YEARBOOK
(Revised June 2017)

The Assemblies of God, Michigan District is devoted to the growth of healthy churches, leaders and ministries.
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MISCELLANEOUS ADDRESSES
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT

Michigan was formerly a part of the Central District of the Assemblies of God incorporating Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. Steps were taken in 1944 to bring about a division of the territory so that Michigan could function as a separated District. This was consummated in the Council Meeting in 1945, held at Woodward Avenue Baptist Church, Detroit, when the Council in session authorized the formation of the new District.

The ministers and delegates of the Michigan area met in a separate session, electing Charles W. H. Scott as Superintendent, and Bernard L. Bresson as Assistant Superintendent. Mrs. Everett D. Cooley was appointed Secretary/Treasurer. Originally the geographical area of the District was confined to the lower peninsula of the State of Michigan. In 1966 the counties of Luce, Chippewa and Mackinac, originally part of the Wisconsin-Northern Michigan District, were added to the Michigan District.

Starting with 156 ministers, 90 churches, $2,000.00 in cash, and an old desk and file inherited from the Central District, the newly formed Michigan District was on its way. The first District Office was established at 404 West Saratoga, Ferndale. Later the office operated in Ypsilanti and also at Dearborn Gospel Tabernacle. In 1954 the District Office moved to 6053 Chase Road, Dearborn, Michigan. The offices were subsequently enlarged on two occasions. In November 1993, the District purchased an office building at 31500 West Thirteen Mile Road in Farmington Hills and took occupancy of one wing or 9,626 square feet. The remaining space of 24,495 square feet is leased. Total square footage of the building, including common areas, is 40,301 square feet.

Charles W. H. Scott ministered as District Superintendent until he was elected in 1957 to serve as one of the Assistant General Superintendents at the National Headquarters. In a special business meeting held at Brightmoor Tabernacle in October 1957, Everett Cooley, then serving as District Secretary, was elected the new Superintendent of the District. Since then several other Brethren have served as Superintendent of the Michigan District.

The history of the Michigan District reveals a strong emphasis on World Missions and Michigan Missions and Church Planting. In the first year, the District gave $69,537 to World Missions. In 2015, the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, gave $6,411,657.35 to World Missions, with an overall Missions giving of $8,953,615.64. The Michigan District currently has 865 ministers and 255 churches.

The Michigan District is divided into twelve fellowship Sections with an elected Presbyter and Secretary-Treasurer for each Section. The District conducts an annual council preceded by Sectional Councils at which Sectional officers are elected.

FaHoLo Camp and Conference Center, Grass Lake, Michigan, has been the site of the State's camp programs even before the inception of the District. A second camp site, Lost Valley Bible Camp, located east of Gaylord, was acquired in 1963.
History

As the work in the District developed, new departments were added. In addition to the Christian Education and Michigan Youth Ministries (formerly called Christ's Ambassadors) Departments, the Women's Ministries (formerly called Women's Missionary Council), Men's Ministries (formerly called Men's Fellowship), Teen Challenge, and other departments were established.

Central Bible College - Michigan, an extension of Central Bible College in Springfield, Missouri, was instituted in 1964. Michigan Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, the District's College Evangelism program, has been ministering to students on secular campuses in Michigan since 1968. Other departments currently functioning are World Missions, Michigan Missions & Church Planting, Deaf Ministries, District Camps and Music.

Originally, the District's corporate name was the Michigan District Council; however, in 1962 the District overwhelmingly voted to change its name to Assemblies of God, Michigan District.

To God be the glory for growth and development of the District. Success in the Michigan District is attributed to God's help and blessing, as well as the good fellowship and team work of all our ministers.

Members of the District Officiary who served the Michigan District:

Superintendents
Charles W.H. Scott 1944-1957
Everett D. Cooley 1957-1969
P. Bond Bowman 4/69-9/69
Parvin C. Lee 1969-1973
Thomas E. Trask 1973-1976
Ivar A. Frick 1976-1988
William F. Leach 1988-2015
R. Jeffrey Hlavin 2015-

Assistant Superintendents
Bernard L. Bresson 1945-1950
P. Bond Bowman 1950-1952, 1956-1959
Gene S. Hogan 1969-1980
Louie Callaway 1981-1985
Thomas E. Trask 1986-1988
M. Wayne Benson 1988-1990
Norman W. Muhling 1990-1994
David R. Williams 2000-2015
Bradley T. Trask 2015-

Secretary-Treasurers
Mrs. E.D. Cooley 1945-1948
Donald G. Foote 1948-1952
Malachi R. Cook 1952-1953
Everett D. Cooley 1953-1957
Orie L. Robinson 1958-1963
Fred Smolchuck Sr. 1964-1982
Norman W. Muhling 1994-2008
R. Jeffrey Hlavin 2008-2015
Curtis W. Dalaba 2015-
Departments

**District Home Missions Directors**
David E. Pace
Hugh J. Duncan

Cal Garcia
Stephen Bradshaw
John Gunn

**District Supervised Church Director**
Otis T. Buchan

**District Youth Ministries Directors**
Ernest Manley
Arnold Hashman
Charles Davenport
Arthur Clay
Robert Way
Leo Tomko
Thomas Trask

Ronald Traub
James Majeske
Gary Cullison
Steven A. Bach
Rick D. Pasquale
Jeffrey P. Kennedy
Joshua A. Wellborn

**District Camp Directors**
Ray Warnick
Steve Prudhome
Thomas McLane

Oliver Dalaba
David Pace
Craig Owens
Otis T. Buchan

**DISTRICT OFFICERS**

Jeff Hlavin (*Superintendent*)
13543 Windridge Court, Sterling Heights, 48313
(586) 731-3202

Bradley T. Trask (*Assistant Superintendent*)
Brighton AG, 7770 Whitmore Lake Road, Brighton, 48116
(810) 231-3724

Curtis W. Dalaba (*Secretary/Treasurer*)
13653 Honeylocust Drive, DeWitt, 48820
(517) 896-6941

**EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS**

Nate Elarton
Compelled Church, 8970 Jackman Road, Temperance, 48182
(734) 850-0051

Aaron M. Hlavin
Freedom Christian AG, 41380 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, 48314
(586) 731-6447

W. Steve Miller
New Hope AG, 56652 Buckhorn Road, Three Rivers, 49093
(269) 278-8135
Departments

GENERAL COUNCIL PRESBYTERS
R. Jeffrey Hlavin  Bradley T. Trask
Curt W. Dalaba    William F. Leach. (honorary)

SECTIONAL PRESBYTERS

James Wiegand (Central Section)
The Freedom Center, 2473 W. Shiawassee Avenue, Fenton, 48430
(810) 629-5261

Jeff Bonzelaar (Metro Section)
Life Challenge, 17667 Pierson, Detroit, 48219
(313) 531-0111

Angelo Fleece (Metro East Section)
Rock Community AG, 6135 County Line Road, Fair Haven, 48023
(586) 716-1267

Brooks McElhenny (Metro South Section)
Northville Christian AG, 41355 Six Mile Road, Northville, 48168
(248) 348-9030

Jamie Kjos (Metro West Section)
Brightmoor Christian Church, 40800 W. Thirteen Mile Rd, Novi, 48377
(248) 668-7000

Norman Oberlin (Northern Section)
Mount Hope AG-Gaylord, 1672 M-32 East, Gaylord,
(989) 732-4245

Bradley Withrow (North East Section)
Gladwin AG, PO Box 402, Gladwin, MI 48624
(989) 426-8102

Carey J. Waldie (North West Section)
Living Hope AG, 3050 S. Airport Road, Traverse City, 49684
(231) 946-4530

Lori O’Dea (South Central Section)
New Life AG, 400 W. South Street, Grand Ledge, 48837
(517) 627-2001

Pete Payne (South West Section)
Union City AG, 501 Division Street, Union City, 49094
(517) 741-3259

Daniel Burger (Thumb Section)
Lapeer AG, 1280 Daley Road, Lapeer, 48446
(810) 664-8089

Jerry Carlson (West Central Section)
Sheridan AG, 4010 S. Sheridan, Sheridan, 48884
(989) 291-3996
DEPARTMENTS

SECTIONAL SECRETARIES

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FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Jeff Hlavin, Chairman
- Curt Dalaba
- Bradley T. Trask
- Nate Elarton
- Aaron Hlavin
- W. Steve Miller

WORLD MISSIONS

Jeff Hlavin, District World Missions Director

District World Missions Committee

- Jeff Hlavin, Chairman
- Scott Thompson
- Larry Alverson
- Dennis Clanton
- Liza Munro
- Robert Roberts
- Pat Rusch
- Tal Sullivan

MICHIGAN MISSIONS & CHURCH PLANTING

John W. Gunn, Director

The Presbyter Board serves as the Church Planting and Development Board.
Departments

DISTRICT SUPERVISED COMMITTEE
Otis Buchan, Director

Committee Members:
Fred Betcher II  Rachel Booher-Ross
Daniel Burger  Dennis Clanton
Mike Houser  Philip Krist
Norman Oberlin

CHI ALPHA MINISTRIES
Garry Miller, Director

MICHIGAN YOUTH MINISTRIES
Joshua A. Wellborn, Director

Ministry Reps
Teen Bible Quiz Coord.  Chad Markwell
Assis’t TBQ Coord.  Andrew Forsman
Fine Arts  Nick & Jill Nelson
Speed-the-Light  Scott & Annie Laurain
AIM  Dan & Joy Green

Sectional Reps
Central  Jason & Christina Buchan
Metro
Metro East  Matt & Allie Vandersteen
Metro South
Metro West
North  Tony VanDuser
North East  Jeff & Jennifer Westheim
North West
South Central
South West
Thumb
West Central

Youth Alive
Missionaries  Jason & Lindsay Forsman
Board  Josh Wellborn

DEAF MINISTRIES
Ron Detloff, Director
KIDZ MINISTRIES  
Joshua A. Wellborn, Director

Ministry Reps

**BGMC**
Kids Fine Arts  
Nycki Groot  

**JBQ**
Coordinator  
Chad Kilbourn  

Central/Thumb  
Rob Myers  

Metro/South East  
Paul Chapman  

Northern  
Lisa Enders  

North East/North West  
Jachin Kim  

South West  
Dixie Miller  

West Central  
Lisa Enders

Pee Wee Q  
Coordinator

The Network

Committee Members:
Steve Gallegos  
Tina Young

MiWOMEN
Jessica Wimmer, Director

Leadership Committee:
Rose Rodriguez  
Bonnie Belson  
Debbie Alley  
Elizabeth Wirtz  
Tricia Rutherford  
Earlene Valler  
KaSaundra Kay Rogers

GIRLS MINISTRIES
Hannah Henkel

Executive Staff
Registration  
Sue Wright  

Training  

Music  

Secretary & Hospitality

Sectional Representatives
Northern  
Tammy Henkel
Departments

LIGHT-FOR-THE-LOST
Arthur Joe Coffman, Director

MENS MINISTRIES
Chuck Willis, Director

Committee Members:
- Tony VanDuser
- Gerald Poe
- Roy Letson
- Mike Devantier

ROYAL RANGERS

Leadership Team

- Director: Marty Lawhorn
- FCF President: Ron Rabideau
- Training Coordinator: Frank & Brenda Fenbert
- Public Relations Coordinator: Greg & Annalisa Wessel
- District Outreach Coordinator
- District Secretary/Treasurer

Sectional Commanders

- Central/Thumb: Greg & Sabrina Roy
- Metro: Don & Mary Fraser
- Metro East: Todd & Kay Gawel
- MetroWest: David & Chris Bayer
- Metro South: Jonathan & Jeana Allen
- Northern
- North East
- North West
- South Central
- South West
- West Central

MUSIC MINISTRY
Tim Covert, Director

Committee Members:
- John DePasquale
- Steve Meszaros
- Doug Hill
- Shannon Shaffer

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Area Coordinator: Ron & Cheri Cook
Secretary/Registration:
- John & Judy Pyper
- Roger & Rose Sager
- Adam & Cara Bell
NARRATIVE
Rhonda Trask, Director

Committee Members:
Marty Breithaupt, Erin Deale
Curt Demoff, Wendy Elarton
Ross McElroy, Kim Waldie

MICHIGAN DISTRICT SCHOOL OF MINISTRY
(MISOM)
Director: Curt W. Dalaba
Assistant Director: Jason Adams

NORTH CENTRAL UNIVERSITY
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Board of Regents
Jeff Hlavin, Joshua A. Wellborn
Pastor Member: Brad Trask
Lay Member: Nathan Hlavin

TEEN CHALLENGE CENTERS
Jeff Bonzelaar, Executive Director
Life Challenge Southeastern Michigan: Jeff Bonzelaar, Director
Life Challenge in Flint: Jeff Bonzelaar, Director
Lansing Teen Challenge: Jeff Bonzelaar, Director
Western Michigan Teen Challenge: Phil McClain, Director
Mid-Michigan Teen Challenge: Salvador Flores, Director
Departments

DISTRICT CAMPS
Jeff Hlavin, Executive Director

Fa-Ho-Lo Camp Sub-Committee
Otis Buchan, Director

Curt Dalaba, Chairman

Committee Members:

Lori O’Dea
Norman Oberlin
Kenneth Herbruck
Wally Reames

Fa-Ho-Lo Camp and Conference Center
Board of Administration

R. Jeffrey Hlavin Bradley T. Trask
Curt W. Dalaba Nate Elarton
Aaron Hlavin Steve Miller
James Wiegand Jeff Bonzelaar
Brooks McElhenny Angelo Fleece
Jamie Kjos Norm Oberlin
Brad Withrow Carey Waldie
Lori O’Dea Pete Payne
Daniel Burger Jerry Carlson

Address - 3000 Mt. Hope Road, Grass Lake, MI 49240
(517) 522-6800

Location - 1 mile south of I-94 on Mt. Hope Road (exit 150),
10 miles east of Jackson.

