



**NORTHERN MISSOURI ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

THE NORTHERN MISSOURI DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

**BYLAWS**

**(R. APRIL 2022)**

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# ARTICLE I NATURE AND RELATIONSHIPS

## Section 1. Bylaw Declaration

### We Believe:

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

b. That the Northern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason-for-being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit, which enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs, adding a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God, enabling them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit, gifts, and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ, and empowering them to be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.

c. That we are a cooperative fellowship of Pentecostal, Spirit-baptized saints from local Pentecostal assemblies of like precious faith throughout Northern Missouri to be known as the Northern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, whose purpose is neither to usurp authority over the various local assemblies, nor deprive them of their scriptural, local rights, and privileges; but to recognize and promote scriptural methods and order for worship, unity, fellowship, work, and business for God, and to disapprove unscriptural methods, doctrines and conduct, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, "till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

## Section 2. Name and Sectional Divisions

### a. Name

The name of this fellowship shall be the Northern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., and it shall include that portion of the State of Missouri north of the Missouri River to the Illinois state line on the east and the Kansas and Nebraska state lines on the west.

### b. Sectional Divisions

The Northern Missouri District shall be divided into six sections. Each of these sections shall have one representative in the District Presbytery. The boundaries of the sections shall be indicated on the official map of the District. This map shall be printed in the bylaws. The boundaries of these sections are as follows:

#### 1. Section 1

Shall include all of Platte, Clay, Carroll and Ray counties and that portion of Buchanan, Clinton, Caldwell and Livingston counties which

is south of U.S. Highway 36.

## **2. Section 2**

Shall include all of Chariton, Randolph, Howard, Boone, Callaway, Monroe and that portion of Linn and Macon counties which is south of U.S. Highway 36, excluding Marceline Assembly of God, and that portion of Audrain that is west of U.S. Highway 54.

## **3. Section 3**

Shall include all of Montgomery, Warren, Saint Charles, Lincoln, Pike, and Ralls counties and that portion of Audrain east of U.S. Highway 54.

## **4. Section 4**

Shall include all of Atchison, Nodaway, Worth, Harrison, Holt, Andrew, Gentry, Dekalb, and Daviess counties and that part of Buchanan, Clinton, and Caldwell counties which is north of U.S. Highway 36.

## **5. Section 5**

Shall include all of Mercer, Putnam, Schuyler, Grundy, Sullivan, and Adair counties and that part of Livingston, Linn and Macon counties which is north of U.S. Highway 36, and will include Marceline Assembly of God.

## **6. Section 6**

Shall include all of Scotland, Clark, Knox, Lewis and Marion counties and that part of Shelby and Monroe counties that is north of U.S. Highway 36. All towns and cities through which U.S. Highway 36 passes shall be considered as north of said highway.

## **Section 3. Nature and Principles for Fellowship**

### **a. Nature**

The Northern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God is a cooperative fellowship based upon mutual agreements voluntarily entered into by its membership.

### **b. Principles for Fellowship**

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

## **Section 4. Prerogatives**

To encourage and promote the evangelization of the world, the worship of

God, and the edification of believers.

To approve only those teachings, methods, and practices which are scriptural, also to disapprove those which are unscriptural.

To encourage and promote evangelization of the District, the nation, and the world.

To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians.

To establish and maintain such departments, institutions, and churches as may be necessary for the propagation of the gospel and the work of the Assemblies of God.

To have the right to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of such property, real or chattel, as may be needed for the prosecution of its work.

To examine candidates for the ministry and to recommend credentialing as ministers those who meet scriptural standards (I Timothy 3:1-8; Titus 1:5-9) and the requirements of the District; also to assume the oversight of all ministerial matters that relate to the District Council and the General Council.

## **Section 5. Relationships**

### **a. Integral Part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God**

The Northern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God shall be an integral part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God and shall function in full cooperation with the same

### **b. Local Churches**

Local churches in full fellowship with the Northern Missouri District Council shall be in cooperation with that body as set forth in Article XI of the General Council Constitution.

## **Section 6. Membership**

### **a. Ministers**

1. All ministers holding accredited fellowship Certificates of Ordination, Ministry License or Certificates of Ministry from the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and having their permanent residence or pastoring a church within the boundaries of the District, are considered members of the Northern Missouri District Council except for those covered by General Council Bylaws in Article VII, Section 9, Paragraph a.

2. Those serving as evangelists, District ministers at the National Leadership and Resource Center (AKA the National Office), teaching at or attending college or Bible school, missionaries, retired ministers, or serving in the armed services or chaplaincy may retain their membership in the Northern Missouri District Council if they so choose.

### **b. Assemblies**

All General Council and District Affiliated Churches (as defined in Article XI, Local Assemblies, General Council Constitution), the individual members of which are considered members of the Assemblies of God, are considered to be member churches.

## **ARTICLE II STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS**

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e. that we all speak the same thing [1 Corinthians 1:10; Acts 2:42]). The phraseology employed in this statement is not inspired or contended for; but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full-gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines.

### **Section 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).

### **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 and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

## **THE ADORABLE GODHEAD**

### **a. Terms Defined**

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

### **b. Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead**

Christ taught a distinction of persons in the Godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode, is inscrutable and incomprehensible because it is unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).

### **c. Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**

Accordingly, therefore, there is that in the Father which constitutes Him the Father and not the Son; there is that in the Son which constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Spirit which constitutes Him the Holy Spirit and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore the Father is the Begetter; the Son is the Begotten; and the Holy Spirit is the One proceeding from the Father and the Son. Therefore,

because these three persons in the Godhead are in a state of unity, there is but one Lord God Almighty and His name one (John 1:18; 15:26; 17:11, 21; Zechariah 14:9).

#### **d. Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead**

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are never identical as to person, nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the Godhead; nor opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son, as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father, as to authority. The Holy Spirit is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation and authority. Hence no person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17-30, 32, 37; 8:17, 18).

#### **e. The Title, Lord Jesus Christ**

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

#### **f. The Lord Jesus Christ, God with us**

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

#### **g. The Title, Son of God**

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

#### **h. Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ**

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

#### **i. Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord**

The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him. And having



been made both Lord and Christ, He sent the Holy Spirit that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God may be all in all (Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Romans 14:11; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28).

#### **j. Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son**

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

### **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 (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).

### **Section 4. The Fall of Man**

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

### **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 to Salvation**

Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

#### **b. The Evidences of Salvation**

The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit

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

## **Section 6. The Ordinances of the Church**

### **a. Baptism in Water**

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

### **b. Holy Communion**

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements (bread and the fruit of the vine), is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4), a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26), and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

## **Section 7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

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

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

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

## **Section 9. Sanctification**

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Romans 12:1, 2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). By the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:15, 16).

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

## **Section 10. The Church and Its Mission**

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

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

1. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28: 19,20; Mark 16:15,16).
2. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
3. 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).
4. 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).

b. The Assemblies of God exist 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:

1. 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).
2. Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12-14).
3. 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; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29). And,
4. Compels them to care for the poor and needy of the world (Galatians 5:22-26; Matthew 25:37-40; Galatians 6:10; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

## **Section 11. The Ministry**

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

1. Evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20).
2. Worship of God (John 4:23, 24).
3. Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11,16).
4. Meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27)

## **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 (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:51,52).

## **Section 14. The Millennial Reign of Christ**

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (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).

## **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. Whoever 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).

## **Section 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 III. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES**

The District recognizes four church classifications: 1) General Council Affiliated Assembly, 2) District Affiliated Assembly, 3) District Supervised Assembly, and 4) Pioneer Assembly.

### **Section 1. General Council Affiliated Assembly**

A General Council Affiliated Assembly is one which has applied for and has received a Certificate of Affiliation from the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **a. Requirements for Affiliation**

Churches desiring to be affiliated with the General Council of the Assemblies of God shall meet the following requirements. They shall:

1. Accept the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God.
2. Adopt a standard of membership which may be determined either by the local assembly or by agreement with the District Council.
3. Have a minimum active voting membership of 20 persons who shall accept their full share of responsibility for the maintenance of scriptural order in the local body.
4. Adopt a constitution and bylaws compatible with those recommended by the District Council.
5. Have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of the church called for in its constitution and bylaws.
6. Make provision for a pastor who is a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council and/or the District Council.

### **b. Relationship to and support of the General Council and the District Council**

A General Council Affiliated Assembly shall cooperate in the work and support the programs of the General Council and District Council and may send delegates to the General Council and District Council. By virtue of its status, the church has the right of one officially appointed and registered delegate for meetings of the General Council, and two delegates at meetings of the District Council.

### **c. Right of self-government (sovereign rights)**

Each General Council Affiliated Assembly has the right of self-government under Jesus Christ, its living Head, and shall have the power to choose or call its pastor, elect its official board, and transact all other business pertaining to its life as a local unit. It shall have the right to administer discipline to its members according to the Scriptures and its bylaws. It shall have the right to acquire and hold title to property, either through trustees or in its corporate name as a self-governing unit. The fact that it is affiliated with the General Council of the Assemblies of God shall in no wise destroy its right as above stated or interfere with its sovereignty.

### **d. Preservation of affiliation**

In the event the termination of affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God is under consideration by an Affiliated Assembly, the pastor and/or the board shall invite the District officary to participate in a specially called business meeting for the express purpose of giving the District officary the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation. Final disposition of the matter may then proceed in accordance with the constitution and bylaws of the local church. In the case of a previously existing church, which later affiliated with the Fellowship through a vote of its membership, the percentage required to disaffiliate shall not exceed the percentage required when the church voted to affiliate.

**e. Subordinate in matters of doctrine and conduct**

A General Council Affiliated Assembly shall recognize that the District Council or the General Council of the Assemblies of God has the right to approve scriptural doctrine and conduct and to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct and the authority to withdraw its Certificate of Affiliation if deemed necessary. This shall include consideration of ministerial discretion (See General Council Bylaws, Article VI. ASSEMBLIES, Section 3. Safeguarding the Assemblies.)

**f. Right of Appeal**

When in need of counsel or advice, the General Council Affiliated Assembly may appeal to the District officary for help. It may appeal a decision by the District officary to the Executive Presbytery of the General Council of the Assemblies of God when there is a question whether or not the assembly has received proper help from the District. When exceptions are taken to the decision of the Executive Presbytery, either by the General Council Affiliated Assembly or by the District Presbytery, appeal may be made to the General Presbytery of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

**g. Intervention Clause**

The District Executive Presbytery shall have the right to request to meet with the church board or congregation. While the right of the local assembly to self-govern is a basic General Council principle, it is also recognized that the assembly has a responsibility to the District Council and General Council and both have responsibility to the assembly. Some of the circumstances which may require intervention of the District Presbytery are:

1. Prevailing confusion or division resulting in disruption.
2. Assumption of dictatorial authority by the pastor or the church board.
3. Prolonged absence of pastoral leadership.
4. Deviation or departure from Assemblies of God principles or practices.
5. An attempt to disaffiliate from Assemblies of God fellowship.

