It is understood that no one will be hired, no responsibilities given, or compensation packages determined until the matter is discussed with and agreed upon by a majority of the Official Board.

SECTION 3.

The term of all additional staff members shall expire upon being given their release by action of the Pastor and Official Board or upon the resignation of the Pastor whichever comes first.

ARTICLE VI. PROPERTY RIGHTS

SECTION 1.

All the property, real or personal shall be taken, held, sold, transferred or conveyed in the corporate name of the Assembly, or if the Assembly is not incorporated, by the trustees and their successors in the office.

SECTION 2.

No real or personal property of the Assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without the same, having been authorized by a two-thirds vote of the membership. Such certificates shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

SECTION 3.

The Pastor and the Secretary of the Assembly shall certify in such conveyance lease, or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized by a vote of the membership.

SECTION 4.

In the case the church shall be divided by doctrinal views, or for other causes, the membership holding to the original Tenets of Faith, standard and practice, as set forth in the General Council of the Assemblies of God, Springfield, Missouri, regardless of the majority, shall retain title to the property.

In the event the Assembly ceases to function as a church body, the property shall revert to the Pennsylvania-Delaware: District Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE VII. BUSINESS MEETINGS

SECTION 1.

There shall be an annual business meeting of the Assembly, at which time reports shall be given and elections of officers shall take place. The time and date of this meeting shall be set by the Official Board, and adequate announcement shall be made in all services on at least two Sundays prior to the date.

SECTION 2.

Special business meetings may be called by the Pastor, by majority vote of the Board, or by petition signed by not less than one-third of the voting membership of the Assembly. Adequate announcement, including the purpose of the special meeting, shall be made at all services on two Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.

SECTION 3.

All business meetings of the Assembly shall be conducted according to accepted rules of parliamentary procedure in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship. The order of business in the annual business meeting shall be:

- A. Devotional
- B. Reading of previous minutes by Secretary
- C. Report of Treasurer
- D. Report of Committees
- E. Unfinished Business
- F. Election of Officers
- G. New Business
- H. Adjournment

SECTION 4. VOTING CONSTITUENCY AND QUORUM

The voting constituency shall consist of all voting members, 16 years of age and over, and who are in good standing. The voting members of the Assembly responding to the call for a regular or special business meeting shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VIII. DISTRICT ASSISTANCE

SECTION 1.

In any time of need, request for District counsel or assistance may be made by:

- A. The Pastor
- B. Majority vote of the Official Board
- C. Majority vote of those present at any duly called business meeting.

D. Written petition signed by not less than one-third of the voting membership of the Assembly.

SECTION 2.

Requests for District assistance shall be made in writing addressed to the District Secretary, and shall state under which clause (A to D above) the request is being made. Any Board member may certify the majority vote of the Board, and any signer may forward the petition signed by one-third of the voting membership.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

The Bylaws may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the Assembly by a majority vote of the voting membership present, provided the proposed amendment has been announced publicly on the two Sundays prior to the date of the meeting, announcement to be made by the Pastor or the Secretary, and a copy of the amendment shall have been given to all voting members.