Lost Valley Camp
Board of Administration

R. Jeffrey Hlavin Bradley T. Trask
Curt W. Dalaba Nate Elarton
Aaron Hlavin Steve Miller
James Wiegand Jeff Bonzelaar
Brooks McElhenny Angelo Fleece
Jamie Kjos Norm Oberlin
Brad Withrow Carey Waldie
Lori O’Dea Pete Payne
Daniel Burger Jerry Carlson

Address - 5724 M-32 W, Gaylord, MI 49735
(231) 546-3851

Location - 7 miles west of Gaylord on M-32
MINISTERS' DEATH BENEFIT FUND

I. PURPOSE

The Minister’s Death Benefit Fund was established in the early 1960’s to provide financial assistance to the beneficiary in the event of death of a member of MDBF. The plan was “in no wise to be construed to be an insurance program, but rather an involvement in benevolence.”

II. ADMINISTRATION

The Presbyter Board was given the responsibility and “authority to make such adjustments to membership, assessments, and benefits as may be necessary.” The Presbyter Board was also given the “authority to terminate the plan if it deems such action is necessary.”

On January 26, 2010, the Presbyter Board acted to freeze the enrollment in the Minister’s Death Benefit Fund and to no longer allow new members to join. Those who are currently enrolled and who wish to continue to stay enrolled will be subject to the assessments and entitled to the benefits as determined by the Presbyter Board.

III. ASSESSMENTS

A. Each member shall pay an annual fee of $20.00 on September 1st of each year.

B. Upon the death of a participating member of MDBF, each member will pay an assessment of $15.00.

C. Assessments shall be due within 30 days of the date of notification; if not paid within 60 days, membership in MDBF shall terminate.

IV. BENEFITS

Upon the death of a MDBF member, the beneficiary shall receive $750.
Offerings
HOW TO SEND OFFERINGS AND DONATIONS

I. MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, MICHIGAN DISTRICT, when sending the following:

- Minister’s Tithes
- District Ministries
- Home Missions (designated & undesignated)
- Chi-Alpha Campus Ministries (designated & undesignated)
- Kidz & Youth Ministries
- Discipleship (i.e. MISOM)
- FaHoLo Camp Offerings & Pledges
- Lost Valley Offerings & Pledges
- MiWomen
- Girls Ministries (Missionettes)
- Men’s Ministries
- Royal Rangers

Designate above offerings by use of the District remittance form or a notation on the check or accompanying note. Give name and city of church and account number.

Send to: Assemblies of God, Michigan District
31500 W. Thirteen Mile Road, Suite #140
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334
Phone: (248) 737-3800

II. Make check payable to GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, when sending the following:

ALL NATIONAL DAY OFFERINGS:
- Etta Calhoun Fund
- Home Missions Day
- Men’s Ministries Day
- National Youth Day
- Speed-the-Light
- Women’s Ministries Day

PLUS THESE ADDITIONAL OFFERINGS:
- BGMC.
- Benevolences
- Assemblies of God World Missions
- Light for the Lost
- U.S. Home Missions

Send to: General Council of the Assemblies of God
1445 Boonville Avenue
Springfield, MO 65802
Phone: (417) 862-2781
Offerings

III. TEEN CHALLENGE OFFERINGS

A. For National Home Missions credit, make checks payable and send to:

   Life Challenge Southeastern Michigan, 17667 Pierson, Detroit, MI 48219
   Life Challenge in Flint c/o 17667 Pierson, Detroit, MI 48219
   Lansing Teen Challenge, P.O. Box 80435 Lansing, MI 48908
   Mid-Michigan Teen Challenge, P.O. Box 1020, Saginaw, MI 48606
   Western Michigan Teen Challenge, 440 Pontaluna, Muskegon, MI 49444

B. For District Home Missions credit, make checks payable and send to the Assemblies of God, Michigan District and designate on the check the specific Teen Challenge Center.

IV. SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLIES OF GOD COLLEGES:

Make check payable to the name of the college and send directly to the school(s).
LAYMAN'S CERTIFICATE

Are Credentials Needed?

Ministerial credentials will not be issued to laymen who are engaged in their church's Sunday School, youth and children's work, song leading, or occasional exhortation. Such lay ministries may be effectively continued without credentials. Credentials are for those who show evidence of a genuine call to a full-time ministry. It shall be understood that such ministry would lead the individual beyond the confines of the local church of which he is a member.

For laymen engaged in outreach ministry for the local church, official identification may be necessary to open doors in hospitals, jails, nursing homes, and institutions. A Layman's Certificate is available through the District Office. The senior Pastor alone may request such a certificate for those in his congregation whom he may recommend by name. The procedure is as follows:

1. The senior Pastor shall write a letter of request for application to the District Secretary, recommending the layman by name. He may recommend, by name, more than one individual in a letter of request for application of a Layman's Certificate.

2. The application form(s) shall be sent to the Pastor, who will give it to the individual(s) he recommended by letter.

3. Upon completion of the form, the layman shall send it to the District Office with a $5.00 filing fee.

4. Upon approval, the Layman Certificate(s) will be sent to the senior Pastor for his signature.

5. The Pastor will then (publicly or privately, as he wishes) present the card to the layman.

6. The card is valid until January 31 of each year. It may be renewed annually with the Pastor's letter of request and recommendation of the individual(s) by name. The application filing fee is $5.00 to renew each year.

7. If, in the opinion of the senior Pastor, the layman no longer requires the Layman Certificate to be renewed, he should immediately advise the District Secretary.

8. It should be understood that this Layman Certificate is not a ministerial credential, but is an I.D. card identifying the holder as a bonafide lay worker of the local church serving under the Pastor's guidance and direction.
### Central Section

(Counties of Gratiot, Clinton, Shiawassee, Saginaw and Genesee)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridgeport Cornerstone Christian</td>
<td>Ithaca Oasis Iglesia dela Comunidad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burton Bethel AG</td>
<td>Linden Church on the Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chesaning New Life AG</td>
<td>Mount Morris Fountain of Grace AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clio CornerStone Faith &amp; Worship</td>
<td>Mount Morris Trinity AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davison AG</td>
<td>Otisville Vision Pointe AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durand AG</td>
<td>Ovid Heartland AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fenton The Freedom Center</td>
<td>Owosso AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flint Riverside Tabernacle</td>
<td>Perry AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flushing New Life AG</td>
<td>Reese CrossWay AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freeland AG</td>
<td>Saginaw First AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goodrich AG</td>
<td>St. Charles Faith Fellowship AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Blanc Mount Hope Church</td>
<td>St. Johns First AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ithaca Oasis Community Church</td>
<td>St. Johns Mount Hope Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Louis Parkside AG</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Metro Section

(County of Wayne, East of I-275)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brownstown Calvary</td>
<td>Lincoln Park Bethel AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brownstown Woodland Church</td>
<td>Lincoln Park Wings of Deliverance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dearborn Heights Fair Haven AG</td>
<td>Livonia Open Arms Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dearborn Heights First AG</td>
<td>Livonia The Way Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dearborn Abundant Life Ctr.</td>
<td>New Boston The Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dearborn Springwells Church</td>
<td>Taylor Christian Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit Arise Church</td>
<td>Taylor Emmanuel AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit Courage Church</td>
<td>Taylor Korean Bethany AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit Life Changers Int’l Min.</td>
<td>Taylor New Hope AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit Silent AG</td>
<td>Trenton AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecorse Mercy House AG</td>
<td>Westland Full Gospel Temple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden City InsideOut Church</td>
<td>Wyandotte Family Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland Park Revival Tabernacle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Metro East Section

(County of Oakland, East of I-75 and Macomb)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auburn Hills Christian Center</td>
<td>Lake Orion Echo Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auburn Hills Bethel Int’l Christian</td>
<td>Lenox Twp. Richmond AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chesterfield Northside Church</td>
<td>Madison Heights Red Oaks AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarkston Bridgewood Church</td>
<td>Madison Heights Romanian Philadel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton Twp Clinton Valley AG</td>
<td>Mount Clemens The Well</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton Twp Victory Christian Church</td>
<td>Rochester Christian Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastpointe Christian Trinity AG</td>
<td>Romeo Cross Community Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair Haven Rock Community AG</td>
<td>Roseville New Life AG</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Sectional Boundaries**

**Metro East Section (cont’d)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saint Clair Shores AG</td>
<td>Troy AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelby Township Lakeside AG</td>
<td>Warren International AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelby Township The Nations</td>
<td>Warren The Life Church of the AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sterling Hts Freedom Christian AG</td>
<td>Warren Vietnamese Missionary AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sterling Hts Hmong Christian AG</td>
<td>Washington Freedom Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sterling Hts Polish Harvest Full Gospel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Metro South Section**

(Counties of Washtenaw; Monroe; and Wayne, west of I-275)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ann Arbor Assembly of God</td>
<td>Dundee AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Arbor H2O Church of the AG</td>
<td>Holland, OH – Compelled Church, Toledo Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Arbor Korean AG</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Arbor Summit Int’l AG</td>
<td>Monroe Outreach AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belleville River of Life AG</td>
<td>Northville Christian AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Calvary AG</td>
<td>Saline First AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton Connection Church</td>
<td>Temperance Compelled Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canton The Assembly Plymouth</td>
<td>Ypsilanti AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carleton AG</td>
<td>Ypsilanti Community Christian AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelsea Hope Alive Church</td>
<td>Ypsilanti King of Love U.Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelsea First AG</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Metro West Section**

(Counties of Livingston; Oakland, west of I-75)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Berkley Church of the King AG</td>
<td>Milford Hickory Ridge Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berkley Resurrection and Life</td>
<td>Novi, Brighton Christian Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brighton AG</td>
<td>Pontiac Faith AG Deaf Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferndale AG</td>
<td>South Lyon Family Life Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holly Engaged Community Church</td>
<td>Walled Lake CrossPoint Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howell SonRise Church</td>
<td>Waterford Lifepoint Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waterford Shekinah Temple AG</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Northern Section**

(Counties of Luce, Chippewa, and Mackinac in the Upper Peninsula; and counties of Emmet, Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Alpena, Montmorency, Otsego, Charlevoix and Antrim)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alpena First AG</td>
<td>Lachine Beaver Lake Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta Full Gospel AG</td>
<td>Newberry Living Water AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brimley All Nations AG</td>
<td>Onaway AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlevoix Center Point Assembly</td>
<td>Rapid City Torch Lake AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheboygan Life Worship Center</td>
<td>Rogers City Sunrise Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaylord Mount Hope AG</td>
<td>Saint Ignace Lighthouse Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian River Joy Fellowship AG</td>
<td>Vanderbilt Mission Hill AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kincheloe The Well</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sectional Boundaries

North East Section
(Counties of Roscommon, east of US 27; Clare, east of US 27; Isabella, east of US 27; Midland, Gladwin, Crawford, east of I-75; Oscoda; Alcona; Iosco; Ogemaw; Arenac; Bay, north of US 10; east to State Road 247; north to Saginaw Bay)

Albright Shores, Living Hope AG
Coleman AG
East Tawas AG
Gladwin AG
Hale In His Presence Hale AG
Midland Christian Celebration
Mio New Hope AG

Oil City AG
Oscoda AG
Prudenville Abundant Grace AG
Roscommon Beacon AG
Saint Helen Faith Alive Church
Standish Faith Alive Church
West Branch Faith Alive Church

North West Section
(Counties of Kalkaska; Grand Traverse; Leelanau, Benzie; Crawford, west of I-75 and US 27; Roscommon, west of US 27; Missaukee; Wexford; Manistee; Mason; Lake; Oceana, Oscola; Clare, west of US 27; Isabella, west of US 27; Mecosta, Newaygo, north of State Road 82 and Durand)

Baldwin AG
Beulah Cornerstone AG
Big Rapids AG
Cadillac LifeHouse AG
Clare AG
Evart Evangel AG
Grayling AG
Harrison Trinity Christian Life Ctr.