**h. Organizational Assistance**

The services of both the General Council and District Council are available to assist the General Council Affiliated Church in dealing with any of its problems, either internal or external, when requested by the pastor or a majority of the official board of the church or a petition signed by 30 percent of the active members, with the petitioning process and delivery to the District Council taking no more than 30 days in total to complete. When Northern Missouri District Officers receive such requests, it is recommended they first verify that scriptural principles of reconciliation, such as those found in Matthew 18:15-17 and 1 Timothy 5:19, have been reasonably attempted by the requesting party in situations involving interpersonal conflict. District officers shall respond by investigating problems and, if necessary, recommending remedial actions to the responsible District governing entity

(e.g. District Presbytery or District Executive Presbytery). If the governing entity deems that an emergency situation exists, and that assessment is ratified by the pastor or a unanimous vote of the official board of the church or a petition signed by 51 percent of the active members, that governing entity may act to bring the church under District supervision, and, when necessary, revert it from General Council status to District affiliated status until the governing entity considers the problem resolved.

## **Section 2. District Affiliated Assembly**

### **A. District Council Affiliated Assemblies Described.**

Provision shall be made for District Council affiliated assemblies which shall be under the supervision of the District Council, in accordance with the provisions of the District Council Bylaws. These assemblies shall be encouraged to proceed to the status of sovereign General Council affiliated assemblies.

(1) Procedure for District Council Affiliation. The qualifications for District Council affiliation include maintaining Northern Missouri District standards for membership, accepting supervision by elected District and sectional officials, giving the Executive Officers and Sectional Presbyter the authority to appoint the Pastor and other necessary church officers, and involvement in programs of the Assemblies of God.

(2) Representation at District Council Sessions. A District Council affiliated church will have the privilege of sending one representative to serve as its delegate to the District Council sessions.

### **B. Bylaws for District Council Affiliated Assemblies.**

District Council Affiliated Assemblies within the Northern Missouri District shall operate by the Bylaws for District Council Affiliated Assemblies, attached to these Bylaws as Addendum 1.

## **Section 3. Parent Affiliated Church**

a. A Parent Affiliated Church (PAC) is an outreach of an existing General Council Affiliated Church or duly authorized District Council Affiliated Church resulting in a worshiping community with a congregational life distinct from the Parent Church. A Parent Affiliated Church is subject to the ecclesiastical supervision and authority of the Parent Church in such a manner and upon such terms and conditions as are determined by the Parent Church.

b. Parent Affiliated Churches that are physically located in Northern Missouri are to enter into a cooperative relationship with the Northern Missouri District Council. Parent Affiliated Churches shall not locate in an area without the prior approval of the local churches and local section.

## **Section 4. Cooperating Assembly**

A Cooperating Assembly status allows churches that subscribe to Article V. Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council of the Assemblies of God Constitution, to enter into a cooperative relationship



with the Northern Missouri District Council and General Council at the discretion of the District Presbytery in cooperation with the General Council Executive Presbytery.

### **Section 5. Relationships Between Assemblies**

An assembly shall not locate in an area without the cooperation of the local churches and local section. Final approval shall be that of the District Presbytery.

## **ARTICLE IV. DISTRICT OFFICERS**

### **Section 1. Executive Officers**

The Executive Officers of the District shall consist of a District Superintendent, Assistant District Superintendent, Secretary, and such officers as may be authorized by the District Council in the future.

#### **a. Qualifications.**

The Executive Officers shall be chosen from the ordained membership of the Northern Missouri District of the General Council of the Assemblies of God and shall be of mature experience and ability, whose life and ministry are above question, and such qualities alone shall determine their eligibility.

#### **b. Election**

The Executive Officers of this District Council of the Assemblies of God shall be elected at one of its regular meetings, according to the manner of election provided. All candidates for the offices of Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Secretary shall be nominated by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote of all votes cast shall be necessary to constitute an election. If no election has been declared after the second elective ballot has been cast, the five candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated. If no election has been declared after the fourth elective ballot has been cast, the two candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated.

#### **c. Term of Office**

Their terms of office shall be for a period of four years, and shall begin six weeks after the date of election.

### **Section 2. Executive Presbytery**

The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the District Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Secretary.

### **Section 3. District Presbytery**

The District Presbytery shall consist of the Executive Presbyters and District Presbyters.

### **Section 4. District Presbyters**



**a. Presbyters Nominations & Elections**

All candidates for nomination to the office of District Presbyter shall be nominated on the uneven numbered years by secret ballot at the Sectional Council of which they are a member. A two-thirds vote of all votes cast shall be necessary to constitute an election. If no election has been declared after the second elective ballot has been cast, the five candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated. If no election has been declared after the fourth elective ballot has been cast, the two candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated.

**b. Qualifications**

Presbyters shall be ordained ministers who are currently serving an Assemblies of God ministry within the Section and who reside within the borders of the Section. They shall be of mature experience and ability, whose lifes and ministries are above question.

**c. Term of Office**

1. Their term of office shall be for a period of two years.
2. Their term shall begin immediately following the annual District council.

**Section 5. District Treasurer**

The District Treasurer, a non-resident District Official, shall be nominated annually by the Superintendent and ratified by the District Presbytery.

**Section 6. Vacancies**

a. An office may be made vacant by death, by an office holder no longer qualifying to serve, or by the declaration of a two-thirds majority vote of the District Presbytery.

b. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent shall fill out the unexpired term or serve until a successor is chosen at a regular or special session of the District Council.

c. In the event of a vacancy of the Secretary, or Assistant Superintendent, the Superintendent shall call a special meeting of the District Presbytery who shall either fill the unexpired term by appointment, or call a special District Council for this purpose.

d. In the event of a vacancy of the Treasurer, the Superintendent shall nominate a replacement at the next Presbytery meeting or by calling a special meeting of the Presbytery for this purpose.

e. In the event a Presbyter ceases to be a member of the section they are serving, or moves from that Section, the Assistant Presbyter, if confirmed by the District Executive Presbytery, shall assume the responsibilities of the Presbyter.

## ARTICLE V. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

### Section 1. District Superintendent

Responsibilities of the District Superintendent shall include:

- a. Preside at all sessions of the District Council.
- b. Act as chairperson of the Executive Presbytery, District Presbytery, serve as chief executive officer of the District, and serve as an ex-officio member of all committees and departments of the District Council.
- c. Be in charge of and supervise the work of the District.
- d. Act as president of the corporation in all legal matters.
- e. Provide advice and assistance to the ministers and assemblies when requested.
- f. Administer discipline where needed upon authorization and advice of the District Presbytery.
- g. Supervise all the work of the District Council to stimulate growth, promote opening new churches, and promote a spirit of harmony among all ministers and churches of the District.
- h. Submit a report at each District Council session.
- i. Represent the District at all sessions of the General Council and the General Presbytery, and other General Council special sessions.
- j. Perform any other functions usual or customary for the presiding officer or such as may be directed by the Presbytery or District Council.
- k. Preside at the annual Sectional Councils or provide for one of the Executive Presbyters to preside.
- l. With the approval of the District Presbytery, prepare and maintain a District policy manual, which shall include job descriptions of all District departmental officers, terms of office, vacancy guidelines, appropriate resolutions, and be made available to all ministers and assemblies.
- m. The appointment of departmental and auxiliary directors with the approval of the Presbytery.
- n. Sign all legal documents.
- o. Sign all credential documents.
- p. Present the District Council books for audit each year.

### Section 2. District Assistant Superintendent

Responsibilities of the District Assistant Superintendent shall include:

- a. Assist the District Superintendent in supervision of the work of the District Council.
- b. By virtue of office shall be a member of the District Executive Presbytery, District Presbytery, and District Credentials Committee.
- c. Preside at meetings in the absence of the District Superintendent.
- d. Act as vice-president of the corporation.
- e. Perform such other functions as are customary or may be requested by the District Superintendent, the District Council, the District Presbytery, the Executive Presbytery, or directed by the bylaws.

### **Section 3. District Secretary**

Responsibilities of the District Secretary shall include:

a. The District Secretary shall serve as the Secretary of the corporation, be legal custodian of the seal of the District Council and of all legal records and documents. These documents shall reside at the District Office.

b. The District Secretary, under the direction of the District Superintendent, shall sign all legal documents and perform all other duties as directed by the District Superintendent.

### **Section 4. District Treasurer**

a. The District Treasurer shall serve as the Treasurer of the corporation and be the legal custodian of all the financial documents. These documents shall reside at the District Office.

b. The District Treasurer shall perform all functions that are customary to the treasurer of a corporation as well as other duties as directed by the District Superintendent.

### **Section 5. District Executive Presbyters**

a. The District Executive Officers shall serve as the Executive Committee of the District Presbytery and as such shall perform those tasks and have those rights that shall be delegated to and invested in them by the District Presbytery. They shall act and have the oversight of the activities and departments during the interim between District Council sessions.

b. Matters acted upon on behalf of the District by the Executive Presbytery shall be reported to the District Presbytery.

c. They shall provide for their own meetings and their decisions shall be final unless reversed by the District Presbytery.

### **Section 6. District Presbyters**

a. The District Presbyters shall provide general oversight of activities and departments of the District work between District Council sessions, and are authorized to act for the corporation in all matters of interest and concern.

b. The Presbyters shall serve and represent the District and the Superintendent in their respective sections. The Presbyter shall arrange for meetings in his section and report to the District Presbytery at appropriate times.

c. They shall be subject to call by the District Superintendent to aiding administrative or disciplinary work in the churches of their section.

d. They shall be members of the District Presbytery and District Credentials Committee, and the District U.S. Missions Committee.

e. They shall be the chairpersons of the Sectional U.S. Missions Committees and ex officio members of any other committees functioning within their section.

f. They shall keep the District Superintendent apprised of the work in the sections.

g. They shall approve the minutes and records of the Executive and

District Presbytery sessions.

h. They shall serve as chairpersons of the Sectional committees.

i. They shall assist churches in their business meetings as requested.

j. Be an alternate signer of all sectional or departmental accounts throughout the District.

k. Electronic voting. Under rare circumstances, special meetings of the District Presbytery may be held by electronic means (such as email or other Internet communication systems, telephone conferences, video conferences, facsimile, etc.) subject to the following:

1) A majority of the Presbytery members shall have access to the appropriate electronic meeting media, as verified by their response to a call for any particular meeting. This majority shall constitute the quorum for the meeting, and once established shall be assumed present until the meeting is adjourned.

2) The technology used for the electronic meetings shall allow the members full access to and full participation in all meeting transactions either continuously or intermittently throughout the specified time of the meeting.

3) The affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum shall be the minimum vote requirement for the adoption of any motion. A majority of the votes cast, or a greater proportion as indicated by the Bylaws, shall be necessary for the adoption of motions.

4) Procedural rules related to the conduct of electronic meetings shall be established and promulgated by the Presbytery.

## **ARTICLE VI. DISTRICT DEPARTMENTS**

Departments shall be established for the purpose of fulfilling various ministries and responsibilities. Such departments shall function within the organizational structure of the District Council and, as such, shall be subordinate and amenable to the District Council. The government, organizational purpose and scope of each department shall be defined in writing and made part of the District bylaws.

The creation of each department shall be made by action of the District Council in session. The departmental and auxiliary directors of all District departments shall be Spirit-filled persons of mature experience and ability, whose lives and ministries are above question. They shall be appointed by the District Superintendent, with the approval of the District Presbytery.

### **Section 1. Youth**

#### **a. Purpose**

The District Youth Department shall have the mission of encouraging and promoting ministry to every youth in the District, sections, and in the local church.