Lake City AG
Ludington Prayer and Praise AG
Mancelona New Life AG
Manistee AG
Reed City Harvest AG
Remus Chippewa Hills AG
Shelby AG
 Traverse City Living Hope AG
White Cloud New Life AG

South Central
(Counties of Eaton; Calhoun, east of I-69; Hillsdale; Ingham; Jackson; Lenawee; and Branch, east of I-69)

Adrian Bethany AG
Albion FreeWay Church
Bellevue Christian Center
Brooklyn Abundant Life Assembly
Charlotte AG
Clinton AG
Corunna Mount Hope Church
E. Lansing Connect Univ. Church
E. Lansing Crossroads AG
East Lansing First AG of Greater
Eaton Rapids AG
Grand Ledge New Life AG
Grass Lake AG
Holt AG
Holt Journey Life Church
Hudson Faith AG
Jackson Mount Hope Community

Jackson New Beginnings AG
Jackson The Assembly
Jonesville Hillsdale AG
Lansing Calvary AG
Lansing Church in the City
Lansing His Healing Hands Church
Lansing Mount Hope Church
Lansing Vision Assembly
Leslie Faith AG
Marshall Life Church
Mason AG
Olivet Faith AG
Olivet First AG
Quincy World Harvest Assembly
Tecumseh AG
Williamston Mount Hope Church
## Sectional Boundaries

### South West Section
(Counties of Allegan; Barry; Calhoun west of I-69; Branch, west of I-69; St. Joseph; Cass; Berrian; Van Buren and Kalamazoo)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allegan AG</th>
<th>Plainwell Ag</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Battle Creek First</td>
<td>Portage Christian AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battle Creek Fort Custer Christian</td>
<td>Portage Kalamazoo First AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battle Creek Rhema Myanmar AG</td>
<td>Schoolcraft AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colon New Life AG</td>
<td>South Haven First AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fennville AG</td>
<td>Springfield AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hastings AG</td>
<td>Three Rivers New Hope AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo Nazareth AG</td>
<td>Union City AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashville AG</td>
<td>Vicksburg Grace Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paw Paw Living Waters Church II</td>
<td>Wayland Harvest AG</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Thumb
(Counties of Bay, east of State Road 247 and I-75; Tuscola; Huron; Sanilac, Lapeer; and Saint Clair)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bad Axe Evangel Life AG</th>
<th>Marlette Good News AG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caro AG</td>
<td>Marysville AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carsonville AG</td>
<td>Millington Bethel Chapel AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbiaville AG</td>
<td>Port Huron AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croswell Cros-Lex AG</td>
<td>Sebewaing AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harbor Beach Lighthouse AG</td>
<td>Vassar Everyday Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imlay City GateWay Assembly</td>
<td>Frankenmuth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lapeer AG</td>
<td>Vassar Victory Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### West Central Section
(Counties of Muskegon; Newaygo, south of State Road 82; Montcalm; Ionia; Kent; and Ottawa)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Belding Assembly of God</th>
<th>Holland First AG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Springs Calvary AG</td>
<td>Holland Northpoint AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coopersville Central Family</td>
<td>Hubbardston Mount Hope Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship Center AG</td>
<td>Ionia First AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutton Living Hope AG</td>
<td>Lowell Christian Life Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fremont AG</td>
<td>Muskegon Central AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruitport Grace AG</td>
<td>Muskegon River of Life AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Rapids DayStar Ministries</td>
<td>Portland Mount Hope AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Rapids First AG</td>
<td>Ravenna Outpouring Worship Ctr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Rapids Generations Church</td>
<td>Sheridan AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Rapids New Horizons</td>
<td>Spring Lake The Gateway Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Rapids Uptown AG</td>
<td>Whitehall New Beginnings AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant AG</td>
<td>Wyoming Rivertown AG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wyoming Templo Victoria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHAT IS “VOLUNTARY COOPERATIVE FELLOWSHIP”

The principle of voluntary cooperation upon which The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Assemblies of God, Michigan District are based, involves the following:

By "voluntary" it is meant that, upon learning the principles, doctrines, and practices of the Assemblies of God, and by seeing the benefits one could derive from being associated with such an organization, a person of his own free choice decides to become a member, thus subscribing to all that for which the organization stands.

By "cooperation" it is meant that, to the best of their ability, one will comply with all decisions setting forth and defining duties and responsibilities incumbent upon members of the organization, and will respect the will of the majority, expressed through democratic processes, as long as they remain a member. Hence, "voluntary cooperation" means that once one, of their own free will, decides to become a cooperating member of the Assemblies of God, this cooperation becomes obligatory and not optional.
OBTAINING CREDENTIALS: REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

1. REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW APPLICANTS

Applicants must fulfill the following requirements:

A. The applicant must give testimony to having experienced the new birth according to John 3:5.

B. The applicant must have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues (Acts 2:4).

C. The applicant must have been baptized in water by immersion according to Matthew 28:19.

D. The applicant must be in full agreement with the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God.

E. The applicant must have fulfilled the preparation study requirements for the credential desired.

F. The applicant must be free from all marriage entanglements involving divorce and remarriage while a former companion of either husband or wife is living (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 23:12), except when the divorce occurred prior to initial conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17) and except in the case of a minister if the divorce occurred due to spousal infidelity (Matthew 19:9) or abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15).

1. If the applicant and/or applicant’s spouse has been divorced and remarried prior to conversion, please contact the Michigan District Office for an Application for Recognition of Preconversion Divorce.

2. If the applicant and/or applicant’s spouse was divorced due to spousal infidelity or abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever, please contact the Michigan District Office for an Application for Recognition of a Divorce for Ministers Due to Either Spousal Infidelity or Abandonment of the Believer By The Unbeliever.

G. The applicant must be currently involved in a valid ministry indicating a need for ministerial credentials.

H. The applicant must pass additional written and interview examinations.

I. The applicant must be in good standing with a local Assemblies of God church and be a resident of the Michigan District.
Obtaining Credentials

2. PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING CREDENTIALS

A. New Applicant

The potential applicant makes a request for a credential application packet from the District Secretary's office.

B. Applicant Upgrading

The potential applicant makes a request for an upgrade application packet.

Ordination applicants must have been Licensed for two (2) consecutive years in a recognized ministry in the District, or one (1) year of such ministry in another District, plus a letter of endorsement for Ordination by the other District, and one (1) full year of ministry in the Michigan District.

3. CREDENTIAL PREP SCHOOL

• All new credential applicants are required to attend Credential Prep School.
• Upgrade applicants are required to attend prior to becoming ordained if they have not previously done so, or if they have transferred in and have not taken it through the Michigan District.

4. PROCESSING THE APPLICATION

Background & Credit Check: The General Council of the Assemblies of God mandates a background and credit check for new credential applicants as well as for upgrade of credentials or reinstatement of credentials if a background and credit check has not been done within the previous two (2) years. If the applicant does not agree to the screening, his/her application will not be processed. As well the applicant is required to provide a copy of his/her Social Security Card.

References: The applicant will send reference forms provided by the District to the persons that the applicant listed as references on his/her application.

Written Examination: After studying both the General Council and the Michigan District Council Constitution and Bylaws, the credential examination is taken under the supervision of a Presbyter or a designated proctor. The exam is to be graded and returned by the Presbyter to the District Office according to the District Office timetable.
Interview by District Credentials Committee: Upon completion of the application process, which includes receiving a satisfactory grade on the examination, the applicant will be notified of the time to appear before the District Credentials Committee. The applicant's spouse/fiancé is required to attend the interview. Following the interview, if the District Credentials Committee grants their approval of the applicant, the application and recommendation will be forwarded to the General Council.

General Council Credentials Committee: The General Council Credentials Committee reviews the file. If approval is granted, the applicant is then issued the appropriate ministerial credential. The certificate is sent to the District Office. It is then forwarded to the applicant.

Public Recognition: The applicant is given public recognition at his/her Sectional Council. Those receiving ordination must be present at the District Council Ordination Service, unless granted an exception by the District Presbytery.

5. POLICY OF CREDENTIALS BOARD

A. The members of the credentials board are deeply conscious of the responsibilities resting upon them. There are many laymen in our churches who have ability to preach, but who would find themselves clearly out of harmony with the will of God should they seek to enter the ministry as their life-work. The issuance of all credentials shall be a discretionary matter, and the board will be deliberate in its decisions concerning all candidates "as seemeth good to us and the Holy Ghost" (Acts 15:28).

B. The credentials board is not required to issue a Licensed credential to those holding a Certified credential until the candidate's fitness shall justify the action. Neither will it of necessity grant Ordination to those who have held a Licensed credential for two (2) consecutive years. Ordination shall be granted only those whose ministry has proven to warrant such recognition.

VI. CREDENTIAL FEES

The credential application fees are as follows:

- Certified Minister: $100.00
- Licensed Minister: $100.00
- Ordained Minister: $110.00
A credential holder who takes up residence in another District shall request a certificate of transfer from the District of which he is a member.

(Exceptions to this procedure will be found in Article VII. Ministry, Section 9., a., of the General Council Constitution and Bylaws.)

The minister must provide his new address and telephone number for his new residence, along with the name and address of the church where he will be ministering, at the time of his request to transfer.

Filing of transfer must be done within sixty (60) days of moving into or out of the District (except for the exceptions listed in the above listed Article VII).
Constitution, Assemblies of God, Michigan District

CONSTITUTION
of the
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, MICHIGAN DISTRICT

Constitutional Declaration

WE BELIEVE:

That God's purpose concerning mankind finds fulfillment in a priority reason-for-being: 1) to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world, 2) to be a corporate body in which people may worship God, 3) to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and 4) to be a people who demonstrate God’s love and compassion for all the world.

That the Assemblies of God, Michigan District exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason-for-being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit, which enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs, adding a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God, and enabling them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the Body of Christ.

In accord with these aforesaid principles, in the year of 1945, the ninth day of May, the Assemblies of God, Michigan District was formed and recognized by the parent body, The General Council of the Assemblies of God (Springfield, Missouri).

Therefore, we recognize ourselves to be a voluntary cooperative Fellowship of Spirit-baptized believers from local Pentecostal churches of like precious faith located in the Michigan District of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, hereinafter called "General Council." “Voluntary cooperation” means that once one, out of their own free will, decides to become a cooperating member of the Assemblies of God, this cooperation becomes obligatory and not optional.

Our purpose is neither to usurp authority over the various local churches, nor to deprive them of their scriptural and local rights and privileges; but to recognize and promote scriptural methods and order for worship, unity, fellowship, work, and business for God so that results of our efforts may be conserved and local churches established and developed along the line of our distinctive testimony.

We reserve the right to disapprove unscriptural methods, doctrines, and conduct in order to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, “until we all reach unity in the faith and knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13; NIV).
Constitution, Assemblies of God, Michigan District
Article I. – Article V.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The corporate name of this body shall be Assemblies of God, Michigan District.

ARTICLE II. TERRITORY

1. The work of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District shall include the territory comprising the Lower Peninsula of Michigan and that part of the Upper Peninsula which includes Luce, Chippewa, and Mackinac Counties.

2. The Michigan District shall be divided into Sectional fellowships, the boundaries of which shall be determined by the Presbyter Board.

3. The description of the Sectional boundaries shall be retained in the District archives and made available to the constituency through the periodic publishing of a District map.

ARTICLE III. NATURE

The Assemblies of God, Michigan District, is a cooperative Fellowship based on mutual agreements voluntarily entered into by its members.

ARTICLE IV. PRINCIPLES FOR FELLOWSHIP

The Assemblies of God, Michigan District, shall, as nearly as possible in detail, represent the body of Christ as described in the New Testament, recognizing the principles inherent in that body as also inherent in this Fellowship, particularly the principles of unity, cooperation, and equality. Its purpose is to maintain conditions under which it can, as a Fellowship, demonstrate these principles and their consequent development.

ARTICLE V. STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS*

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

1. The Scriptures Inspired

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

Article V.

2. The One True God

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

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 Ghost, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).

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

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

d. Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are never identical as to person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the godhead; nor opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father as to authority. The Holy Ghost is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation, and authority. Hence, 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 Ghost. It, therefore, belongs exclusively to the Son of God (Romans 1:1-3,7; 2 John 3).
Constitution, Assemblies of God, Michigan District
Article V.

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 Ghost that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God may be all in all (Hebrews 1:3; 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 Ghost to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the godhead except those which express relationship (see paragraphs b, c, and d), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22,23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2:8,9; Revelation 7:9,10; 4:8-11).

3. **The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ**

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


b. His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).


d. His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3, 2 Corinthians 5:21).
Constitution, Assemblies of God, Michigan District

Article V.

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

4. The Fall of Man

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

5. The Salvation of Man

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

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

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

6. The Ordinances of the Church

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

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

7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Ghost come such experiences as an overflowing fulness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a
Constitution, Assemblies of God, Michigan District

Article V.

deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified
consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active
love for Christ, for His Word, and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

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

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

9. Sanctification

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

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

10. The Church and Its Mission

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

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

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

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

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

d. To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the
world (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

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

a. Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with
accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31;
Hebrews 2:3,4).
Constitution, Assemblies of God, Michigan District

Article V.

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

e. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ, and 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).

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the fourfold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20), (2) worship of God (John 4:23,24), (3) building a Body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11,16), and (4) meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Psalms 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

12. Divine Healing

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the Atonement, and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4,5; Matthew 8:16,17: James 5:14-16).

13. The Blessed Hope

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:51,52).

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27,30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37:21,22; Zephaniah 3:19,20; Romans 11:26,27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-8; Micah 4:3,4).

15. The Final Judgment

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

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).

*Under Article V, the Michigan District understands that the term “man” is used to refer to humankind and includes all people except when used in gender-specific cases.

ARTICLE VI. PREROGATIVES

1. To incorporate and to elect officers.

2. To approve all Scriptural teachings, methods, and conduct, and to disapprove unscriptural teachings, methods, and conduct.

3. To encourage and promote the evangelization of our District, our Country, and the World. To establish local churches within the District territory, and to assist established local churches as may be necessary and advisable.

4. To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like precious faith.

5. To establish and maintain such departments and institutions as may be necessary for the propagation of the Gospel and the work of this Pentecostal Fellowship.

6. To have the right to buy, take, or otherwise acquire, own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of such real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other property of whatever kind as may be useful or needed to carry out its work.

7. To examine candidates for the ministry and present qualified candidates to the General Council Credentials Committee.

ARTICLE VII. RELATIONSHIPS

Section 1. District Council

The Assemblies of God, Michigan District, shall be an integral part of, and in cooperative relationship with, The General Council of the Assemblies of God, Incorporated, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri.

Section 2. Local Churches

Local churches that are members of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District shall recognize and be subject to the District Council as set forth in the General Council Constitution (Article XI).
Constitution, Assemblies of God, Michigan District
Article VIII. – Article IX.

ARTICLE VIII. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Ministers

All ministers holding credentials with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, having their permanent residence within the geographical boundaries of the District, are considered members of the Michigan District except as provided for in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws (Bylaws Article VII, Section 8, subsection b.).

Ministers listed in the Michigan District Bylaws, Article XI, Section 1, subsection c., are also considered members of the Michigan District.

Section 2. Assemblies

All General Council and District affiliated local churches within the geographical boundaries of the Michigan District shall be considered to be member churches except as provided for in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws (Constitution Article X, Section 3, Bylaws Article V, Section 5). Each local church has the right of representation at the District Council according to the provision in the District Bylaws (Article III, Section 1, subsections a. and b).