#### **b. Relationships**

The District Youth Department shall be subordinate to the Northern

Missouri District Council, through the Superintendent and Presbytery, and shall work in full cooperation with the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

## **Section 2. Education**

### **a. Purpose**

It shall be the mission of this department's existence to coordinate, plan and supervise all related ministries of the National Sunday School Department to the churches and ministers of the Northern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **b. Relationship**

The District Education Ministries Department shall be subordinate to the Northern Missouri District Council through the Superintendent and Presbytery, and shall work in full cooperation with the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

## **Section 3. HonorBound: Men of Promise**

### **a. Purpose**

The District HonorBound: Men of Promise shall have as its purpose the enlistment and involvement of the men of the Assemblies of God in the work and fellowship of the congregations, seeking to unite them in cooperative service for the Master's work, both at home and abroad.

### **b. Relationship**

The District HonorBound: Men of Promise Department shall be subordinate to the Northern Missouri District Council through the Superintendent and Presbytery, and shall work in full cooperation with the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **c. Auxiliaries**

1. Royal Rangers
2. Light For The Lost

## **Section 4. Women's Ministries**

### **a. Purpose**

The purpose of the Department of Women's Ministries shall be for the edification of the church and aiding in the supplying of such help to the churches for World and U.S. missionaries, missions stations, Bible schools, missionary homes, orphanages, etc., as shall be decided upon and in harmony with the policies of the District Council. Emphasis is to be placed upon prayer and devotion in keeping with all missionary interests.

### **b. Relationship**

The District Women's Department shall be subordinate to the Northern Missouri District Council, through the Superintendent and Presbytery and shall work in full cooperation with the General Council of the Assemblies of God. Through its Sectional ministries it shall promote Women's Ministries

in each church.

**c. Auxiliaries**

1. Missionettes

**Section 5. Senior Adult Ministries**

**a. Purpose**

It shall coordinate senior adult ministries within the District and shall mobilize senior adults for participation in Pentecostal activities, age level educational pursuits, evangelistic outreach, and wholesome fellowship events.

**b. Relationship**

The District Senior Adult Ministries Department shall be subordinate to the Northern Missouri District Council through the Superintendent and Presbytery and work in full cooperation with the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

**Section 6. Single Adult Ministries**

**a. Purpose**

It shall coordinate the single adult ministries within the District and shall mobilize single adults for participation in Pentecostal activities, age level education pursuits, evangelistic outreach, and wholesome fellowship events.

**b. Relationship**

The District Single Adult Ministries Department shall be subordinate to the Northern Missouri District Council through the Superintendent and Presbytery and work in full cooperation with the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

**ARTICLE VII. SECTIONAL OFFICERS**

**Section 1. Sectional Executive Committee**

The Sectional Executive Committee is composed of the District Presbyter, Sectional Assistant Presbyter, and the Sectional Secretary-Treasurer.

**Section 2. Assistant Presbyter and Secretary-Treasurer**

**a. Elections**

The Sectional Assistant Presbyter and Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected at the annual Sectional Council on the even numbered years. The candidates for election shall be chosen by secret ballot. A two-thirds majority vote is necessary to constitute an election. If after the second electoral ballot no election results, all but the names of the five candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be eliminated. If after the fourth electoral ballot no election results, all but the names of the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be eliminated. Further balloting shall continue until an election is secured.

**b. Qualifications**

1. The Assistant Presbyter shall be an ordained minister who is currently serving an Assemblies of God ministry within the Section and who resides within the borders of the Section. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be an ordained or licensed minister who is currently serving as pastor, associate pastor, or assistant pastor of an Assemblies of God church within the borders of the Section.

2. They shall be chosen from the membership of the section, persons of sound judgment, mature experience, and of good report.

**c. Term of Office**

1. Their term of office shall be for a period of two years.
2. Their term shall begin one month after date of election.

**d. Vacancies**

1. If the elected officer ceases to be a member of the given section or moves from given section, the term of office shall automatically expire.

2. In the event of a vacancy, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the District Superintendent, in consultation with, and with approval of the District Presbytery.

**e. Duties of Sectional Assistant Presbyter**

1. Assist the Presbyter in promoting the work and ministry within the section.

2. Serve on the Sectional Committee.

3. In case the Sectional Presbyter can no longer serve for any reason, upon ratification by the District Executive Presbytery, the Assistant Presbyter shall fill the office for the unexpired term.

4. Assume any other responsibilities asked of him/her by the Presbyter.

5. Serve as World Missions Representative.

**f. Duties of Sectional Secretary-Treasurer**

1. Assist the Sectional Presbyter.

2. Serve on the Sectional Committee.

3. Compile and preserve records of proceedings of Sectional meetings.

4. Be the custodian of the section's funds; and deposit, disburse by check, and record all finances to be used for the work of the section. This shall include all funds committed to the Sectional Secretary-Treasurer by action of the section.

5. Keep an accurate and up-to-date record of receipts and disbursements, and conduct the work of this office according to accepted business practices.

6. Present a financial report to the Sectional Council at its annual meeting.

**Section 3. The Sectional Committee**

There shall be a Sectional Committee comprised of the following officers:

The Presbyter, Assistant Presbyter, Secretary-Treasurer, and a representative of each Sectional department active in that section. The District Presbyter, by virtue of office, shall be chairman of the committee. It shall be his/her responsibility to call and preside over a meeting within thirty days after the District Presbytery has set forth the District calendar and program for the coming year, for the purpose of coordinating all District programs in the Sectional calendar.

#### **Section 4. Sectional Departmental Officers**

The Sectional departmental officers shall consist of a representative of each Sectional department active in that section.

##### **a. Appointment of Sectional Departmental Officers.**

1. Sectional departmental representatives shall be appointed as follows: HonorBound: Men of Promise, Youth, and Senior Adults in uneven years; Women's Ministries, Education, and Single Adults in the even years.

2. The District departmental leadership, in conference with the Sectional leadership and the District Superintendent shall consider the individuals available in the section and determine an individual who will best fit the leadership team.

3. The selected individual will be approached and asked to accept appointment to the office. If individual is in agreement, appointment will be approved by the District Presbytery, upon report to the Presbytery.

##### **b. Qualifications**

1. Individuals shall be Spirit-filled persons of mature experience and ability, whose lives and ministries are above question. They must be members of the section in which they serve. In the case of a lay person, the individual's pastor must be consulted prior to any contact being made with the individual or the individual's name being presented.

2. The HonorBound: Men of Promise Sectional Representative must be a man.

3. The Women's Sectional Representative must be a woman.

### **ARTICLE VIII. HONORARY PRESBYTER**

#### **a. Elections**

1. Nominations shall be submitted to the District Presbytery for verification of eligibility.

2. Nominees shall be presented to the next District Council in the form of a resolution.

3. A two-thirds majority vote is necessary to constitute an election.

#### **b. Qualifications**

The office of Honorary Presbyter can be bestowed upon a person by the District Council who has reached the age of sixty and who has served for at least ten years of his/her ministry as a District Presbyter and/or Executive Presbyter in service for the Northern Missouri District.



### **c. Rights and Privileges**

1. They shall be given the privilege of the floor in any District Presbytery session, but shall not exercise the right of making a motion or voting upon issues.
2. They shall provide their own transportation and lodging.
3. Their meal costs shall be cared for by the District on those occasions when they are with the District Presbytery in their sessions.
4. Should this person transfer out of the District, the above rights and privileges (1-3) will be suspended, without removing the honor bestowed.

## **ARTICLE IX. GENERAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATION**

### **Section 1. General Presbyters**

a. The Northern Missouri District Council shall be represented on the General Council General Presbytery by three members, the District Superintendent together with two others who shall be elected by the District Council, one of whom shall be an ordained pastor of a church located in the District. Election shall take place in the even years with nominations by secret ballot; a two-thirds vote is required to constitute an election. Term of office is for two years. They shall take office immediately.

b. Two additional ministers from the District may be nominated by a two-thirds vote for a possible one-year appointment to the General Council General Presbytery. One nominee must be an ordained pastor who is active in ministry and under age 40 (at the time of election), and one must be an ordained female minister who is active in ministry. Final selections will be made by the Executive Presbytery of the General Council, and will be rotated among the eight geographical areas of the General Council.

c. The Northern Missouri District Presbytery shall act as a nominating committee for the District, where possible nominating three or more qualified ministers for each office. The nominees will be presented to the District Council in session for their consideration.

### **Section 2. Nominees for General Council Executive Presbyter**

a. Two ministers from the District shall be nominated by a two-thirds vote, whose names shall be presented to the General Council for consideration in the election to the office of nonresident Executive Presbyter for the North Central area. The nominees must be ordained ministers of mature ability and experiences, whose life and ministry are above question. One of the nominees must be a minister who is not an elected full-time District official.

b. Three additional ministers from the District shall be nominated by a two-thirds vote, one who is an ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election, one ordained woman, and one ordained African-American minister, to be presented as nominees to the General Presbytery for their consideration.

c. The Northern Missouri District Presbytery shall act as a nominating committee for the District, where possible nominating three or more

qualified ministers for each office. The nominees will be presented to the District Council in session on the year in which their nomination is to be considered at General Council.

## **ARTICLE X. MINISTRY**

### **Section 1. Ministry Described**

Christ's gifts to the church include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (Ephesians 4:11), exhorters, administrators, leaders and helpers (Romans 12:7-8). In terms of maturity and ministry, three classifications of ministry are recognized: Ordained, Licensed, and Certified Ministers.

### **Section 2. Basic Qualifications & Requirements for Credentials**

- a. A scriptural born-again experience (John 3:5),
- b. The baptism in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.
- c. A call of God to the ministry evidenced by a personal conviction confirmed by the work of the Spirit and recognized by the local church and testimony of fellow ministers.
- d. A blameless Christian life and good report of those who are without. (Titus 1:7, 1 Timothy 3:7).
- e. A thorough understanding of and agreement with our doctrinal position as contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.
- f. A knowledge of the principles, practices, and purposes of the fellowship through a study of the General Council and District Council Constitution and Bylaws.
- g. An active loyalty to our constitutional agreements, a cooperative spirit, and a readiness to seek and receive counsel of older brethren and those in positions of authority.
- h. Basic education requirements

No specific level of formal academic achievement (diploma or degree) shall be a requirement for credentials. Credential applicants shall meet the following criteria:

1. All applicants are required to be interviewed by the District Credentials Committee and, in preparation for the interview, pass a standard exam approved by the General Presbytery whereby they demonstrate knowledge of the Bible, Assemblies of God doctrines, and ministerial practices; and either
2. Successfully complete equivalent training to that indicated in paragraph three below, preferably, in an endorsed Assemblies of God post-secondary school; or in a seminary, college, Bible college, or school approved by the District Credentials Committee consistent with criteria established by the General Council Credentials Committee; or
3. Successfully complete courses, prescribed by the General Presbytery, offered in correspondence through Global University; or
4. Be recommended by a District Credentials Committee as

qualifying for credentials through self-study and ministerial experience. Such candidates shall have a proven and fruitful ministry of substantial duration. Requests from a District for such a candidate shall be presented to the General Council Credentials Committee and may be granted on a case by case basis.

i. Marriage status

We disapprove of any married person holding ministerial credentials with the Northern Missouri District, if either marriage partner has a former spouse living, unless the divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15), or in the case of domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (Psalms 11:5; 146:5-9; Proverbs 6:16; Isaiah 1:16-17; Ephesians 4:1-3, 31-32; Ephesians 5), except as hereinafter provided.

j. Annulments, marriage dissolutions and preconversion divorce.

The District Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant's annulment of a former marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the Fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials; or, in the case of a divorce or a dissolution, whether the circumstances would appropriately be classified as calling for an annulment; or if the divorce occurred prior to conversion. In those cases involving preconversion divorce, they shall be decided on an individual basis just as those that deal with annulment are decided. The application must be accompanied by clear and satisfactory evidence of an illegal marriage through deception or fraud, or that the divorce did occur prior to one's conversion.

k. Eligibility of women

The scriptures plainly teach that divinely called and qualified women may also serve the church in the ministry of the Word (Joel 2:29; Acts 21:9; 1 Corinthians 11:5). Women who have developed in the ministry of the Word so that their ministry is acceptable generally, and who have proved their qualifications in actual service, and who have met all the requirements of the Credentials Committee of the Northern Missouri District Council, are entitled to whatever grade of credentials their qualifications warrant and the right to administer the ordinances of the church.

l. Ministers from other organizations

If a minister from another reputable body desires to affiliate with the Northern Missouri District of the Assemblies of God, the Credentials Committee may consider the applicant's previous ministerial status, but will judge each candidate on his or her own merits as to the level of credentials to be granted. Such applicants shall be required to:

1. Conform to Assemblies of God criteria for recognition.
2. Complete an application for ministerial recognition.
3. Submit a recommendation for ministerial recognition.
4. Submit a recommendation from the body with which he/she has

formerly affiliated. If such is not available, letters of recommendation shall be sought from three reputable ordained ministers who are familiar with the applicant's ministry.

5. Pass the credentials examination.

6. Meet with the Credentials Committee.

7. Be recommended by the District Credentials Committee for the approval of the General Council Credentials Committee.

8. All so approved shall not be re-ordained, but shall have the hands of District Presbyters laid upon them as they enter this new phase of ministry.

9. Ministers who have received Assemblies of God credentials will relinquish their ministerial credentials with any other credentialing organization unless an exception is granted by the General Council Credentials Committee upon recommendation of a district council credentials committee for good cause shown and a clear understanding of the priority of the Assemblies of God credential.

### **Section 3. Specific Qualifications**

#### **a. Certified Ministers**

Those beginners and efficient helpers in gospel work who devote a part of their time to Christian service.

General requirement:

They shall show promise of usefulness in the gospel work. They shall devote full or part time to Christian ministry and, at the discretion of the District Credentials Committees, may remain under the supervision of a pastor or a ministry coach or mentor. They shall show evidence of a divine call and be actively engaged in some aspect of ministry and proclamation of the gospel, except in case of ill health or advanced age. Other requirements and exceptions: see General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 3b, (2), (3).

#### **b. Licensed Ministers**

Qualifications for ministry license shall include clear evidence of a divine call, character and preparation suitable for that calling, practical ministry experience, and an evident purpose to devote one's life in service to the proclamation of the gospel.

#### **c. Ordained Ministers**

Those who are of mature experience and who are qualified and able to undertake the responsibilities of the full gospel ministries and whose ministries are acceptable. Qualifications are outlined in 1 Tim. 3:1-7, Titus 1:7-9.

1. Applicants must be twenty-three years of age or over.

2. They must have met all the requirements of the Northern Missouri District Council.

3. No person may be ordained to the ministry until he or she has shown evidence of a divine call and has held a ministry license and has been actively engaged in ministry and proclamation of the gospel for at least two

full consecutive years.

4. They must be a member of the Northern Missouri District and appear before its Credentials Committee.

5. If they have been licensed in a District other than Northern Missouri, they must have been a member of the Northern Missouri District at least one year. They must secure the endorsement of the officary of the District with which they were previously licensed before receiving ordination.

6. In order to maintain active status, ordained ministers shall be engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel except for cases of disability, retirement, or other valid circumstances as determined by the General Council General Secretary.

## **Section 4. Procedure for Ministerial Recognition**

### **a. Credential Regulation Brochure**

A credential regulation brochure shall be obtained from the District Office by a written request. It will direct the applicant's procedure in moving towards credentialing.

### **b. Renewal of Fellowship Certificates**

#### **1. Expiration date**

All fellowship certificates are valid only until December 31 of each year and must be renewed annually. The renewing of credentials is the responsibility of the individual minister. In the event a minister does not receive his renewal form by December 1, he should notify the District office.

#### **2. Grace period until January 15**

All who shall have failed to renew their fellowship certificates, on or before December 31, shall be considered as delinquent and shall have until January 15 to pay a late fee as required by General Council.

#### **3. Reinstatement required after January 15**

Ministers who have not renewed by January 15, shall be recorded as lapsed as of the expiration date of December 31. They must make application for reinstatement and pay a reinstatement fee, as required by General Council, in order to be reinstated.

## **Section 5. Official List**

### **a. Active ministers**

The official list of all credential holders shall be compiled and published by the Northern Missouri District Council Office for the convenience of the Fellowship, with the understanding it is not to be used for purposes of solicitation. This official list shall be revised annually and shall contain the names of those who are engaged in active ministry and whose credentials have been renewed by the issuance of a fellowship card for the current year.

### **b. Inactive Ministers**

All ministers who have not been actively engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel over a period of 1 year shall have their names

placed upon the inactive list for the following year. If such inactivity shall continue for a second year they shall be removed from the ministerial fellowship. It shall be understood that this shall not apply to inactivity caused by infirmity of old age or ill health. Should the minister at any time return to active ministry, his or her name may be restored to the active list upon receipt of an application for reinstatement and approval by the Credentials Committee.

### **c. Senior-Retired Ministers**

The term "senior-retired" shall be used for those credential holders who are 65 years of age or older and who have ceased to engage in any regular appointed ministry.

**1. Reports.** Senior-retired ministers shall file an abbreviated credential renewal to maintain a correct mailing address.

**2. General Council & District Support.** Senior-retired ministers shall be free to distribute as they desire the portion of their tithes previously paid to the General Council and to the District Office.

## **Section 6. Ministerial Courtesy**

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

b. Ministry in churches which are not Assemblies of God shall be accepted only after proper consultation with and approval of local pastors and the District officials.

c. Ministers are advised against interfering with pastors in charge of Assemblies, whether it is by personal visitation without consent or by correspondence with members of the Assembly.

d. It is recommended that a pastor who has resigned from a church convey this information at once to the District office and Presbyter of the section in which the church is located.

## **Section 7. Discipline of Members**

a. Occasions sometimes arise which make it necessary to deal with ministers who have reached the place where, in the opinion of the Presbytery, endorsement can no longer be given. Credentials Committees, which have the authority to ordain ministers and to recommend them for credentials, also have the right to withdraw their approval and to recommend the recall of credentials. When such an occasion occurs, the District Presbytery shall follow the rules and guidelines as established in the General Council Bylaws in Article X, Discipline.

b. When a pastor's credentials are withdrawn or suspended by the District, his/her term of office shall be automatically terminated.

## **Section 8. Credential Reinstatement**

a. Should a minister who has lapsed credentials, for more than six months, desire reinstatement, that minister shall complete a reinstatement

application, pay the nonrefundable reinstatement fees, and meet with the District Credentials Committee or a Credentials Committee approved by the District Credentials Committee before reinstatement occurs.

b. Should a minister who has resigned his/her credentials, without any charges pending, desire to be reinstated, that minister shall complete a reinstatement application, pay the nonrefundable reinstatement fees, and meet with the District Credentials Committee before reinstatement occurs. A six month time frame must pass between resignation of credentials and application for reinstatement. Should two years pass from the time of resignation, the minister desiring reinstatement must complete all qualifications for credentialing.

c. Should a minister who has been dismissed from the fellowship desire to be reinstated, that minister shall first complete an approved rehabilitation program (if required), and then meet with the District Presbytery for reinstatement approval before the process of reinstatement begins. The reinstatement process will then be the same as for the minister who resigns and desires reinstatement.

## **ARTICLE XI. CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY**

### **Section 1. Christian Marriage**

Marriage was established by God in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:18, 21–25) and confirmed by Jesus Christ to be a permanent relationship between a man and a woman (Matthew 19:4–6). Because marriage is not only a commitment to a spouse, but also to God (Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:9; Ephesians 5:31), a believer should marry only another believer (2 Corinthians 6:14). Christian marriage is a reflection of the love, purity, and permanence between Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:23–33).

Even though some marriages may fall short of the biblical ideal (see Article IX, B, Section 5), husbands and wives who devote themselves to God (Ephesians 5:21) and find nurture and instruction in the body of Christ (Hebrews 10:25) can realize the strength and blessing of God in their relationship.

### **Section 2. Children**

Children “are a heritage from the Lord”; therefore, rearing them is to be treated as a sacred trust. God’s strength and wisdom are available on a daily basis in order to bring up children to love and obey God (Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4).

### **Section 3. Performing Marriage Ceremonies**

a. Ministerial guidelines. We discourage any Assemblies of God minister performing a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former spouse is still living, unless the case is included in the exceptional circumstances described in Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraph b.

b. Violation of conscience not required. We realize that the remarrying of



such persons included in the exceptive circumstances in Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraph b, could violate the conscience of a minister; and if this should be the case, the minister should not be expected to perform such ceremonies.

c. Same-sex ceremonies. No minister shall perform any type of marriage, cohabitation, or covenant ceremony for persons who are of the same sex. Such a ceremony would endorse homosexuality which is a sin and strictly forbidden in God's Word (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26,27; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Timothy 1:9–11). Any minister of our Fellowship who performs a ceremony for these types of disapproved relations, unless innocently deceived into doing so, shall be dismissed from the Fellowship.

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

## **ARTICLE XII. MEETINGS**

### **Section 1. Parliamentary Order**

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

### **Section 2. Voting Constituency**

All credentialed ministers present and registered are considered delegates. Each assembly has the right of representation at the District and Sectional Councils. General Council Affiliated Churches are allowed two delegates and District Council Churches are allowed one delegate. Lay delegates shall be at least twenty-one years of age and properly certified by letter from their pastor or secretary of the church. Delegates-at-large to the District Council shall include the District Women's Ministries Director, by virtue of office, and the spouses of full-time elected District Council officers.

### **Section 3. Order of Business**

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

1. Devotional
2. Announcements of Committees
3. Report of Roster Committee
4. Report of Superintendent
5. Report of Assistant Superintendent
6. Report of Secretary
7. Report of Treasurer
8. Report of Committees
9. Unfinished Business
10. Election of Officers



11. New Business
12. Adjournment

#### **Section 4. Annual District Council**

a. The regular sessions of the District Council shall convene annually pursuant to a call of the District Executive Presbytery. The Ordination Service shall be held annually during District Council.

b. Resolutions to be considered at the council shall be in the District Office at least 45 days prior to the opening session in order for the Resolutions Committee to have ample time to have them edited and printed. Exceptions to this shall be:

1. Resolutions which may come from the District Presbytery meeting held prior to council.
2. Resolutions deemed emergency matters by council in session.
3. Resolutions arising out of business of council in session.

c. Those resolutions of provision (1), of paragraph b “Resolutions which may come from the District Presbytery meeting held prior to council” shall be edited and printed by the office of the District Superintendent and shall be in the possession of all prospective delegates at least one week, (7 days), prior to the opening session of the council.

d. The Resolution Committee shall be appointed in January in advance of District Council. This committee shall be made up of members who live in the same general area so that in their work to get resolutions prepared for council, driving distance shall be held to a minimum.

e. Resolutions shall be mailed to the District Office and directed to the Resolutions Committee chairman unedited.

f. Resolutions shall be prepared by committee in book form and in the possession of all prospective delegates at least two weeks (14 days) prior to council. They shall also be available at the registration desk, along with any coming from the Presbytery.