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

Section 1. District Meetings

a. Regular sessions of the District Council shall be held annually pursuant to a call by the Presbyter Board.

b. Special sessions of the District Council may be arranged if agreed to by a two-thirds majority of the Presbyter Board.

c. The right of initiative in calling a special session of the District Council shall be granted to any ordained minister affiliated with the Assemblies of God, Michigan District. A statement of the reasons for calling the special session, signed by not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the ordained ministers affiliated with the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, shall be filed with the District Secretary. The Executive Officers shall thereupon issue a call for the special session in accordance with the petition. Prior to the submission of a petition exercising the right of initiative, any petitioner must first consult with the Executive Board in an effort to resolve the stated reasons for the petition.

d. Notice of all regular and special sessions of the District Council shall be mailed by the District Secretary to the membership of the District Council at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting and shall include a statement of the purpose for the meeting.
Constitution, Assemblies of God, Michigan District
Article IX. – X.

Section 2. Sectional Meetings

a. A Sectional Council Meeting shall be held annually in each Section at least thirty (30) days prior to the District Council. Arrangements for the meeting shall be initiated by the District Officiary with the cooperation of the Sectional Officers of each Section.

b. Sectional Business Meetings as may be required shall be called by the Sectional Presbyter or the District Superintendent.

c. Regular fellowship meetings shall be conducted under the direction of the Sectional Presbyter.

ARTICLE X. OFFICERS

Section 1. Executive Officers

There shall be a Superintendent, an Assistant Superintendent, and a Secretary-Treasurer, who shall be elected as provided in the Bylaws. They shall be the Executive Officers and shall constitute the District Officiary.

Section 2. Executive Presbyters

There shall be three (3) Executive Presbyters who shall be elected as provided in the Bylaws.

Section 3. Executive Board

The Executive Board shall consist of the Executive Officers and the Executive Presbyters.

Section 4. General Council Presbyters

The Assemblies of God, Michigan District, shall be represented in the General Council Presbytery by three members. The District Superintendent and the District Secretary-Treasurer shall serve by virtue of their offices. The remaining member shall be an ordained Pastor of a church located in the District.

The General Presbytery is the official policy making body of The General Council of the Assemblies of God when the General Council is not in session (General Council Constitution Article IX, Section 3).

Section 5. Sectional Officers

a. A Presbyter shall be elected by each Section to serve the Section.

b. A Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by each Section to serve the Section.
Section 6.  Presbyter Board

The Presbyter Board shall consist of the Executive Board and the Sectional Presbyters.

Section 7.  Departmental Directors

Directors of departments established by action of the District Council or Presbyter Board shall be appointed according to the provision of the Bylaws.

Section 8.  Nominees for General Council Non-Resident Executive Presbyter

a.  Nominees. The Michigan District shall nominate two ministers from its District, one of whom is not an elected full-time District Official, to be presented to the General Council as its nominees to serve as a Non-Resident General Council Executive Presbyter from the Great Lakes region in accordance with the General Council Constitution and Bylaws (General Council Constitution Article IX, Section 2. (a); Bylaws Article II, Section 2., subsection c., subparagraph (1) (a).

b.  Additional Representation Nominees. The Michigan District shall nominate two additional ministers from its District, one who is an ordained pastor under 40 years of age at the time of election and one who is an ordained female (no age requirement) as its nominees to serve on the Executive Presbytery of the General Council in accordance with the General Council Constitution and Bylaws (General Council Constitution, Article IX, Section 2., (a); Bylaws Article II, Section 2., subsection c., subparagraph (2) (c).

ARTICLE XI. LOCAL CHURCHES

Pentecostal believers associating themselves as local congregations shall have the right of recognition by the Michigan District provided they meet the standards approved by the General Council and the Michigan District in regards to membership, doctrine, order, methods, conduct, and all other matters affecting the harmony of the Fellowship as a whole.

ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

In the event the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, shall cease to function for the purposes herein set forth, then all real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other property of whatever kind, and all assets remaining after satisfying debts and obligations, shall revert to the parent body, The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Missouri non-profit Corporation, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri. The General Council shall have full authority to sell such property and to use the proceeds derived thereof for the extension of the work of the Assemblies of God.
Constitution, Assemblies of God, Michigan District
Article XII. - XIII.

In the event of cessation of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, its Board of Trustees shall transfer all properties and any remaining assets, in accordance with the foregoing provisions, within one year after the date such cessation. If such transfer is not made within the time prescribed above, or if the aforesaid General Council shall be unable or unwilling to accept the aforesaid transfer, then disposition thereof shall be made by the court of the county in which the headquarters office of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District is located, provided that in such case proceeds of the dissolution shall be distributed to organizations having purposes nearest the purpose of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any regular or special meeting of the District Council provided the proposed amendment has been submitted to the Executive Board at least sixty (60) days prior to the session at which the amendment is to be considered. The District Secretary shall mail a copy of the proposed amendment to the membership of the District Council at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. A two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be necessary for the adoption of an amendment.

When changes occur in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws that cause the re-numbering or re-lettering of sections of those documents that are referenced in the Michigan District Constitution, the District Constitution may be amended to reflect those changes by action of the Presbyter Board, providing the changes are limited to such re-numbering and re-lettering items only, and that no change in the intent of the District Constitution occurs.
BYLAWS
of the
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, MICHIGAN DISTRICT

ARTICLE I. PARLIAMENTARY ORDER

Section 1. Authority

In order to expedite the work of the Michigan District Council and to avoid confusion in its deliberations, the District and Sectional Councils shall be governed by accepted rules of parliamentary procedure as set forth in Roberts’ Rules of Order Newly Revised, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Section 2. Parliamentarians

The District Superintendent shall appoint a committee of qualified individuals to serve as parliamentarians for District Council sessions.

ARTICLE II. DISTRICT LIABILITY

The District’s authority with regard to credentialed ministers is limited to those matters specified in these Bylaws. No minister shall be considered to be an employee of the District other than those who are officially listed as employees by the District.

ARTICLE III. VOTING

Section 1. Voting Constituency

a. Voting constituency. The voting constituency shall consist of all registered credentialed ministers who are members of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District. Voting privileges shall also be granted to registered delegates from member churches.

b. Delegates

1) Autonomous local churches. Each local church affiliated with the General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be entitled to two (2) delegates.

2) Advanced and District Supervised local churches. Each District Advanced local church and District Supervised local church shall be entitled to one (1) delegate.

3) Home Missions local churches. Each Home Missions local church shall be represented only by its Pastor.

4) Parent Affiliated Churches. A Parent Affiliated Church shall be represented only by its parent church.
Section 2. Quorum

a. District Council. The registered credentialed ministers and registered delegates who are present at any duly called District Council Meeting shall constitute a quorum.

b. Presbyter Board. A majority of the Presbyter Board assembled for a duly called meeting shall constitute a quorum.

c. Executive Board. A majority of the Executive Board assembled for a duly called meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. Alternate Voting

The Executive Officers, Executive Board and Presbyter Board may conduct their work and vote through the use of any appropriate communications equipment in matters where time is of the essence, provided all persons participating are given a reasonable opportunity to respond. Following the use of such alternate voting, the District Secretary shall reduce to writing the action supported by the members and report it at the next duly called meeting. Such action shall be considered officially approved and binding.

ARTICLE IV. DISTRICT COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETINGS

All regular business meetings of the District Council shall begin with prayer and shall include:

- Report and keynote address of District Superintendent.
- Report of Assistant District Superintendent.
- Report of District Secretary.
- Report of District Treasurer.
- Reports of District Directors.
- Reports of District Boards and Committees.
- Report of Roster Committee.
- Unfinished business.
- Election of officers.
- New business.

ARTICLE V. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Section 1. Executive Officers

a. Qualifications. The Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent and the Secretary-Treasurer shall be ordained ministers of mature experience and ability who have been members of the Michigan District and have resided within the District territory for the two (2) consecutive years prior to the time of their election.
b. Nominations and Elections

1) The Executive Officers of the Michigan District shall be elected at regular or special sessions of the District Council.

2) They shall be nominated by secret ballot.

3) The election of the Superintendent shall be staggered with the elections of the Assistant Superintendent and the Secretary-Treasurer so that only one executive officer is elected in any given year.

4) A two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be required for election to any Executive Office. If a nominee receives sufficient votes to elect on the nominating ballot, the individual shall be declared elected. If such a majority shall not have been reached by the first three electoral ballots, all candidates except the two receiving the highest number of votes on the third ballot shall be eliminated from further balloting, and the requirement for election shall be reduced to a simple majority on the fourth electoral ballot. The results of each electoral ballot shall be posted until an election is achieved.

c. Term of Office. All executive officers shall be elected for a period of four (4) years. Their terms of office shall begin two months after election except in the case of prior vacancy, in which case the individual elected shall assume the responsibility of the office immediately.

d. Executive Officers portfolios. Portfolios assigned to Executive Officers shall be assigned by the District Superintendent in consultation with the Sectional and the Executive Presbyters.

Section 2. Executive Presbyters

a. Qualifications. The Executive Presbyters shall be ordained ministers of mature experience and ability who have been members of the Michigan District and have resided within District territory for the two (2) consecutive years prior to the time of their election.

b. Nominations and Elections

1) The Executive Presbyters of the Michigan District shall be elected at regular or special sessions of the District Council.

2) They shall be nominated in the following manner:

a) Each Sectional Council at its annual meeting prior to the next regular District Council in session shall receive a nominating ballot by secret ballot for the office of Executive Presbyter. The nominees may be residents of any Section within the District. All of those nominated will be contacted
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by the District Office, and only those willing to accept the nomination will be presented to the District Council as nominees.

b) At a special session of District Council, a nominating ballot will be received by secret ballot prior to the first electoral ballot.

3) A two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be required to elect. If such a majority shall not have been reached by the first three (3) electoral ballots, all candidates except the two (2) receiving the highest number of votes on the third ballot shall be eliminated from further balloting, and the requirement for election shall be reduced to a simple majority on the fourth electoral ballot. The results of each electoral ballot shall be posted until an election is achieved.

At a special session of District Council, if a nominee receives sufficient votes to elect on the nominating ballot, the individual shall be declared elected.

4) Should a Sectional Presbyter be elected an Executive Presbyter, the individual shall have the right to choose which office the individual will accept.

c. Term of Office. They shall be elected for a period of three (3) years. Their terms of office shall be staggered so that only one Executive Presbyter is elected annually. The term of office shall begin two (2) months after election except in the case of a prior vacancy, in which case the individual elected shall assume the responsibility of the office immediately. Executive Presbyters are eligible to serve two (2) consecutive terms with a one (1) year interim before becoming eligible again for election to this office. If previously elected or appointed to serve a vacated, partial term, Executive Presbyters shall be eligible to serve two (2) full consecutive terms.

Section 3. Sectional Officers

a. Sectional Presbyters

1) Qualifications. The Sectional Presbyters shall be ordained ministers of mature experience and ability who have been members of the Michigan District and have resided in the Section for at least six (6) months and in the District for at least one (1) year.

2) Nominations and Elections

a) All Sectional Presbyters shall be elected by the voters of their respective Sections at the Sectional Business Meeting to be held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the District Council. In the event that the elected
individual is unable to serve, a special Sectional Business
Meeting may be called, while the District Council is in
session, for the purpose of filling the office.
Announcement given during any business session of the
District Council shall be deemed adequate notice of the
meeting. The meeting may be chaired by any ordained
minister appointed by the Superintendent.

b) All candidates shall be nominated and voted upon by
secret ballot.

c) If a nominee receives two-thirds of the votes cast on the
nominating ballot, the individual shall be declared
elected. If such a majority is not obtained on the
nominating ballot, on succeeding electoral ballots a
simple majority of all votes cast shall be required to elect.
If after three (3) electoral ballots such a majority is not
reached, all candidates except the two receiving the
highest number of votes on the third ballot shall be
eliminated from further balloting. The results of each
electoral ballot shall be posted until an election is
achieved.

d) The results of the election shall be presented at the
District Council.

3) Term of Office. The term of office shall be for two (2) years
from the adjournment of the District Council following
election and shall conclude at the adjournment of the regularly
scheduled District Council after two (2) years. Sectional
Presbyters are eligible to serve three (3) consecutive, two-year
(2) terms with a one-year (1) interim before becoming eligible
again for election to this office.

b. Sectional Secretary-Treasurer

1) Qualifications. The Secretary-Treasurers of the Sections shall
be ordained or licensed ministers of mature experience and
ability who have been members of the Michigan District and
have resided in the Section for at least six (6) months and in
the District for at least one (1) year.

2) Nominations and Elections. They shall be nominated and
elected in the same manner as the Sectional Presbyters.

3) Term of Office. The term of office shall be for two (2) years
from the adjournment of the District Council following
election and shall conclude at the adjournment of the regularly
scheduled District Council after two (2) years. Sectional
Secretary-Treasurers are eligible to serve three (3) consecutive,
two-year (2) terms, with a one-year (1) interim before
becoming eligible again for election to this office.
Section 4. Nominees for Non-Resident General Council Executive Presbyter

a. Nominees. At a District Council prior to a General Council at which the election will be held, two nominees from the Michigan District, one of whom is not an elected full-time official, shall be nominated by a two-thirds vote, to be presented to the General Council along with nominees from other Districts in the Great Lakes area, for election as non-resident Executive Presbyter. Any nominee must be a member of the Michigan District who is an ordained minister of mature experience and ability and whose life and ministry are above question. There is no minimum residency requirement.

b. Additional Representation Nominees. At a District Council prior to the General Council at which the election shall be held, three (3) additional nominees, one (1) ordained pastor under 40 years of age at the time of election, one (1) ordained female (no age requirement), and one (1) ordained African-American minister (no age requirement) shall be nominated by a two-thirds vote, to be presented to the Executive Presbytery. From the nominees, the General Presbytery shall select and submit to the General Council four (4) names of ordained ministers under 40 years of age at the time of election, four (4) names of ordained female ministers (no age requirement), and four (4) names of ordained African-American ministers (no age requirement). The candidates shall be presented to the General Council in session and voted on by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote shall be required to elect. Each nominee must be a member of the Michigan District who is of mature experience and ability and whose life and ministry are above question.

They shall be nominated in the following manner:

In the year in which a regular General Council is to be held, each Sectional Council at its annual meeting prior to the next regular District Council in session shall receive a nominating ballot by secret ballot. They shall choose from a list of names who qualify for each office under the above provision. All of those nominated will be contacted by the District Office, and only those willing to accept the nomination will be presented to the District Council as nominees. In each case, a two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be required to present the nominee to the General Council. If such a majority shall not have been received by the first three (3) electoral ballots, all candidates except the two (2) receiving the highest number of votes on the third ballot shall be eliminated from further balloting, and the requirement for election shall be reduced to a simple majority on the fourth electoral ballot. The results of each electoral ballot shall be posted until an election is achieved.
Section 5. General Council Presbyters

The District shall be represented in the General Presbytery by three members.

a. Qualifications. They shall be ordained ministers of mature experience and ability whose lives and ministries are above reproach who have resided in the District for at least two (2) years.

In addition to the District Superintendent, who shall serve as General Presbyter by virtue of office, two (2) others shall be elected by the District Council in session, both of whom shall be ordained Assemblies of God ministers, and at least one (1) of whom shall be a pastor of a church or a person involved in other ministry located in the District. They shall take office immediately upon election.

b. Nominations and Elections. The remaining two (2) General Presbyters shall be nominated and elected by secret ballot at regular or special sessions of the District Council. A two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be required for election. If a nominee receives sufficient votes to elect on the nominating ballot, the individual shall be declared elected. If such a majority shall not have been reached by the first three (3) electoral ballots, all candidates except the two receiving the highest number of votes on the third ballot shall be eliminated from further balloting, and the requirement for election shall be reduced to a simple majority on the fourth electoral ballot. The results of each electoral ballot shall be posted until an election is achieved.

c. Term of Office. The term of office shall be for two (2) years from the date of election.

d. Additional General Presbyter Representation. Two (2) additional General Presbyters from the Great Lakes area, one (1) ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election and one (1) ordained female (no age requirement), shall be elected according to the annual rotating district schedule set by the General Council Executive Presbytery.

They shall be nominated in the following manner:

In the year in which the Michigan District is scheduled to elect additional General Presbyters, each Sectional Council at its annual meeting prior to the next regular District Council in session shall receive a nominating ballot by secret ballot. They shall choose from a list of names who qualify for each office under the above provision. All of those nominated will be contacted by the District Office, and only those willing to accept the nomination will be presented to the District Council as nominees.

In each case, a two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be required for election. If such a majority shall not have been received by the
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first three (3) electoral ballots, all candidates except the two (2) receiving the highest number of votes on the third ballot shall be eliminated from further balloting, and the requirement for election shall be reduced to a simple majority on the fourth electoral ballot. The results of each electoral ballot shall be posted until an election is achieved.

The term of office shall be for one (1) year from the date of election.

Section 6. Appointed District Directors

a. Qualifications. All appointed directors shall hold credentials with the Assemblies of God and be in good standing with their District or be individuals who are members in good standing of a local Assemblies of God church. The District Supervised Church Director and the Michigan Missions and Church Planting Director shall be ordained ministers.

b. Appointments. All District Directors shall be appointed by the Presbyter Board in cooperation with the District Superintendent.

e. Term of Office. All appointed District Directors shall serve for a term of one (1) year beginning September 1st.

ARTICLE VI. VACANCIES

Section 1. Occurrence

a. Any office shall become vacant:

1) Upon the death of the officeholder.
2) Upon the resignation of the officeholder.
3) If the officeholder ceases to meet the requirements for election to the office.
4) If the officeholder is removed by a two-thirds vote of the Presbyter Board due to departure from the Tenets of Faith, declared open change in doctrinal views, moral depravity, mental or physical incapacity, dereliction of duty, or any good and sufficient cause.

b. Any executive officeholder so removed shall have the right of appeal to the Executive Presbytery of the General Council. The officeholder shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Executive Presbytery of the General Council to the General Presbytery whose decision shall be final. Should the officeholder choose to appeal the case in this manner, the officeholder shall be placed under suspension, but shall continue to receive the compensations of the office until the case is settled.

c. In case of suspension pending an appeal, or in case an executive officeholder may be temporarily unable to discharge the
Section 2. Filling Vacancies

a. Superintendent. If the office of the District Superintendent becomes vacant for any cause, the Assistant District Superintendent shall become acting Superintendent until the next regular meeting of District Council, provided it shall be convened within sixty (60) days; otherwise, the Presbyter Board shall convene a special session of the District Council to elect a District Superintendent to fill the unexpired term. The Assistant Superintendent shall serve as acting Superintendent in the interim.

The District Secretary shall request the General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, or the General Superintendent’s designee, to preside over the special election.

b. Other Executive Offices. Vacancies in the offices of Assistant Superintendent, and Secretary-Treasurer shall be filled as follows: If a vacancy in the office occurs with sixty (60) days of a regular District Council, the vacancy will be filled by election at that Council. Otherwise, the Presbyter Board shall convene a special session of the District Council to fill the vacancy.

c. Other Offices. Vacancies in any office except those covered in the above may be filled by the Presbyter Board unless the office becomes vacant within thirty (30) days prior to a regular or special session of the District Council. In such case, it shall be filled by election.

Section 3. Term of Office

When an executive office is filled by a special District Council, the term of office shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term plus a four (4) year term, provided the unexpired term is not more than one (1) year.

ARTICLE VII. DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1. District Superintendent

The District Superintendent shall:

a. Act as President of the Corporation in all legal matters.

b. Supervise the work of the Michigan District.

c. Preside at the meetings of the District Council and provide a keynote address.
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d. Preside at the meetings of the District Presbytery and shall receive all communications directed to the body.

e. Administer discipline in all cases when requested to do so by the Executive Board.

f. Perform any other function usual and customary for the presiding officers, or such as may be directed by the District Council or the District Presbytery.

g. Be an ex-officio member of all boards and committees.

h. With the District Secretary, sign all legal documents on behalf of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District. The District Superintendent may authorize a designee to execute any and all documents relating to the purchase, sale, mortgage, loan, or disposition of any legal interest of the District on any real property.

i. With the District Secretary, have the authority to transfer church property being held in the name of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, to a respective local church that has advanced from District Supervised status to District Advanced status or from District Advanced status to General Council status if the name Assemblies of God, Michigan District, is not on a mortgage as a guarantor, owner, or mortgagor and the respective local church has signed and recorded a Right of Reverter to the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, which Right of Reverter shall be prepared by the District Secretary and delivered to the respective local church. There is no right of request of transfer and any request for transfer is subject to approval by the District Superintendent and the District Secretary, or by the Presbyter Board which approval may be granted or denied at their discretion.

j. In consultation with the Sectional and Executive Presbyters, assign portfolios to the executive officers.

k. Serve as General Council Presbyter.

l. Make appointments and assign responsibilities as authorized by the Bylaws.

m. Supervise all field ministries of the Executive Officers and members of the Presbyter Board.

n. Together, with the department directors, contact the churches as frequently as may be practical in the discharge of their responsibilities.

o. Direct the Pastoral appointment and recommendation process as set forth in these Bylaws and the Rules of Order.
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With the approval of the Executive Board, and with notification to the Sectional Presbyter, have the prerogative to initiate a meeting with the Pastor, or Pastor and board of a local church; and, along with those deemed necessary, be present at any official meeting of a local church.

Section 2. Assistant District Superintendent

The Assistant District Superintendent shall:

a. Serve as acting Superintendent in the event the office of the District Superintendent becomes vacant or the Superintendent is temporarily unable to discharge the duties of the Superintendent’s office.

b. Serve as Vice-President of the Corporation.

c. Preside at meetings of the District Council or of the Presbyter Board by request of the Superintendent.

d. Assist the Superintendent in the supervision of the work on the field, and perform such other functions as may be directed by the District Council, Presbyter Board, or Superintendent.

f. Be an ex-officio member of all boards and committees.

Section 3. District Secretary

The District Secretary shall:

a. Make and keep the records of the proceedings of the Michigan District and publish the same as approved and directed by the Presbyter Board.

b. Compile and publish in the District Manual a list of member and affiliated local churches within the District.

c. Keep a record of all credentialed ministers in the Michigan District.

d. Serve as secretary of the meetings of the Executive Board, the Presbyter Board, and the Credentials Board.

e. Be custodian of the official seal.

f. Implement General Council credentialing policies and guidelines under the direction of the District Credentials Board.

g. See that all properties of the District are adequately insured, subject to the review of the Presbyter Board.

h. With the District Superintendent, be authorized to sign all legal documents on behalf of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District. The District Secretary may authorize a designee to execute any and all documents relating to the purchase, sale, mortgage, loan, or disposition of any legal interest of the District on any real property.
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i. With the District Superintendent, have the authority to transfer church property being held in the name of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, to a respective local church that has advanced from District Supervised status to District Advanced status or from District Advanced status to General Council status if the name of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, is not on a mortgage as a guarantor, owner, or mortgagor and the respective local church has signed and recorded a Right of Reverter to the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, which Right of Reverter shall be prepared by the District Secretary and delivered to the respective local church.

There is no right of request of transfer and any request for transfer is subject to approval by the District Superintendent and the District Secretary, or the Presbyter Board which approval may be granted or denied at their discretion.

j. Assist the Superintendent in the supervision of the work on the field, and perform such other functions as directed by the District Council, Presbyter Board, or Superintendent.

Section 4. District Treasurer

The District Treasurer shall:

a. Keep an accurate record of disbursements and receipts of all departments and shall conduct the work of this office according to accepted methods of business.

b. Be custodian of the Michigan District funds, and shall deposit or invest same in the name of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District. All funds are to be deposited or invested with financial institutions approved by the Executive Board.

c. Give periodic financial reports.

d. Perform such other duties as requested by the District Council or the Presbyter Board.

e. Have the financial records of the District reviewed at least once a year and audited as ordered by the Presbyter Board. Both the review and the audit shall be performed by an independent certified public accounting firm.

Section 5. Executive Presbyters

The Executive Presbyters:

a. Shall assist the Executive Officers in supervising the activities of the District and may act as substitutes for Executive Officers or Sectional Presbyters by request of the District Superintendent.

b. May be assigned administrative portfolios or other responsibilities by the District Superintendent and the Presbyter Board.
c. Review and set financial compensation for the Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer in accordance with the policies set by the Presbyter Board.

d. Review and assign portfolios of Executive Officers in cooperation with the District Superintendent.

Section 6. Executive Board

The Executive Board shall:

a. Serve as an advisory board to the Executive Officers in implementing decisions and policies adopted by the District Council and the Presbyter Board.

c. Assist the Executive Officers in the formulation of plans and policies to be presented to the Presbyter Board or the District Council for consideration.

c. Assist the Executive Officers in supervising and reviewing the work of all departments and committees and in making recommendations to the Presbyter Board concerning matters which require its attention.

d. Act in all matters involving discipline of ministers, subject to the minister's right of appeal to the Presbyter Board.

e. Act upon all credential applications for annulment and recognition of preconversion divorce.

f. Review qualifications of prospective local church officers involving annulment of a previous marriage.

g. Serve as a standing committee on revision of the District Constitution and Bylaws.

h. Meet at least twice during the year upon the call of the District Superintendent, or a majority of the Executive Board.

i. Serve as the District Finance Committee and submit an annual budget to the Presbytery Board for its approval.

Section 7. Presbyter Board

The Presbyter Board shall:

a. Act for the District Council in all matters which affect its interests while the Council is not in session, subject to limitations which may be prescribed by the Council.

b. Serve as the Board of Trustees for the District Corporation and as trustees responsible for all District property.
c. Hold final jurisdiction over all departments, boards, and committees established by the District Council with authority to approve, disapprove, or make necessary changes in their policies and actions, subject to review by the District Council. All written policies and guidelines for District departments shall be published and distributed to churches and individuals upon request.

d. Assign portfolios and fill appointive offices not held by Executive Officers and appoint boards and committees in cooperation with the District Superintendent.

e. Declare any office vacant for causes as provided by the Bylaws and fill all vacancies except a vacancy in the offices of the District Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Secretary-Treasurer.

f. Serve as the District Credentials Board.

g. Provide supervision and Rules of Order for dependent local churches.

h. Determine the number of fellowship Sections and establish their boundaries.

i. Authorize any non-budgeted District expenditure in excess of fifteen thousand dollars ($15,000.00) and approve all endorsements of loans.

j. Call special sessions of the District Council and set the time and place for regular and special sessions.

k. Review and approve all budgets and set financial policies.

l. Meet at least twice during the year upon the call of the Executive Board, or a majority of the Presbyter Board.

m. Provide opportunity for department leaders to present and discuss matters of importance to their departments with the Presbyter Board as deemed necessary.

Section 8. Sectional Officers

a. Sectional Presbyters

Sectional Presbyters shall:

1) Serve as representatives of the Michigan District in their respective Sections.

2) Cooperate with, assist, and act under the authority of the Superintendent in supervising District activities, encouraging Michigan Missions and Church Planting enterprises, and
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bringing assistance and counsel to local churches at the
direction of the Superintendent within their respective
Sections.

3) Serve as chairpersons for their respective fellowship activities.

4) Focus on ministering to ministers by providing encouragement,
fellowship, prayer, leadership development and the building of
relationships with the ministers in their Sections.

5) Promote fellowship meetings and other inter-church activities
in which both credentialed ministers and local churches shall
be encouraged to participate.