#### **Section 5. Special District Council**

A special session of the District Council may be called to meet any emergency that may arise within the District. Such call shall be issued by the District Secretary after the emergency has been fully considered and passed upon by a majority vote of the District Executive Presbytery.

#### **Section 6. The Right of Initiative.**

Any minister in good standing may exercise the right of initiative in calling a special District Council session. The reason for such call shall be made in writing and in detail and placed in the hands of the District Executive Presbytery for their consideration, who shall after examination, if they deem the emergency of sufficient importance, issue the call for such special sessions. The request for said call must be signed by at least 15 ordained ministers of the District who are in good standing.

#### **Section 7. Sectional Councils**

There shall be annual Sectional Councils for fellowship, prayer, Bible Study and to transact the business of the sections. These Sectional Councils shall convene annually pursuant to the call of the District Presbytery.

### **Section 8. Other District Events**

Events, such as camp meetings, institutes, conventions, and retreats, shall be held for prayer, fellowship, Bible study, and to promote a helpful, cooperative spirit. The dates and sessions shall be approved by the District Presbytery.

### **Section 9. District Committees**

#### **a. Standing Committees**

Standing committees shall be created by appointment or election as necessity may indicate. The term of office shall continue from the date of appointment to the adjournment of the next regular meeting of the District Council, except as hereinafter provided.

#### **b. Special Committees**

Special committees shall be appointed by the District Superintendent before each District Council session and their names published for the purpose of properly planning and conducting the business of the Council while in session, together with other committees as may be necessary for the conducting of the council business: resolutions, roster, program, housing, and parliamentary.

## **ARTICLE XIII. DISTRICT U.S. MISSIONS DEPARTMENT**

### **Section 1. Purpose**

The District U.S. Missions Department is dedicated to promoting evangelism throughout the District. The special emphases are on planting new churches in growing areas and cities that have not been reached with the full gospel, nurturing existing churches in need, and ministry among those groups of people who need special help because of cultural, language or ethnic barriers, physical handicaps, and incarcerations such as imprisonment or other institutionalization.

### **Section 2. Organizational Structure**

#### **a. District U.S. Missions Committee**

##### **1. Membership.**

This committee shall be composed of the District Superintendent and the Sectional Presbyters. The District Superintendent, by virtue of office, shall serve as chairperson of the committee.

##### **2. Duties.**

This committee shall have the following responsibilities:

- (a) They shall screen, approve and appoint initial pastors of pioneer works. Subsequent pastors shall be appointed by the District Superintendent in consultation with the Sectional

Presbyter, in accordance with Article III Local Assemblies, Section 4, District Pioneer Assembly, paragraph b.

(b) They shall approve sites for beginning Pioneer Churches.

(c) They shall seek ways and means to finance new efforts and support pioneer pastors including having the pioneer pastor tour the District to raise pledge support.

(d) They shall require appropriate financial records to be kept and monthly financial reports to be sent to the District U.S. Missions Committee in order to determine the need of both the church and the pastor, and to assure contributors that their offerings will be receipted and administered properly. (Monthly report forms will be furnished by the District U. S. Missions Committee). The pioneer monthly report is to be completed and mailed to the District Superintendent within ten days after the close of the month.

(e) They shall consider the qualifications of a pioneer pastor as to his:

- (1) Character
- (2) Cooperation
- (3) Previous experience and ministry
- (4) Ability to handle finances
- (5) Initiative
- (6) Public relations
- (7) Integrity

(f) They shall meet when necessary at the call of the chairperson.

### **3. Expenses.**

The expenses of the District U.S. Missions Committee shall be reimbursed from the District U.S. Missions Fund.

## **b. Sectional U.S. Missions Committee**

### **1. Membership.**

The Sectional Presbyter, Assistant Presbyter and Secretary-Treasurer shall constitute the membership of this committee. The Sectional Presbyter shall be the chairperson. The Sectional Secretary-Treasurer shall record the minutes and perform any other secretarial duties requested.

## **Section 3. Supervision**

a. Pioneer Assemblies started by the District U.S. Missions Committee are under the supervision of that committee for the first two years.

1. They shall appoint the pastor for a period of one year. The pastor shall work in cooperation with the District Superintendent and Sectional Presbyter, and together they shall appoint all necessary officers and committees and assume the responsibility for the proper care of the work, including property and finances.

2. Pastors of Pioneer Assemblies shall not erect buildings,

purchase real estate, dispose of property, nor involve the assembly in any moral or financial obligation without first securing the approval of the District U.S. Missions Committee.

3. The pioneer pastor shall be requested to meet with the District U.S. Missions Committee at least once a year in order to give written and oral reports on the current status of the church and to discuss any problems and needs which may exist.

4. It shall be the prerogative of the committee to replace the pastor when it considers it advisable to do so.

b. Pioneer Churches mothered by existing churches shall be under the supervision of the mothering church, in cooperation with the District U.S. Missions Committee. The mothering church shall appoint a pastor, with the approval of the District U.S. Missions Committee. The mothering church shall assume the responsibility for the proper care of the work including property and finances, and may appoint other necessary officers and committees as needed.

#### **Section 4. The Right of Initiative**

a. Ministers or groups who wish to engage in any type of missions works or establish new congregations or churches, shall follow this procedure:

1. Application shall be made in person and in writing to the Sectional U.S. Missions Committee and District Superintendent stating their interests and qualifications.

2. A meeting of the Sectional U.S. Missions Committee and District Superintendent shall be held to consider the application. In the event this initiative shall affect an existing assembly, the pastor of the existing assembly shall be consulted before consent is given to start and the location is approved. Final approval will be made by the District U.S. Missions Committee

b. Established churches are encouraged to mother new works and nurture existing "supervised assemblies" in need.

1. They shall make application to the District Superintendent and Sectional U.S. Missions Committee in person and in writing stating their interest.

2. Final approval will be made by the District U.S. Missions Committee.

#### **Section 5. Finances**

##### **a. District U.S. Missions Support**

1. Each church in the District shall be encouraged to make an annual pledge for District U.S. Missions work.

2. Churches are encouraged to assume responsibility for support of pioneer pastors, other District U.S. Missions ministries and projects on a monthly basis.

3. Pastors are encouraged to invite pioneer ministers and other approved U.S. Missions ministries to minister in their churches.

4. All funds received by the District, designated for District U.S. Missions, shall be credited to the District U.S. Missions Fund and used for District U.S. Missions churches, facilities, and ministries.

5. All monies returned to the District from Speed the Light are to be disbursed according to the General Council Policy Manual.

6. All monies returned to the District from BGMC are to be disbursed according to the Boys & Girls Missionary Crusade Constitution & Bylaws.

#### **b. Financial Accountability**

1. All disbursements from the District U.S. Missions Fund shall be made at the direction of the District U.S. Missions Committee.

2. Any church requesting help from the District U.S. Missions Fund shall be represented by its Sectional Presbyterian in making such a request to the District U.S. Missions Committee.

3. Application for these funds are to be submitted on the form provided for this purpose by the District office.

4. Churches that need assistance from the District U.S. Missions Fund are required to file a monthly report with the District Superintendent which will include spiritual, numerical, and financial data. No project shall receive District U.S. Missions Funds without the filing of this report.

5. All property payments on a District U.S. Missions project shall be made at the direction of the District Superintendent, Sectional Presbyterian, and pastor or director of the District U.S. Missions work.

### **Section 6. Deaf Ministries**

a. There shall be a District representative to Deaf Ministries in the Northern Missouri District who shall be appointed by the District Presbytery for a period of two years.

#### **b. Qualifications:**

1. They shall be a licensed or an ordained minister of the Northern Missouri District working with the deaf.

2. They shall have the Divine calling, the sign language skills and the specialized abilities to serve the deaf.

#### **c. Duties:**

1. They shall promote evangelism among the deaf in the District.

2. They shall coordinate and maintain good working relationships between the District and the Deaf Department (U.S. Missions).

3. They shall promote involvement of the A/G colleges and student ministry groups with District Deaf Ministries as well as encourage District youth to become involved with deaf ministry courses at the A/G colleges.

4. They shall direct an annual District Deaf Camp.

(a) They shall raise camp expenses, aside from any regular support afforded the minister or missionary.

(b) They shall report funds and expenses of the annual Deaf Camp to the District Treasurer.

5. They shall direct training seminars for ministers and workers of the deaf in the District.

6. They shall be allowed to present financial needs for the District Deaf Ministries when invited to churches in the District.

## **Section 7. General Policies**

a. Each Northern Missouri District pioneer church shall include the name "Assembly of God."

b. The name "Assembly of God" may be used only when the project is approved by the District U.S. Missions Committee.

## **ARTICLE XIV. WORLD MISSIONS**

### **Section 1. District World Missions Director**

The Assistant Superintendent, by virtue of office, shall serve as World Missions Director. Included in the duties as World Missions Director are:

a. Develop, assist and direct the work of missions throughout the District.

b. Work in cooperation with the Assemblies of God World Missions Department of the national office.

c. Assist missionaries in their itineraries and the raising of their budget.

d. Assist local assemblies, upon invitation, in planning conventions and carrying out their missionary programs.

### **Section 2. District World Missions Committee**

This committee shall be composed of the District World Missions Director, who shall act as chairperson, and the Sectional Assistant Presbyters.

#### **a. Duties**

1. They shall meet at least annually at the call of the World Missions director.

2. They shall be responsible for the promotion and coordination of financial goals and ministries for all areas of World Missions work in the District.

3. They shall be reimbursed for travel expense to committee meetings from the World Missions Funds.

4. They shall report their work to the District Presbytery

#### **b. Sectional Missions Activities and Promotion**

1. The Assistant Presbyters shall assist and direct missionary activity, in their respective sections, in cooperation with the District director.

2. The Assistant Presbyters shall assist missionaries in arranging itineraries, in their respective sections, in cooperation with the District director.

### **Section 3. Finances**

a. Each church in the District shall be encouraged to give a monthly

missionary offering.

b. Churches are encouraged to assume responsibility for support of missionaries and projects on a monthly basis, giving priority to our own Northern Missouri District U.S. and World Missions missionaries.

c. Pastors are encouraged to invite missionaries to minister in their churches once a month.

d. All missionaries are expected to cooperate with the missions program of the District. All itineraries shall be arranged with the consent and cooperation of the District World Missions director. Itinerating missionaries, who are not members of the Northern Missouri District, shall contribute an amount equal to 5 percent of the offerings which they receive while itinerating in the District. Such contributions shall be sent to the District office for the work of the World Missions Department of the District.

e. Non-Assemblies of God agents or missionary organizations shall receive the approval of the District director before itinerating among the churches of the District.