6) Serve in cooperation with the District Supervised Church
Director regarding District Supervised local churches.

7) Serve as members of the Credentials Board.

8) Make official recommendations in regard to Pastoral
candidates after receiving approval from the Superintendent.

9) Submit an annual written report at their respective Sectional
Councils.

b. Sectional Secretary-Treasurers

Sectional Secretary-Treasurers shall:

1) Keep an up-to-date list of names and addresses of ministers
and churches in their respective Sections.

2) Keep a record of funds received and disbursed in the interest of
their Sections and submit an annual written report at their
respective Sectional Councils.

3) Be custodians of the funds of their Sections and deposit same
in the name of their respective Sections in accordance with the
financial policies determined by the Presbyter Board.

4) Notify the credentialed ministers of their Sections about
fellowship meetings and events in their Sections.

5) Assist the Sectional Presbyters in the promotion of Sectional
projects.

Section 9. General Presbyters

The duties of the General Presbyters shall be as defined by the Bylaws,
minutes, policies, and approved practices of the General Council.
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Section 10. District Directors

District Directors shall develop, promote, and encourage the ministries of their departments. They shall serve under the direction of the District Officiary and be approved by the Presbyter Board for a term of one (1) year.

ARTICLE VIII. BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees

a. Qualifications. All members of standing committees shall be ordained or licensed ministers of mature experience and ability or individuals who are members in good standing of affiliated local churches; all of whom have resided within the District for six (6) months prior to the time of appointment.

b. Appointments. Standing committees shall be appointed by the District Superintendent in cooperation with the Presbyter Board.

Section 2. Special Committees

Special committees may be created by the District Council in session or by the District Presbytery.

Section 3. Term of Office

All appointed members of boards and committees shall serve from the time of their appointment until the June Presbyter meeting unless otherwise specified.

Section 4. Resolutions Committee

a. Procedure for presentation of resolutions. A Resolutions Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. All resolutions for presentation to the District Council, shall be presented to the District Secretary's office at least 60 days prior to a District Council. The Resolutions Committee shall prepare the resolutions in printed or electronic form and send them to the District Council ministers and churches at least 30 days prior to the District Council.

b. Sponsorship policy. All resolutions presented to the Resolutions Committee shall be signed by the author or sponsor. When a resolution is presented for the consideration of the District Council in session the author, sponsor, or spokesperson appointed by the author or sponsor shall be expected to be the first speaker on behalf of the resolution.

c. Appropriateness of resolutions. The Resolutions Committee shall, by a two-thirds vote, determine the appropriateness of proposed resolutions. Inappropriate resolutions may only be those that, if adopted, would conflict with the Constitution or Bylaws; or whose substance is not in keeping with the General or District Council.
d. **Right of sponsor.** If the Resolutions Committee determines that a resolution is inappropriate, it shall so advise the author and shall apprise the author of his or her right to present the proposed resolution to the District Council in session for a determination as to appropriateness.

e. **Format of presentation.** The Resolution Committee shall:
   
   (1) Put resolutions in proper form.
   
   (2) Eliminate duplication of similar resolutions relating to a specific subject.
   
   (3) Present resolutions in a logical sequence.

**ARTICLE IX. LOCAL CHURCHES**

**Section 1. Classification of Local Churches**

a. **Dependent local churches.** Local churches that have not matured sufficiently to assume their full share of responsibility for the maintenance of scriptural order shall be held under the general supervision of the Presbyter Board.

The Presbyter Board shall provide appropriate Rules of Order for their operation according to their degree of development as follows:

1) **Home Missions local churches:** A new, restarted, or reclassified local church will be under the direction of the Michigan Missions and Church Planting Director until such time, in cooperation with the District Officiary, it is deemed prudent for the advancement of the church.

2) **District Supervised local churches:** A local church so classified by the Presbyter Board shall be under the leadership of the District Supervised Church Director until such time that the Presbyter Board, in cooperation with the District Officiary, deem it prudent for the advancement of the church.

3) **District Advanced local churches:** A local church so classified, having at least four (4) individuals qualified for election to office, that is making satisfactory progress toward, but which is not yet able, to qualify for General Council affiliation as an Autonomous local church.

b. **Autonomous local churches.** A local church that has matured sufficiently to accept its full share of responsibility for the maintenance of scriptural order shall be entitled to recognition as an Autonomous local church.
An Autonomous local church shall have not less than twenty (20) members, of whom at least six (6) shall be individuals qualified for election to office. It shall be set in order under the direction of the District Officiary and shall be affiliated with both the General Council and the Michigan District, and be entitled to all privileges granted to an Autonomous church under the General Council Constitution. The District shall provide a suggested Constitution and Bylaws.

A local Autonomous church shall have the right to choose its own Pastor(s), elect officers, hold title to property in its corporate name, discipline members, and transact business on its behalf.

An annual statement shall be filed, signed by the Pastor and/or church Secretary, stating that the church has maintained the standards set forth herein.

An Autonomous local church shall be expected to conform to the decisions of the District Council in the interests of general unity.

c. Parent Affiliated Churches. A local church that has begun at the initiation of a General Council (parent) church and is under the supervision of the parent church and its constitution and bylaws, and has not affiliated itself with the Assemblies of God Michigan District, will be classified as a Parent Affiliated Church. A Parent Affiliated Church shall be chartered through the General Council.

d. Non-Assemblies of God local churches. A non-Assemblies of God local church shall be brought into affiliation at the appropriate classification as determined by the Presbyter Board.

e. Annual Review. An annual review of dependent local churches by the Presbyter Board on the basis of their church report shall initiate appropriate action for advancement in classification.

Section 2. Reclassification of Local Churches

a. If a local church falls below the standards for its current classification, in regard either to membership or the number of individuals qualified for election to office, the church may, at the discretion of the Presbyter Board, be reclassified to its appropriate category.

b. When an Autonomous or District Advanced local church is in need of assistance for any reason, the Pastor or Official Board of the church should contact the District Superintendent for counsel and advice. The Official Board of a church may request that the church be reclassified to District Supervised status. The church will return to its former status at the request of the congregation and the approval of the Executive Board.
c. Should a crisis arise in an Autonomous or District Advanced local church and a resolution appears unlikely, the District Superintendent or authorized District Officer invited for counsel and advice may recommend to the church a vote to become reclassified to District Supervised status. The church will return to its former status at the request of the congregation and the approval of the Executive Board.

d. The Superintendent may contact and meet with the Pastor, or Pastor and Official Board, of an Autonomous or District Advanced church in an effort to resolve problems and conditions that may have arisen. If any situation is such that it requires immediate action, the District Superintendent may reclassify the church to District Supervised status subject to the ratification of the Executive Board and a 75% approval vote of the Presbyter Board within seven (7) days. The church will return to its former status at the request of the congregation and the approval of the Executive Board.

e. In the event that the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, is required or becomes obligated to pay bills and/or mortgage payments for a local church, the church shall immediately become reclassified to District Supervised status.

f. Any reclassification of a local church that takes place in accordance with this section may be appealed to the Presbytery Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The church shall remain reclassified until the appeal has been acted upon by the Presbyter Board.

Section 3. Senior Pastor

The senior Pastor for every Assemblies of God local church shall be a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 4. Membership Requirements

It is recommended that the minimum requirements for membership be:

a. Born Again. Members in this local church shall be expected to give a clear testimony of having been born of the Spirit of God (John 3:3, 5-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17).

b. Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Members shall have received the Holy Spirit or be earnestly seeking to be baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2-4).

c. Baptism in Water. All members shall have followed the scriptural command to be baptized in water by immersion in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19).
d. **God's Word.** Members shall believe in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures as the Word of God and the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

e. **Holiness.** Members shall separate themselves from the world by refraining from the reading, viewing, listening, and participation in any activity, material and/or media that would be contrary to Scripture as pertaining to holiness, righteousness, clean living, and the testimony of such to this world. They shall reflect the truth that each believer's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 21:34,35; Romans 8:5-8; 12:1-2; 14:17-18; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 18-20; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Galatians 5:18-20; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 2:8-10; 4:12; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12; Revelation 21:8).

f. **Habits.** Members shall abstain from the use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages and the misuse of drugs (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

g. **Christ's Return.** Members shall earnestly cherish the hope and expectancy of the premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17).

h. **Tenets of Faith.** Members shall fully subscribe to the Tenets of Faith as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Assemblies of God.

i. **Cooperation.** Members shall indicate a willingness to cooperate in the work of the church, to be governed by its Rules of Order and to contribute regularly to its financial support as the Lord may prosper.

j. **Application for Membership.** It is recommended that all churches use the application for membership form provided by the General Council.

**Section 5. Officers**

It is recommended that all officers of a local church meet the following minimum requirements:

a. Meet the minimum requirements for membership.

b. Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.

c. Have been an active member of the church for at least one year. "Not a novice..." (1 Timothy 3:6,8-13).

d. Hold to a high standard of Christian marriage. It is recommended that married persons are ineligible if either marriage partner has a former spouse living, unless the divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17), or for the scriptural causes of a...
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former spouse’s marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15).

It is understood that recommendations are not binding upon General Council churches, and that General Council churches shall maintain the prerogative of setting their own standards (in accordance with Article XI of the General Council Constitution).

Section 6. Transfer of Membership

a. Transfer to another church. A letter of transfer of membership signed by the Pastor shall be granted upon the request of the individual desiring the membership transfer. The letter shall be addressed to the Pastor of the receiving church and shall state whether or not the member is in good standing.

b. Transfer from another church. When an individual desires to transfer membership from an Assemblies of God church to another Assemblies of God church, a letter of transfer of membership shall be required. The transferring church should state whether or not the individual is in good standing. Responsibility for accepting or rejecting the transferee shall rest with the Official Board of the receiving church.

Section 7. District Assistance

a. Calling of Pastors. As soon as the Pastorate becomes vacant, the Official Board of the church shall notify the District Office, seek the advice of the District Superintendent, and invite the District Superintendent to meet with its Pulpit Committee before making contact with any prospective Pastor.

If the District Superintendent cannot meet personally with the Pulpit Committee, the District Superintendent may send a designee.

b. Advice and Counsel. All local churches of our Fellowship may request assistance or counsel from the District by contacting the District Superintendent in any time of difficulty or need by:

1) Written request of the Pastor.

2) A majority vote of the Official Board of the church certified in a written statement bearing the signatures of two (2) members of the Board.

3) Petitions signed by twenty (20) percent of the active membership of the local church.

c. New Local Churches Resulting from a Division. When efforts to maintain unity and harmony in a local church have failed and a division results in a new congregation being formed, the District
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will exercise strong and wise leadership in ascertaining the facts, and seek to preserve Assemblies of God adherents for the Fellowship. Within the bounds of ethical principles, sound doctrine, and District policy, the District Officials should seek to retain any meritorious group with the Assemblies of God.

Section 8. Bond Programs

All bond issues floated by local churches shall be duly registered with the State Securities Commission as required by law, and it is recommended that copies of the information furnished the Securities Commission be filed with the District Treasurer.

Section 9. Church Property

It is recommended that all local churches of the Michigan District include the following in their Bylaws.

a. Incorporation. The church shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan and all real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other property of whatever kind, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the corporate name of the church.

b. Disposal of property. No real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other property of whatever kind of the church shall be sold, leased, mortgaged or otherwise alienated without the same shall have been authorized by at least a two-thirds majority vote of the membership present at any duly called business meeting. The proposed action shall be announced in the notice of the business meeting.

c. Certification. The Pastor and the Secretary of the church shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage that the same has been duly authorized by the vote of the membership. Such certification shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

d. Defection. In the case of a defection from the faith as set forth in the Statement of Fundamental Truths in the Constitution of Assemblies of God, Michigan District, or from affiliation with the Assemblies of God, any portion of the membership subscribing to and practicing the above mentioned Tenets of Faith, and retaining their affiliations with the Assemblies of God shall hold possession of and full title to all real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other property of whatever kind of the church with full rights under the provision of this Constitution and Bylaws.

e. Termination. Should the church cease to function as an Assemblies of God church for a period of six (6) consecutive months or more, title to all real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other property of whatever kind of the church shall revert to the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, an ecclesiastical
corporation organized under the laws of the State of Michigan with headquarters in Farmington Hills. It is the parent body for churches in Michigan and is an integral part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, whose national headquarters is in Springfield, Missouri, organized exclusively to operate for religious purposes with tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Assemblies of God, Michigan District shall forthwith have full authority to use or dispose of the property. Net proceeds from the sale or rental of any property under this provision shall be used to help with the initial purchase of land and/or buildings for churches. The Church Planting and Development Board will make these grants under policies approved by the Presbyter Board.

d. Reverter Clause in Title. Title to all real property owned by the church shall contain a District approved reverter clause wherein the property reverts to Assemblies of God, Michigan District, if the property ceases to be used as an Assemblies of God church or for associated church purposes either as a result of defection or termination as noted in subsection d. and e. above, or as a result of sale.

ARTICLE X. MINISTRY

Section 1. Requirements for Ministry

The requirements for ministerial credentials for the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, shall be the same as those stated in General Council Bylaws, Article VII. Ministry.

Section 2. Discipline

All matters regarding discipline of credentialed ministers of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, shall be the same as those stated in General Council Bylaws, Article X. Discipline.