## **ARTICLE XV. FINANCES**

### **Section 1. Department of Finance**

a. There shall be a Department of Finance which shall have the responsibility for safe-guarding, supervising and investing the finances of the District Council.

b. The department shall be amenable to and function under the general supervision of the District Council.

c. The department shall consist of the District Superintendent, who shall head the department, together with the Assistant Superintendent, and District Treasurer.

### **Section 2. Income**

It is recommended that the General Council and the Northern Missouri District Council be supported in the following manner:

#### **a. General Council Support**

1. All credentialed ministers should recognize their obligation to contribute to General Council, the amount required for their credential level, according to General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 10.

2. Compliance with these requirements is a prerequisite for renewal of credentials of all active ministers. If their contributions are in arrears, they shall be given an opportunity to meet this deficit with their renewal.

#### **b. Support of District Council**

1. All credentialed ministers should recognize their obligation to contribute monthly at least seventy-five percent of their ministerial tithes. Those with no ministerial or secular income shall contribute to the District the same amount that is required by the General Council, according to their credential level, on an annual basis.

(a) It shall be the prerogative of the District Presbytery to review the annual giving of each minister and request an explanation of those that appear to be abnormally low.

(b) A lack of cooperation with the District financial policy, without satisfactory explanation, could result in the minister's credentials not being renewed.

2. Ministers who hold credentials with the District and are supplementing their income from sources other than their ministry should recognize as a standard of practice their obligation to contribute monthly, at least twenty-five percent of the tithe from said monies to the District Treasurer to support the District Council.

3. The last banking date of each year shall be the last working day in December for the District office staff. Contributions must be in the office on that day, by 12 noon, in order to qualify for the year's giving.

4. All credential ministers, at the time of annual renewal, shall pay a renewal fee designated to go into a fund entitled "Compassionate Bereavement Fund." The amount of the renewal fee will be determined by the Presbytery. On the death of a credentialed minister or spouse, a contribution will be sent to the surviving spouse.

5. Each assembly is asked to support the District ministry by a monthly offering to the general fund; contribute financially to the camp program, and respond to special needs with offerings.

6. Each affiliated organization within the local church is requested to make monthly contribution to the support of its District organization. This includes such departments as Youth, Christian Education, Men's Ministries, Women's Ministries, Royal Rangers, Missionettes, Senior Adult Ministries, etc.

### **Section 3. Disbursements**

a. All District funds shall be deposited in a bank or banks selected by the District Presbytery. These funds shall be deposited in the corporate name of the District.

b. The District Treasurer and District Superintendent shall be signatories for all accounts. An additional signatory may be recommended by the Superintendent and ratified by the Presbytery for all accounts.

c. All District funds shall be disbursed electronically or by check.

### **Section 4. Budget**

a. The Executive Presbytery shall prepare annual budgets for the General Operating and Camp Operating funds. The directors of District departments shall prepare and submit annual budgets.

b. The District Presbytery shall review and approve the budgets. Approved budgets shall be presented to the District Council.

### **Section 5. Auditing**

a. The financial records shall be audited after the close of each fiscal



year by a means determined by the Executive Presbytery. The report of the audit shall be communicated to the District Presbytery and be made available to the constituency upon request.

b. In the event there is a change of treasurer during the year, the District Presbytery shall decide if it is necessary to have an audit made before the records are transferred.

## **Section 6. Finance Committee**

A Finance Committee shall be appointed by the District Superintendent of not less than five capable ministers or laypersons who shall:

a. Make an overall study of the District finance

b. Make appropriate recommendations to the District Presbytery.

c. Analyze the District and departmental budgets and make appropriate recommendations.

d. Make evaluation of strengths and weaknesses of the District financial base.

e. Evaluate the performance of the Church Revolving Loan Fund on an annual basis and report its findings to the District Presbytery with any needed recommendations for adjustments or improvements in the performance of the fund.

## **Section 7. Salaries and other Compensations**

a. Salaries, wages, vacations and emergency needs for all District employees shall be determined by the District Presbytery after consideration of recommendations from appropriate sources.

b. Travel and accommodation expenses shall be paid for our General Presbyters when representing our District to national meetings. This shall include their spouses, but not children.

## **Section 8. Financial Support Committee**

A committee from the Presbytery Board shall be appointed to survey the ministerial financial support on a quarterly basis. The Presbytery Board shall have discretion in responding to any ministers who are obviously questionable in complying with the bylaws. The purpose of the Presbytery Board's response is to be informative, supportive, and redemptive. Continued lack of financial response from said minister shall result in an invitation to meet with the Presbytery Board to review their financial giving records.

## **Section 9. District Stewardship Ministry**

### **a. Authorization and Purpose.**

There shall be a District Stewardship Ministry which shall promote Biblical stewardship in the District, assist our members in the planning of their estates and seek to increase the benefits Assemblies of God ministries received from deferred gifts. This District Stewardship Ministry shall operate in conformity and cooperation with the National Stewardship Department of the Assemblies of God.

## **ARTICLE XVI. PROPERTIES**

All properties of the District Council shall be bought, taken, held, sold, transferred, mortgaged, leased, assigned, or conveyed in the corporate name by the president and secretary of the corporation. No transaction concerning District Council properties shall exceed \$250,000 without the authority of the District Council, and all transactions shall be approved by the District Presbytery.

The Northern Missouri District of the Assemblies of God is authorized to become guarantors of new church loans for District U.S. Missions churches. A District U.S. Missions church is defined as a District Affiliated Assembly less than five years old, or an assembly with a specific District U.S. Missions ministry such as deaf, ethnic, etc., whose pastor has District or U.S. Missions appointment. Such authorization is limited to a maximum of \$250,000 per project, with a maximum aggregate total of no more than 80 percent of the appraised value of the District properties, located at Columbia and Excelsior Springs, MO. Each project is to be considered as to its merits, strengths, and projected ability to fulfill repayment to lending institution, and the District's ability to service the debt by its cash flow (in case of default).

All District Affiliated church properties shall be deeded in the name of the church, with said deed to be held by its Trustees.

## **ARTICLE XVII. CHURCH REVOLVING LOAN FUND**

A special fund known as the Church Revolving Loan Fund shall be utilized as its first priority for the purpose of providing financial assistance in buying, building, repairing or improving churches or parsonages in the form of loans. As funds are available, they may also be utilized for the purpose of providing financial assistance in the form of loans to purchase equipment that shall enhance the ministry of Assemblies of God churches and District ministries. Equipment qualifying shall include, but not be limited to: computers and software, copy machines, sound systems, tape duplicating equipment and video projectors. This fund shall be for Assemblies of God churches in the Northern Missouri District.

### **Section 1. Finance Sources**

- a. They can be designated offerings from local churches and the various sections of the District.
- b. They can be offerings and bequests from individuals.
- c. They can be borrowed funds.
- d. They can be other acceptable sources.

### **Section 2. Loans**

- a. All loans shall be secured by adequate collateral.
- b. Interest charged for the loan is at a rate set and reviewed by the District Presbytery.
- c. There shall be a service charge of one percent of the amount of the loan to cover expenses incurred for handling the loan.

d. Conditions for loans:

1. The titles to properties on which the loans are made shall be free and clear, or loans shall be secured by other adequate and acceptable assets.

2. Adequate fire and extended coverage insurance shall be carried on all property and equipment used as collateral for loans with a loss payable clause to the Assemblies of God, Incorporated.

### **Section 3. Procedure for Loans**

a. Any church or District ministry desiring a loan shall apply for the same on form provided by the District office.

b. Each applicant must submit a complete financial statement showing current assets, liabilities, income and operating expenses.

c. Each application for a property improvement loan shall be accompanied by approved plans, a bona fide bid, or a responsible estimate of construction costs.

d. Each application for an equipment loan shall be accompanied by a responsible bid price of purchase costs.

### **Section 4. Administration**

a. The general administration shall be entrusted to the District Presbytery.

b. There shall be a Loan Committee composed of the Executive Presbytery. No loan shall be granted without consultation with the Presbyter of the section in which the project is located. This committee shall have authority to approve all loans, except those to departments or ministries of the District, in which cases they shall be approved by the District Presbytery.

c. The custody of all monies and necessary documents related to the Church Revolving Loan Fund shall be entrusted to the District Treasurer, who shall be empowered to make only those investments authorized by the Loan Committee or District Presbytery.

d. The District Finance Committee shall evaluate the performance of the Church Revolving Loan Fund on an annual basis. The committee shall report its findings to the District Presbytery with any needed recommendations for adjustments or improvements in the performance of the fund.

### **Section 5. Limitations**

a. The Loan Committee shall be responsible for approving the amount of each loan made, taking into consideration the funds which are available at the time. Should a larger amount be needed, the District officials shall seek to help the church obtain the amount needed from a financial institution.

b. The Loan Committee shall have authority to make loans up to \$10,000 with a time of amortization up to six years. Any request for an amount above the \$10,000 must be presented to the full District Presbytery for any further consideration.

## **ARTICLE XVIII. BOARD OF REGENTS**

# NORTH CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

## Section 1. Administration

The Northern Missouri District Council, together with other participating Districts shall share in the administration of N.C.U. through its representatives on the Board of Regents. These members of the board shall be chosen in the following manner.

a. The District Superintendent or a representative of his/her choice shall be a member of the Board of Regents by virtue of office.

b. Other representation of pastors, lay leaders, or at large members shall be selected by the North Central University Board Chair, President, and the Committee on Regents, and approved by the Northern Missouri District Presbytery.

## Section 2. Term of Office

The term of office shall be for one year.

## ARTICLE XIX. QUORUM

### Section 1. District Council

When a District Council has been properly called and announced, those ministerial and church delegates responding to the call who are present and registered shall constitute a quorum.

### Section 2. Sectional Council

When a Sectional Council has been properly called and announced, those ministerial and church delegates responding to the call who are present and registered shall constitute a quorum.

### Section 3. District Presbytery

There shall be no business transacted or records made of any District Presbytery meetings unless 50 percent of the membership is present.

### Section 4. Proper Notification

All meetings are pursuant to the call of the District Presbytery, provided proper notification has been given thirty days prior to business session.

### Section 5. Emergency Session

An emergency session of any nature can be called for any meetings with the approval of the District Presbytery.

## ARTICLE XX. EMERGENCY BYLAWS

### Section 1.

In the event of an emergency, and notwithstanding any contrary provision in the Bylaws, the District Presbytery, by a simple majority vote of the Presbyters present and voting at a duly called and noticed meeting in person or via real-time communication, may:

a. Postpone any required meetings of the constituency during the pendency of the emergency to an appropriate date after the conclusion of the emergency;

b. Extend the terms of current directors and officers during the pendency of the emergency and until an election may be held at an appropriate date after the conclusion of the emergency;

c. Appoint substitute directors and officers during the pendency of the emergency and until an election may be held at an appropriate date after the conclusion of the emergency;

d. Adopt additional emergency bylaws necessary for the continued operation of the District Council;

e. Modify the call, notice, and quorum requirement for meetings of the board during the pendency of the emergency; and

f. Make provision for real-time electronic meetings of the District Presbytery and the ability to take action via votes conducted through electronic mail.

## **Section 2.**

By invoking these emergency bylaws, the District Presbytery affirms that all of its actions shall be taken in good faith on behalf of the District Council, exercising all fiduciary duties incumbent upon directors. Further, the District Presbytery affirms that all provisions of the existing bylaws consistent with these emergency bylaws continue to be in force.

## **ARTICLE XXI. DISSOLUTION**

The assets of the Northern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., a Missouri corporation, are irrevocably dedicated to religious and/or charitable purposes, the same being stated fully in its Articles of Agreement and heretofore in the articles of this constitution. In the event of liquidation, dissolution, or the revocation of its charter or abandonment of its stated purposes, after providing for the payment of debts and obligations of the corporation, the remaining assets will not inure to the benefit of any private person or persons but all such remaining assets will be distributed to the General Council of the Assemblies of God (Springfield, Missouri) or to a nonprofit organization, or to nonprofit organizations, which are organized and operated exclusively for religious and/or charitable purposes which are exempt under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, under which section the organization or organizations shall have established tax exempt status.

## **ARTICLE XXII. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments of the bylaws may be made at any regular meeting of the District Council. Amendments to be adopted shall require a majority of all votes cast.

**Addendum 1**

**Bylaws For  
Northern Missouri District Council Affiliated Assemblies**

**PREAMBLE**

We, the members of this assembly, do hereby recognize ourselves as a local assembly in fellowship with, and as a part of, the Northern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God; and that we do hereby adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

**ARTICLE I. NAME**

The name of this assembly shall be approved by the Executive Board of the District Council Affiliated Assembly.

**ARTICLE II. PREROGATIVES AND PURPOSES**

The prerogatives and purposes of a District Council Affiliated Assembly shall be as follows.

A. This assembly shall be governed by these Bylaws and the Bylaws of the Northern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, and shall conduct its affairs according to the standard of the New Testament scriptures and of the Northern Missouri District Council, “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace... till we all come to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12,13).

B. 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, and to exercise all other powers conferred upon it by its charter or by the applicable nonprofit corporation law of this state; all in accordance with its Bylaws as the same may be hereafter amended.

C. This assembly is organized exclusively for religious, charitable, and educational purposes, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provisions of any future federal income tax law. In particular, this assembly is organized exclusively for the following purposes: To establish and maintain a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Spirit 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; and to assume our share of responsibility as a people who demonstrate God’s love and compassion for all the world.

D. This assembly shall cooperate with the Northern Missouri District Council and the General Council of the Assemblies of God to extend the work and Kingdom of God throughout the world. It shall support the missionary program

as agreed upon. It shall participate in District Council sessions through its appointed delegate.

E. This assembly shall recognize that the District Council has the authority and right to approve scriptural doctrine; also to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and to withdraw their certificate of affiliation if deemed necessary.

### **ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION**

This assembly shall voluntarily enter into full cooperative fellowship with assemblies of like precious faith, associated in the Northern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Columbia, Missouri, and the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri; and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation.

Officers of the District Council and General Council shall be recognized and respected by the pastor and members of this assembly.

It is understood and agreed that this assembly shall conform its standards of membership, qualifications for officers, and requirements in a pastor, to those standards which are set by the District Council. All action taken under these Bylaws by the assembly shall be subject to review and approval by the Executive Board and the General Board.

By its affiliation, the assembly, its officers, and members agree to submit to the authority of, and be governed by, the Bylaws of the Northern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God as now in effect or hereafter amended.

All District Council Affiliated Assemblies shall be required to:

1. Become and remain incorporated with the State of Missouri;
2. Maintain weekly church services;
3. Secure and maintain insurance coverage that meets the minimum standards approved by the District Presbytery through the District's authorized provider;
4. Secure and maintain a financial accounting system that meets the minimum standards approved by the District Presbytery through the District's authorized provider;
5. Submit a quarterly report form to the Sectional Presbyter and District; and
6. Maintain an active membership roll.

The District Presbytery shall have the prerogative of authorizing any evaluation, supervision, assistance, or other actions necessary to ensure the viability of all District Council Affiliated Assemblies and the protection of the District.

### **ARTICLE IV STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS**

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e. that we all speak the same thing [1 Corinthians 1:10; Acts 2:42]). The phraseology employed in this statement is not inspired or contended for; but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full-gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines.

#### **Section 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).

#### **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 and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

#### THE ADORABLE GODHEAD

##### a. Terms Defined

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

##### b. Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

Christ taught a distinction of persons in the Godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode, is inscrutable and incomprehensible because it is unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).

##### c. Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Accordingly, therefore, there is that in the Father which constitutes Him the Father and not the Son; there is that in the Son which constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Spirit which constitutes Him the Holy Spirit and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore the Father is the Begetter; the Son is the Begotten; and the Holy Spirit is the One proceeding from the Father and the Son. Therefore, because these three persons in the Godhead are in a state of unity, there is but one Lord God Almighty and His name one (John 1:18; 15:26; 17:11, 21; Zechariah 14:9).

##### d. Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are never identical as to person, nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the Godhead; nor opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son, as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father, as to authority. The Holy Spirit is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation and authority. Hence no person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17-30, 32, 37; 8:17, 18).

##### e. The Title, Lord Jesus Christ

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

##### f. The Lord Jesus Christ, God with us

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



Revelation 1:13, 17).

g. The Title, Son of God

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

h. Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ

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

i. Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

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

j. Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son

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

**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 (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).

**Section 4. The Fall of Man**

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

## **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 to Salvation**

Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

### **b. The Evidences of Salvation**

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

## **Section 6. The Ordinances of the Church**

### **a. Baptism in Water**

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

### **b. Holy Communion**

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements (bread and the fruit of the vine), is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4), a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26), and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

## **Section 7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

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

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

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

## **Section 9. Sanctification**

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

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

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

### **Section 10. The Church and Its Mission**

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

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

1. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).

2. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).

3. 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).

4. 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).

b. 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:

1. 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).

2. Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12-14).

3. 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; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29). And,

4. Compels them to care for the poor and needy of the world (Galatians 5:22-26; Matthew 25:37-40; Galatians 6:10; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

### **Section 11. The Ministry**

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

1. Evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20).

2. Worship of God (John 4:23, 24).

3. Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11,16).

4. Meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27)

### **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 (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:51,52).

### **Section 14. The Millennial Reign of Christ**

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (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).

### **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. Whoever 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).

### **Section 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. MARRIAGE**

### **Section 1. Sanctity of the Marital Union**

This church believes in the sanctity of the marital union as described in Scripture:

a. God created the first marriage as a sacred covenant relationship between one man and one woman for the purposes of procreation, companionship, and dominion over creation, in keeping with the covenant relationship God Himself established with His own creation (Genesis 2:15-24; Romans 1:16-32); and

b. Jesus blessed a marriage celebration between a man and a woman with His presence and His first public miracle, thereby affirming the traditional definition of marriage as a cornerstone of every culture and community (John 2:1-11); and further that He advised those who are for congenital or psychological reasons unable to enter into marriage (i.e. between a man and a woman) to remain single and therefore celibate (Matthew 19:4-12); and

c. The church historically has embraced this traditional definition of marriage, eschewing all other unions as unnatural, inappropriate, and anti-social, and has advocated the family unit of husband and wife and their children as the chief building block of society (Leviticus 18:22- 30; Psalm 127:3-5; Romans 1:16-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-2; Hebrews 13:4).

### **Section 2. Doctrinal Statements on Marriage and Family.**

This church adheres to the doctrinal statements on marriage and family by our fellowship, the General Council of the Assemblies of God (See General Council Bylaws, Article VIII. Section 1. Christian Marriage). Marriage is defined

Biblically and theologically in God's own terms rather than man-made terms; and this church intentionally adheres to the highest standards for marriage, namely Biblical standards; and other legal definitions and court actions are secondary to Biblical mandate.

### **Section 3. Marriage Ceremonies**

This church affirms that all marriage ceremonies performed in the name of this church and any related celebrations or activities allowed in its facilities shall be for unions that meet the standards named in these Bylaws, and further, that church ministers and staff engage only in marriage ceremonies in keeping with this church's adopted Biblical and theological definition of marriage.

### **Section 4. Officiating Marriage Ceremonies**

The pastor of this assembly, having been duly appointed by the Superintendent of the Northern Missouri District and ratified by this assembly's Executive Board, is authorized to officiate at any and all marriage ceremonies in keeping with the Biblical and theological definition of marriage. Any other minister involved in the ceremony must have the permission of the District Superintendent and/or Sectional Presbyter.

## **ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1. Membership Eligibility**

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

A. The applicant shall have a testimony to an experience of the "new birth."

B. Approval for membership shall be preceded by baptism in water by immersion.

C. Evidence of a consistent Christian life (Romans 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13, 14; Ephesians 4:17-32; 5:1-2, 15; 1 John 1:6, 7).

D. The applicant must contribute regularly to the financial support of the church in which membership is requested.

E. The applicant must accept the Tenets of Faith as set forth in Article IV of these Bylaws.

F. The applicant must be at least 18 years of age.

G. The applicant agrees to be governed by the Bylaws of this assembly and of the Northern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, as now in effect or hereafter amended.

### **Section 2. Procedure for Membership Recognition**

Those individuals eligible for membership who shall desire to become members of this church shall make their request to the pastor. The General Board shall have the right and authority to determine the eligibility and acceptability of all applicants for membership. Those approved for membership shall be received into the church publicly at any of its regular services, and their names thereupon added to the church membership roll. No applicant for membership shall be accepted as a member within thirty days before an annual business meeting or within ten days before a special business meeting.

### **Section 3. Pastor and Spouse**

By virtue of office the pastor shall be considered an active voting member of the church during the pastor's tenure. The pastor's spouse shall become an active voting member simultaneously with the pastor, subject to the standards of

Section 1 of this Article VI.

#### **Section 4. Transfer Membership**

A member in good standing of another Assemblies of God church, who satisfies the standards for membership eligibility specified in Section 1 of this Article VI (other than the attendance and support requirements), may apply for membership by submitting a letter of transfer from the pastor of the other assembly, upon the approval of the General Board.

#### **Section 5. Junior Membership**

Junior membership shall be available for young people under 18 years of age who give evidence of the new birth, meet the scriptural standards for membership as specified in these Bylaws, and are approved by the pastor. When the junior member reaches the age of 18, they must then apply for adult membership and meet the same standard of membership as an active member at the time they apply.

#### **Section 6. Honorary Membership**

The General Board, at any regular or special meeting, may approve honorary members by a unanimous vote of the members present. Honorary membership is available to any member who has left the church indefinitely (District officers, missionaries, evangelists, Armed Forces, and those who have distinguished themselves in Christian service, etc.). Such membership shall have an inactive status unless activated by the General Board. Honorary membership recognition shall continue as long as the member maintains a consistent Christian life, remains sound in doctrine, and maintains a cooperative attitude toward the home assembly. Removal of such membership shall be determined by a majority vote of the General Board.

#### **Section 7. Inactive Membership**

Voting members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of the assembly for a period of two consecutive months, or cease to contribute regularly to its support as determined by the pastor and General Board, shall be considered as inactive members and shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to active status.