Section 3. Arbitration

Inasmuch as the Scriptures require Christians to take their disputes to other believers and not to the civil courts (I Corinthians 6:1-8), all disputes which may arise between any credential holder of the Michigan District (including anyone holding a Layman's Certificate) and the District itself (including any officer or director thereof) while the individual is a member, shall be resolved by binding arbitration if efforts to mediate or conciliate the dispute have failed. Either party to the dispute may initiate the arbitration process by filing with the other party a written request for arbitration within a reasonable time after the dispute has arisen and efforts to mediate or conciliate have failed. In such a case, the credential holder and the District shall each name an arbitrator, and the two so selected shall name a third. All arbitrators must be born-again Christians, who have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit (according to Acts 2:4) and who are members in good standing of an Assemblies of God
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church. The third arbitrator chosen by the other two shall disclose, before the appointment, any financial or personal interest in the outcome of the arbitration, and any existing or past financial, professional, family or social relationships which are likely to affect impartiality or might reasonably create an appearance of partiality or bias. Either of the parties to the arbitration, on the basis of such disclosures, may disqualify such a candidate from serving as a third arbitrator. A third arbitrator who serves without objection from either party has a continuing duty to disclose relationships or interests which may impair impartiality. Either party, regardless of the stage of the arbitration process, may, on the basis of such disclosures, disqualify such a person from further participation. The arbitration process shall not proceed until the third arbitrator is selected.

The arbitrators shall appoint the time and place for the hearing and cause notification to the parties to be served personally or by registered mail not less than five (5) days before the hearing. Appearance at the hearing waives such notice. The arbitrators may adjourn the hearing from time to time as necessary, and, on the request of a party and for good cause upon their own motion, may postpone the hearing to a later date. The arbitrators may hear and determine the controversy upon the evidence produced notwithstanding the failure of a party duly notified to appear. The parties are entitled to be heard, to present evidence material to the controversy, and to cross-examine witnesses appearing at the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by all arbitrators, but a majority of them may determine any question or render a final award. If during the course of the hearing, an arbitrator for any reason ceases to act, he shall be replaced in the same manner in which he was originally selected. The arbitrators may in their absolute discretion admit as evidence any affidavit or declaration concerning the matter in dispute, a copy thereof having been given at least three (3) days previously to the party against whom the same is offered, but that person whose evidence is so taken shall be subject to cross-examination by such party. The arbitrators shall have the power to order and direct what they shall deem necessary to be done by either of the parties relating to the matters in the dispute. Costs and awards of the arbitration shall be assessed at the discretion of the arbitrators. Any submission of a dispute shall not be revoked by the death of any party to the dispute and award will be binding upon such person's heirs and successors.

The decision of the arbitrators shall be binding on both parties, and both parties submit themselves to the personal jurisdiction of the courts of Michigan, both state and federal, for the entry of a judgment confirming the arbitrator's award. The arbitration process is not a substitute for any disciplinary process set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, and shall in no way affect the authority of the General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, to investigate reports of misconduct, conduct hearings, or administer discipline. Any matter not provided for in herein shall be governed by the provisions of the Uniform Arbitration Act.
ARTICLE XI. MINISTERIAL RELATIONS

Section 1. Relationship to District

a. Loyalty. All credentialed ministers shall be amenable to the District in matters of doctrine and conduct.

b. Transfers. Assemblies of God credentialed ministers coming into the District to reside shall be required to affiliate with the Michigan District within sixty (60) days by filing a letter of transfer from their former District. By so doing, they agree to be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Michigan District.

c. Michigan District credentialed ministers not located within the District desiring to retain their credentials with the Michigan District, may do so under the following conditions:

1) Ministers moving to serve at General Headquarters.

2) Those who are retired from active ministry.

3) Those who are in the Armed Forces currently on active duty.

4) Those who are serving at schools affiliated with the General Council or at schools approved by the District Officers.

5) Students attending schools outside their Michigan District.

Section 2. Relationship to Pastorate

a. Vacating of Pastorate. A minister resigning from a Pastorate shall be expected to give the local church at least thirty (30) days notice before vacating the pulpit.

The minister shall immediately notify the District Office of the resignation and advise the local church board to seek the advice of the District Superintendent in regard to a successor.

In case a church requests the resignation of a Pastor, it shall be expected to give the Pastor at least thirty (30) days in which to vacate the pulpit or pay the Pastor at least thirty (30) days salary in advance.

b. Holding Office in Local Church. No credential holder, other than the Pastor, shall serve as a member of a local church board. Whether or not the credentialed minister is a member of that local church, the credentialed minister shall not take part in the business of that local church unless the credentialed minister is specifically asked to do so by the Pastor of that local church. The credentialed minister may serve in a spiritual function when requested by the Pastor. This restriction shall not apply to District Officers or their designees when fulfilling the duties of their offices.
Section 3. Relationship to Other Churches

a. Communications. All credentialed ministers are advised against interfering with churches of which they are not a part. They shall not contact members and/or adherents of the church in person, by correspondence, or in any way that will hurt the influence of the leader. Communications which concern the church shall be directed to the Pastor and not to individual members. Where there is no Pastor, communications relating to the church shall be addressed to the officers of the church. Any minister who so offends shall be subject to discipline.

b. Objectionable Conduct. A written complaint concerning such a violation of ministerial ethics, signed by the Pastor or two members of the local Official Board of the church may be filed with the District Office. Initiative in dealing with such offenders may be taken by the District Officiary.

Section 4. Relationship to a Non-Assemblies Church

Inasmuch as unity is a vital principle for growth and spiritual development of the church, it is essential that we recognize our relationship to each other, and that we practice Christian cooperation in all our pastoral, evangelistic, missionary, and local church work. All credentialed ministers shall be required to obtain approval of the District Officiary before ministering in any church not listed as an Assemblies of God church by the General Council. This shall not apply to ministry in inter-denominational meetings and ministry in other churches within their own locality.

Section 5. Attitude Toward Those Removed From the Fellowship

In order to render effective decisions made in the interest of proper discipline and for the protection of our churches, all who hold credentials shall refrain from taking an attitude toward those removed from the Fellowship that would tend to nullify or set at naught the solemn verdict of those entrusted with this responsibility. A minister who so offends shall be subject to reprimand or, if persisted in, appropriate discipline.

ARTICLE XII. WORLD EVANGELISM

Section 1. Scope and Policy

Since the Master has declared that the field is the world, the Michigan District Council shall assume the responsibility to do all in its power to spread the full Gospel at home and in foreign lands.

Section 2. Organization

a. District World Missions Director. The District Superintendent, in cooperation with the Presbyter Board, shall appoint a District World Missions Director.
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b. **District Missions Committee.** The District Missions Committee shall review any applicant for missionary appointment under Assemblies of God World Missions and Assemblies of God US Missions as directed by the Presbyter Board.

c. **Church Planting Director.** The District Superintendent, in cooperation with the Presbyter Board, shall appoint a Church Planting Director.

d. **District Church Planting and Development Board.** The Church Planting and Development Board shall establish policies, budgets, new church planting strategies, etc. Appointed members may be added to the Church Planting Board at the discretion of the District Superintendent.

The Church Planting and Development board shall have the prerogative to authorize the purchase and disposal of all Church Planting and Development property. Legal documents for the purchase and disposal of such property shall be approved and signed by the District Superintendent and District Secretary-Treasurer or their designees.

*Term of Office.* All appointed members shall be appointed for a period of one (1) year. They shall serve a maximum of five (5) consecutive terms with a one (1) term interim before becoming eligible again for appointment to this Board.

**Section 3. World Missions Giving**

a. **The Faith Promise Plan.** Each Pastor is encouraged to receive annual faith promises from the local church by presenting the faith promise program and ask individuals to make commitments of specified amounts to be given through the church in the regular missionary offerings.

b. **Other nationally endorsed Assemblies of God missions programs.** Each Pastor is encouraged to promote giving to other nationally endorsed Assemblies of God missions funding programs such as Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade, Light for the Lost, Speed the Light, Coins for Kids, etc., and that these be administered according to the respective program’s national guidelines.

c. **Missionaries.** Missionaries who itinerate in the District with unrestricted itineration privileges shall send 5% of their offerings received in the Michigan District to the District Office to help support world missionary endeavors.

**Section 4. Planting New Local Churches**

The Church Planting and Development Board shall function under policies approved by the Presbyter Board.
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New local churches shall be recognized by all concerned as Assemblies of God churches from their very inception. They, except for Parent Affiliated Churches which are under the supervision and governance of the parent church, shall be affiliated with the Michigan District as dependent churches and function under the Rules of Order furnished by the Presbyter Board.

ARTICLE XIII. DISTRICT MINISTRIES

Section 1. District Ministries

District Ministries and departments may be established as needed. They shall operate under the general supervision of the District Officiary and operate in accord with the department’s approved policies and guidelines.

Section 2. North Central University

a. Ownership. The Assemblies of God, Michigan District, is a partner in the ownership and operation of North Central University, located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. North Central University is recognized as an integral part of the Michigan District.

b. Board of Regents

1) The District Superintendent, by virtue of office, serves on the Board of Regents.
2) The District Youth Ministries Director, by virtue of office, serves on the Board of Regents.
3) The District Presbytery Board shall also appoint one (1) ordained Pastor of the Michigan District and one (1) individual from a local Assemblies of God church to serve on the Board of Regents. Their term of office shall be for three (3) years. They shall be eligible to serve a maximum of three (3) consecutive three (3) year terms with a one (1) year interim before becoming eligible again for appointment.

ARTICLE XIV. TEEN CHALLENGE MINISTRIES

Teen Challenge Ministries operating within the Assemblies of God, Michigan District shall cooperate with the District and the General Council of the Assemblies of God by compliance with the accreditation standards established by Teen Challenge International, USA, with headquarters located at 3728 West Chestnut Expressway, Springfield, Missouri 65807.

ARTICLE XV. BENEVOLENT MINISTRIES

The Michigan District may involve itself in humanitarian and benevolent ministries. Such benevolent ministries shall operate under the supervision of the District Officiary in accordance with approved policies and guidelines.
ARTICLE XVI. PUBLICATIONS

The Michigan District shall continue to support all General Council papers and publications and any other publications authorized by the General Council.

The Michigan Messenger is the official publication of the Michigan District.

ARTICLE XVII. FINANCE

Section 1. District Council Support

a. Ministers. All credentialed ministers of the Michigan District shall agree to contribute not less than 85% of their tithe from ministerial income for District support. These contributions will be made at least monthly.

Senior-active and senior semi-retired ministers shall continue to contribute their proportion of their tithes to the District. Senior-retired ministers may distribute, as they desire, the proportion of their tithes previously contributed to the District.

Non-resident District credentialed ministers shall contribute 30% of their tithe of both secular and ministerial income for the support of the District.

Foreign missionaries shall contribute $25 per month to their home District when residing in the United States and $10 per month when residing on their fields.

Military chaplains shall contribute to their home District the amount of $5 per month per officer grade and are encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the District in which they fulfill their temporary duty assignments.

In cases where a senior Pastor feels that the local church is in dire financial need, the Pastor shall continue to contribute the required District support; and notify the District Officiary who shall investigate the situation and take appropriate action.

b. Local Churches. It is recommended that each local church make a monthly contribution equal to at least one percent (1%) of its general fund offerings to the District for its support.

Section 2. Support of District Ministries

It is recommended that each local church support District Ministries and Departments with monthly offerings or in accordance with departmental policies.
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Section 3. Depositories

All District corporate funds shall be held in the name of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, and deposited or invested with financial institutions approved by the Executive Board.

Section 4. District Indebtedness

a. Limitations. No unbudgeted indebtedness exceeding $15,000 shall be incurred by the Michigan District unless authorized by a two-thirds vote of the Presbyter Board.

b. Loan Endorsement. The Presbyter Board shall be authorized to endorse loans obtained by local churches from banks or other sources up to the total amount of fifty-percent (50%) of the capital investment fund of the District.

Section 5. Financial Reviews and Audits

An annual financial review or audit, as determined by the Presbyter Board, shall be done by an independent certified public firm. The fiscal year of Departments and Sections shall conform to the fiscal year of the District.

Section 6. Finance Committee

The Executive Board shall serve as the District Finance Committee. The Finance Committee shall be charged with the responsibility of studying the budgets of all District Departments and shall serve in an advisory capacity in matters of general finance. They shall give preliminary survey and advice concerning any major project on the District or Department level involving the expenditure of funds.

Section 7. Budgets

All District Departments shall submit a proposed budget annually at least ninety (90) days before the close of the fiscal year. These budgets shall be examined by the Finance Committee and then submitted to the Presbyter Board for adoption.

ARTICLE XVIII. MINISTERS DEATH BENEFIT FUND

There shall be a fund known as the Ministers' Death Benefit Fund for the purpose of giving financial assistance to members of the fund in the event of death.

ARTICLE XIX. RETIREMENT

In order to provide a retirement income for ministers, it is recommended that each church and each minister contribute a minimum amount equal to 2½ percent of the minister’s housing and salary to the Minister’s Benefit Association.
ARTICLE XX. MILITARY SERVICE

As a Movement we affirm our loyalty to the government of the United States of America in war and peace.

We shall continue to insist, as we have historically, on the right of each member to choose to declare their position as a combatant, noncombatant or a conscientious objector.

ARTICLE XXI. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED

In accord with its constitutional prerogatives, The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Michigan District have declared themselves in agreement pertaining to certain matters as stated in the following General Council Bylaws, Article IX. Doctrine and Practices Disapproved, B. List of Doctrines and Practices Disapproved.

Section 1. Unconditional Security

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

Section 2. Legalism

a. Matters of Conscience. The Assemblies of God disapproves of those who hold to matters of conscience, such as the eating or not eating of meats, who press their opinions on others.

b. Adding Conditions to Salvation. The Assemblies of God also disapproves of those who hold to issues which seem to add conditions to salvation, such as the keeping the seventh day, who press their opinions on others.