#### **Section 8. Discipline**

A. Grounds. Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible (Matthew 16:19; Matthew 18:15-20; Luke 17:3; John 20:23; Acts 16:4; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 5:20; 2 Timothy 4:2; Hebrews 13:17). The purpose of discipline is to promote repentance and restoration through exposing sinful behavior. It is to be redemptive in nature as well as corrective. Any member of the Assembly is subject to discipline on the basis of unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the Tenets of Faith of this assembly. The District Presbytery administers the discipline of pastors.

B. Procedure. Should any member of this church, in the opinion of the Executive and General Boards, fall below the standard of membership as stated in Bylaws Article VI. Membership, Section 1, in faith or practice, or should their spirit become contentious and discordant to the well-being of the church, the following procedure, based on Matthew 18:15-18, shall be followed.

(1) At the directive of the District Superintendent, the pastor and/or a member of either the General or the Executive Board shall make every reasonable effort to contact the person and resolve the matter.

(2) If the first step does not resolve the matter, members of the Executive and General Boards, as directed by the District Superintendent, shall attempt to meet with the member in an effort to resolve the matter.

(3) If the first and second steps do not resolve the matter, the Executive or General Board may, at its discretion, do one of two things:

(a) Place the person's membership on probation for a specific or indefinite time. The member may be restored from such inactive status to the active membership in the same manner.

(b) Dismiss the person from membership in the church. The disciplined or dismissed member shall have the right within 30 days of such action to appeal to the membership in a special business meeting called for that purpose. Such appeal shall be made in writing and addressed to the District Superintendent. The decision of a majority of the voting members present at such a meeting shall be final.

C. Resignations. Members who are under discipline by this assembly forfeit and waive the right to resign from membership in this assembly. Resignations from membership are possible only by those members in good standing who are not under any disciplinary action.

## **ARTICLE VII. GOVERNMENT**

### **Section 1. The Church Board**

The government of this assembly shall be vested in the Church Board made up of an Executive Board and a General Board. The Executive Board shall consist of the District Superintendent, District Assistant Superintendent, District Treasurer, District Secretary, and Sectional Presbyters, and shall be chaired by the District Superintendent or the District Superintendent's appointed representative. The General Board shall consist of the District Superintendent, the Sectional Presbyter, and the Pastor, and shall be chaired by the District Superintendent or the District Superintendent's appointed representative. These boards shall serve in the management of all spiritual and material affairs of the assembly. The General Board shall be empowered to act between meetings of the Executive Board, in matters pertaining to the assembly, except where specified otherwise by these Bylaws. Their actions shall be subject to the approval, if contested, of the Executive Board. The General Board shall meet at least on an annual basis to review the state of the assembly.

### **Section 2. Ministry Committee**

A Ministry Committee may be chosen by and serve at the discretion of the General Board for the purpose of supporting the pastor. These individuals would be members of the assembly who are active supporters of the church in tithes and offerings and who demonstrate a cooperative spirit and regularly attend church services.

The Ministry Committee is a committee that assists the pastor as the pastor deems necessary. It does not have any governing authority in the assembly. Its reason for existence is to encourage and support the pastor. Should the Executive and General Boards (Bylaws Article VII, Section 1) deem it necessary to assign this committee a specific authority, it would be for that specific purpose only.

In the event of a pastoral vacancy, the Ministry Committee shall recognize



the authority of the District Superintendent and/or Sectional Presbyter to appoint interim speakers to fill the pulpit, and the authority of the District Presbytery to name the pastor's successor as defined in Article VII, Section 1, A.

### **Section 3. Duties of Officers**

#### **A. Pastor**

(1) The pastor shall be the chairman of the Ministry Committee, leader of the congregation, and the spiritual overseer of the assembly, under the supervision of the Executive and General Boards. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the assembly without the pastor's approval. Non-Assemblies of God credentialed persons must be approved by the General Board before an invitation to speak or preach may be issued.

(2) The pastor shall be responsible to maintain the membership rolls, recommending any revisions to the membership roll to the General Board at least annually, retaining a copy for the pastor's records, and providing a copy for the church secretary.

#### **B. Secretary**

(1) The secretary shall keep a record of the membership of the assembly and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of the secretary's duties.

(2) The secretary shall keep official and legal documents committed to the secretary's care.

(3) The secretary shall file such annual corporation reports with the Secretary of State as may be required by state law.

(4) The secretary shall be amenable to the pastor and the Executive and General Boards.

#### **C. Treasurer**

(1) The treasurer shall be entrusted with the finances of the assembly that are committed to them, subject to the supervision of the pastor and the Executive and General Boards. The treasurer shall deposit all funds in federally insured accounts, or any other account approved by the Executive and General Boards, in the name of the assembly. All checks issued on behalf of the church must be signed by a signatory approved by the General Board.

(2) The treasurer shall keep an itemized account of receipts and disbursements. The treasurer shall assist the pastor in completing the quarterly and annual financial reports required by the Executive and General Boards, and shall present an annual report to the assembly in its annual business meeting.

(3) The treasurer shall assist the assembly in acquiring and maintaining available tax exemptions under state and local law.

(4) The treasurer shall provide a record of all identified giving to each donor at least annually.

(5) The treasurer shall be charged with the care of the financial records of the church. It is recommended that all financial records be kept and secured within the church facilities.

(6) The treasurer shall be amenable to the pastor and the Executive and General Boards.

## **ARTICLE VIII. APPOINTMENTS, VACANCIES, REMOVALS**

### **Section 1. Pastor**



A. Appointment. The pastor shall be appointed by the District Superintendent and ratified by the Executive Board. Whenever feasible, an expression of the assembly may be taken to determine the desire of the members. The District Superintendent shall determine the pastor's term of office with the term ratified by the Executive Board.

B. Vacancy. In the event of the resignation of the pastor, the pastor shall notify the District Superintendent and the Sectional Presbyter at least 30 days in advance.

C. Removal. In the event of serious charges being preferred against a pastor, or should the pastor's ministry cease to be effective, the Executive Board may remove the pastor.

### **Section 2. Secretary-Treasurer**

A secretary and a treasurer (or secretary-treasurer) shall be appointed to serve at the discretion of the General Board.

### **Section 3. In General**

The pastor, subject to the approval of the General Board, shall appoint other positions of leadership in the church.

### **Section 4. Vacancies**

Should any vacancy occur among the officers of the assembly, the pastor, subject to the approval of the General Board, may fill such vacancy for the unexpired term, in consideration of the needs and desires of the assembly.

### **Section 5. Removals**

Any office in the assembly may be declared vacant by action of the Executive and/or General Boards.

## **ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS**

### **Section 1. Meetings for Worship**

Meetings for public worship shall be held under the direction of the pastor or the General Board if there is no pastor.

### **Section 2. Annual Meeting**

There shall be an annual meeting of the assembly. The time and place of the annual meeting shall be announced by the pastor or a member of the General Board, after approval for the meeting is given by the General Board. Due notice is to be given on the two Sunday mornings immediately preceding the time set for the meeting, or two weeks in advance by First Class mail.

### **Section 3. Special Meetings**

Special meetings of the assembly may be called by the District Superintendent or by the General Board. The pastor may make request to the District Superintendent or the Sectional Presbyter for a special meeting to be called.

### **Section 4. Conducting of Meetings and Filing of Minutes**

Annual and special meetings of the assembly shall be conducted by a member of the Executive or General Board, who shall preside as chairman of the meeting. Minutes of all meetings of the assembly shall be forwarded to the District Superintendent within seven days of the meeting. All business meetings of the church shall be conducted in the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

### **Section 5. Voting Constituency**

A. Qualifying of voters. The voting constituency at all meetings of the assembly shall consist of all active voting members who are present (Article VI of these

Bylaws).

B. Transfer members. Transfer members shall have voting privileges 30 days after transfer of membership (Article VI, Section 4, of these Bylaws).

C. Members under process of discipline. No member under the process of discipline shall be entitled to a vote until the process is completed (Article VI, Section 9, of these Bylaws).

### **Section 6. Quorum**

One-fourth of the active voting members of this assembly shall constitute a quorum.

## **ARTICLE X. DEPARTMENTS**

This assembly shall create and maintain such departments and ministries as may be necessary and advisable for the extension of its work. All such departments and ministries 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 General Board, and the pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees or departments.

## **ARTICLE XI. FINANCES**

### **Section 1. General**

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

### **Section 2. Handling of Offerings**

All offerings shall be counted by at least two authorized persons before the funds are removed from the church building. An offering receipts form shall be signed in duplicate by those counting the offering, with one copy going to the treasurer and the other copy given to the pastor. A record shall be kept of all receipts and disbursements of the local assembly and of all individual giving. All funds shall be deposited in federally insured accounts, or any other account approved by the Executive and/or General Board, in the name of the assembly. The District Treasurer shall be a signatory on all accounts.

### **Section 3. Required Reports**

The pastor and secretary-treasurer shall be responsible to complete the quarterly and annual financial reports and other required reports and submit those reports to the District Treasurer and to the General Board.

### **Section 4. Pastoral Remuneration**

A. The pastor shall be remunerated for pastoral services by a salary, a percentage of tithes and offerings, or by other means agreed upon by the General Board and the pastor. The General Board shall review the pastor's remuneration at least annually.

B. The pastor shall be given consideration by the General Board for expenses incurred by attendance at District Councils, General Councils, and other District functions by reimbursement of such expenses, or by an offering to help defray such expenses, according to the ability of the church.

C. In the event that a pastor is removed by petition of the church members

before the pastor's term expires for any reason except moral failure, the pastor shall be given a minimum of two months regular or average remuneration as severance pay.

E. Minister's Retirement. It is recommended that each church contribute an amount equal to 5% or more, in accordance to applicable legal limitations, of the minister's compensation to the minister's MBA Retirement account with a minimum contribution of \$50 each month. This contribution should be made in addition to the minister's regular compensation. The General Board shall review the pastor's retirement benefit at least annually.

### **Section 5. Benevolence Fund**

A Benevolence Fund shall be established by this assembly for the exercise of its religious and charitable purposes. Suggestions by donors for fund disbursements shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. The administration of this fund, including all disbursements, is subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the General Board. Donors making contributions to the Benevolence Fund will receive a church receipt for their contributions.

## **ARTICLE XII. PROPERTY**

### **Section 1**

All property of the assembly shall be deeded to the local assembly under the oversight of the assembly's trustees. The Executive Board shall act as trustees for the local assembly.

### **Section 2**

Purchase or sale of District Council Affiliated Assembly properties shall be authorized and overseen by the Executive Board. No real property of the assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, encumbered, or otherwise disposed of, without the same having first been approved by the Executive Board and General Board. The District Secretary or District Treasurer shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized.

### **Section 3. Dissolution**

Upon the dissolution of the assembly, none of its funds or assets shall be distributed to any officer, deacon, trustee, or any other individual. The Executive Board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the assembly, dispose of all of the funds and assets of the assembly by conveying the same to the Northern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, provided that said District Council at the time qualifies as an exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provisions of any future federal income tax law. Any such funds or assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Circuit Court of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, to such organization as said Court shall determine, which is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes.

## **ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any regular or special meeting of the Northern Missouri District Council, provided the proposed amendment has been submitted to the District Presbytery first for consideration, and a copy mailed to each member of the District Council not less than two weeks (14 days) prior to the time of the meeting at which the amendment is to be considered. A

simple majority vote of all members present and voting shall be necessary for adoption.