Section 3. Eschatological Errors

a. The restitution of all things. The Assemblies of God understands the teaching of Acts 3:21 to limit the restoration to that of which the prophets have spoken, thus denying the universal redemption theory. We are opposed to all forms of universalism (Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:10).

b. Setting a date for the Lord's return. It is unwise to teach that the Lord will come at some specified time, thereby setting a date for His appearing (Mark 13:32,33; Luke 12:37-40; I Thessalonians 5:2). It is also unwise to give out from the platform, or publish, visions of numbers and dates fixing the time of the second coming of the Lord.
c. **Post-Tribulation Rapture.** The General Council of the Assemblies of God has declared itself in the Statement of Fundamental Truths that it holds to the belief in the imminent coming of the Lord as the blessed hope of the Church; and since the teaching that the Church must go through the Tribulation tends to bring confusion and division among the saints, it is recommended that all our ministers teach the imminent coming of Christ, warning all to be prepared for that coming, which may occur at any time, and not lull their minds into complacency by any teaching that would cause them to feel that specific Tribulation events must occur before the rapture of the saints.

d. **Amillennialism.** The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the amillennial teaching and its attendant erroneous philosophy which denies the fact of a literal 1,000-year reign of Christ on the earth, and substitutes for it the theory that his Christian or Church dispensation is the spiritual Millennium of which, its proponents say, the Bible writers prophesied.

e. **Credentials jeopardized if made an issue.** We recommend that those ministers who embrace any of the foregoing eschatological errors refrain from preaching or teaching them. Should they persist in emphasizing these doctrines to the point of making them an issue, their standing in the Fellowship will be seriously affected (Luke 21:34-36; 1 Thessalonians 5:9, 10; 2 Thessalonians 1:4-10; Revelation 3:10, 19, 20).

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**Section 4. Membership in Secret Orders**

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

The nature of such organizations demands secrecy (John 18:20; Acts 26:26) reinforced by religious oaths (Matthew 5:34) and strong attachment by binding obligations to persons who are for the most part unregenerate (2 Corinthians 6:14). The spirit, philosophy, and general influence of such secret orders aim at the improvement of the natural man only (1 Corinthians 2:14; Colossians 2:8), thus wrongly channeling by incorrect interpretation important spiritual truths (2 Peter 3:16).

Confidence in these secret orders and their teaching has always tended toward embracing of a false hope of salvation through good works and improved moral service (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

In consideration of the foregoing, all ministers affiliated with us should refrain from identifying themselves with any of the secret orders that the General Council recognizes as essentially of the world, worldly; and the General Council advises any who may have identified themselves with such orders to
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sever their connections with them (2 Corinthians 6:17). Furthermore, Assemblies of God ministers are requested to use their good influence among our lay members to dissuade them from such fraternal affiliations (1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:24-26).

Section 5. Divorce and Remarriage

a. Membership

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

2) Common-law marriages. We recommend that in no case shall persons be accepted into membership who are known to be living in a common-law state of matrimony.

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

c. Local Church Leadership

1) Standard for office of bishop, elder or deacon. We recommend that each Assemblies of God church restrict divorced and remarried believers from holding the office of bishop, elder or deacon if either marriage partner has a former spouse living, unless the divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17), or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse’s marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15).

2) Prerogatives of local assemblies. It is understood that recommendations are not binding, but local assemblies shall maintain the prerogative of setting their own standards (in accord with provision of Article XI of the General Council Constitution).

d. Performing Marriage Ceremonies

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

2) Violation of conscience not required. We realize that the remarrying of such persons included in the exceptional circumstances in the General Council Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraph b, could violate the conscience of a minister; and if this should be the case, the minister should not be expected to perform such ceremonies.

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

3) 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.

e. Ministerial Credentials. We disapprove of any married minister of the Assemblies of God holding credentials if either minister or spouse has a former spouse living unless the divorce occurred prior to conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17), or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse’s marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15). (See also General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2., paragraphs j and k.)

Section 6. Worldliness

In view of the alarming erosion of national moral standards, we reaffirm our intention of holding up Bible standards against all forms of worldliness. We urge all believers to "love not the world, neither the things that are in the world…. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 John 2:15,16).

In its teaching regarding worldliness, the Scripture warns against participation in activity that defiles the body, or corrupts the mind and spirit; the inordinate love of or preoccupation with pleasures, position, or possessions, which lead to their misuse; manifestation of extreme behavior, unbecoming speech, or inappropriate appearance; any fascination or association which lessens one's affection for spiritual things (Luke 21:34,35; Romans 8:5-8; 12:1,2;
Section 7. Abuses of Stewardship

a. Tithing

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

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

b. Solicitation of Funds

1) It is considered improper and unethical for ministers or missionaries to solicit funds by letter or otherwise, for anything or any reason whatsoever without proper authorization.

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

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

Projects of general interest to the District must have the authorization of the District Officiary.

Projects or institutions of national scope that plan to solicit funds from Assemblies of God churches must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Promotion of all projects of a missionary character must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery.

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

c. **Private Ownership of Religious Institutions.** The General
Council of the Assemblies of God approves the holding of title to all
church buildings, schools, or other institutions that are supported by
funds solicited for the work of God by properly constituted
corporations. It disapproves the holding of title to such properties
by the ministers of the Assemblies of God, through private
ownership, corporations sole, or closed corporations. In the event a
local congregation is not incorporated or set in order by the District
Council, title should be vested in properly qualified trustees. Where
private ownership exists, a properly incorporated body shall be
formed and title to the property shall be transferred to the
corporation.

A disregard of this principle and recommendation shall seriously
affect the relationship of the Assemblies of God of members
involved in such ownership.

**Section 8. Violations of Ministerial Courtesy**

All discourteous conduct is disapproved, and all ministers are advised against
interfering with Pastors in charge of assemblies, whether it be by going in
upon their work without consent or by such correspondence with members of
the church as will hurt the influence of the leader. All correspondence which
concerns the whole assembly shall be addressed to the one in charge and not to
individual members. Where there is no Pastor, letters concerning the work
shall be addressed to the officers of the assembly.

Any minister who so offends shall be subject to discipline.

**Section 9. Ministry in a Non-Assemblies of God Church**

Ministers shall not be limited or restrained from entering open doors to preach
this Pentecostal message, so long as they retain Assemblies of God doctrine,
standards of holiness, proper attitudes, and proper ministerial conduct without
compromise.

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

We recommend therefore that our ministers confer with District Council
officials before engaging in ministry in any church group or organization not
affiliated with the Assemblies of God so as to ascertain whether such ministry
might result in confusion or misunderstandings. If the minister does not have
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District approval, he or she shall be expected to refrain from conducting services for the church. Ministers who violate this principle shall be subject to discipline.

Section 10. An Improper Attitude Toward Those Removed From the Fellowship

In order to render effective decisions made in the interest of proper discipline and for the protection of our assemblies, all who hold credentials, and local churches holding certificates of affiliation, shall refrain from taking an attitude toward offenders that would tend to nullify or set at naught the solemn verdict of those entrusted with this responsibility. Those who fail to support said verdict shall be subject to reprimand or, if persisted in, appropriate discipline.

Section 11. The Ecumenical Movement

The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of ministers or churches participating in any of the modern ecumenical organizations on a local, national, or international level in such a manner as to promote the ecumenical movement, because:

a. We believe the basis of doctrinal fellowship of said movement to be so broad that it includes people who reject the inspiration of Scripture, the deity of Christ, the universality of sin, the substitutionary atonement, and other cardinal teachings that we understand to be essential to biblical Christianity.

b. We believe the emphases of the ecumenical movement to be at variance with what we hold to be biblical priorities, frequently displacing the urgency of individual salvation with social concerns.

c. We believe that the combination of many religious organizations into a world superchurch will culminate in the religious Babylon of Revelation 17 and 18.

(This is not to be interpreted to mean that a limitation may be imposed upon any Assemblies of God minister regarding his or her Pentecostal witness or participation on a local level with interdenominational activities.)

Section 12. Divine Healing and Professional Medicine

The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of any credentialed minister counseling a believer to exclude medical advice and/or treatment when seeking prayer for physical healing. Assemblies of God ministers shall not represent medical advice and/or treatment as a lack of faith in God’s healing power.
ARTICLE XXII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any regular or special meeting of the District Council provided the proposed amendment has been submitted to the Executive Board at least sixty (60) days prior to the session at which the amendment is to be considered. The District Secretary shall mail a copy of the proposed amendment to the membership of the District Council at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. A majority of all votes cast shall be necessary for the adoption of an amendment.

When changes occur in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws that cause the re-numbering or re-lettering of sections of those documents that are referenced in the Michigan District Bylaws, the District Bylaws may be amended to reflect those changes by action of the Presbyter Board, providing the changes are limited to such re-numbering and re-lettering items only, and that no change in the intent of the District Bylaws occurs.
RULES OF ORDER
FOR
HOME MISSIONS CHURCHES

The following Rules of Order are approved by the Assemblies of God, Michigan District for Home Missions churches [District Bylaws, Article VII, Section 7, subsection g; Article IX, Section 1, subsection a].

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this church shall be ________________________________.

ARTICLE II. AFFILIATION

This church shall be affiliated with the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, as a Home Missions church. It shall be under the general supervision of the District Officiary, and under the immediate supervision of the Michigan Missions and Church Planting Director or the Director’s designee, who shall then have the full authority to act on behalf of the Director according to the provisions of the District Constitution and these Rules of Order.

ARTICLE III. TENETS OF FAITH

This church shall accept the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God, the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice; and, for the purpose of maintaining general unity adopt the Statement of Fundamental Truths approved by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS*

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

1. The Scriptures Inspired

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

2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth, and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).
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 Ghost, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).

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

d. Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are never *identical* as to *person*; nor *confused* as to *relation*; nor *divided* in respect to the godhead; nor *opposed* as to *cooperation*. The Son is *in* the Father and the Father is *in* the Son as to relationship. The Son is *with* the Father and the Father is *with* the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not *from* the Son, but the Son is *from* the Father as to authority. The Holy Ghost is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation, and authority. Hence, 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 Ghost. 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 Ghost that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God may be all in all (Hebrews 1:3; 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 Ghost to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the godhead except those which express relationship (see paragraphs b, c, and d), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22,23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2:8,9; Revelation 7:9,10; 4:8-11).

3. **The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ**

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


b. His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).


d. His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3, 2 Corinthians 5:21).


f. His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9,11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1-3).
4. The Fall of Man

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

5. The Salvation of Man

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

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

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

6. The Ordinances of the Church

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

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

7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

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

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

9. Sanctification

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

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

10. The Church and Its Mission

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

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

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

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

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

d. To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world (Psalms 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

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

a. Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3,4).

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

c. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times.
for the edifying of the body of Christ, and to care for the poor and
eedy of the world (Galatians 5:22-26; Matthew 25:37-40; Galatians
6:10; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Corinthians 12:28;
Colossians 1:29).

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our
Lord for the fourfold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) evangelization of
the world (Mark 16:15-20), (2) worship of God (John 4:23,24), (3) building a
Body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11,16),
and (4) meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Psalms
112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

12. Divine Healing

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is
provided for in the Atonement, and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah
53:4,5; Matthew 8:16,17: James 5:14-16).

13. The Blessed Hope

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation
together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is
the imminent and blessed hope of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17;
Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:51,52).

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our
blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign
on the earth for one thousand years (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27,30;
Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring the
salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37:21,22; Zephaniah 3:19,20; Romans
11:26,27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-
8; Micah 4:3,4).

15. The Final Judgment

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

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

"We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth wherein
*Under Article V, the Michigan District understands that the term “man” is used to refer to humankind and includes all people except when used in gender-specific cases.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Requirements

Minimum requirements for membership shall be as follows, or as provided by the Official Board with the approval of the Michigan Church Planting Director and ratification by the District Officiary:

a. **Born Again.** Members in this church shall be expected to give a clear testimony of having been born of the Spirit of God (John 3:3, 5-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17).

b. **Baptism in the Holy Spirit.** Members shall have received the Holy Spirit or be earnestly seeking to be baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2-4).

c. **Baptized in Water.** Members shall have followed the scriptural command to be baptized in water by immersion in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19).

d. **God's Word.** Members shall believe in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures as the Word of God and the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

e. **Holiness.** Members shall separate themselves from such worldly participation which defiles the body or corrupts the mind and spirit. They shall avoid an inordinate love of or preoccupation with pleasures, position, or possessions which lead to their misuse. They shall not manifest extreme behavior, unbecoming speech, or inappropriate appearance. They shall not hold any fascination or association which would lessen their affection for spiritual things. They shall separate themselves from the world by refraining from the reading, viewing, listening, and participation in any activity, material and/or media that would be contrary to Scripture as pertaining to holiness, righteousness, clean living, and the testimony of such to this world. They shall reflect the truth that each believer's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 21:34,35; Romans 8:5-8, 12:1-2, 14:17-18; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 18-20; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Galatians 5:18-20; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 2:8-10, 4:12; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12; Revelation 21:8).

f. **Habits.** Members shall abstain from the use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and the misuse of drugs (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

e. **Christ's Return.** Members shall earnestly cherish the hope and expectancy of the premillenial coming of the Lord Jesus (1 Thessalonians. 4:16,17).
f. **Tenets of Faith.** Members shall fully subscribe to the Tenets of Faith as set forth in the Rules of Order of this church.

i. **Cooperation.** Members shall indicate a willingness to cooperate in the work of this church, to be governed by its Rules of Order, and to contribute regularly to its financial support as the Lord may prosper.

j. **Age.** Members shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age.

k. **Application for Membership.** Applicants shall have regularly attended the services of, and supported, this church for a period of at least three consecutive months prior to the date of application of membership. Applicants shall use a form approved by the District Officiary or provided by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. **Reception of Members**

After being clearly informed of the privileges and responsibilities of membership, applicants who have been endorsed for membership by the Pastor and Official Board may publicly be received at any service and their names added to the membership roll.

Section 3. **Inactive Members**

Those who have moved from the community but have not yet transferred their membership to another church and those who for other reasons (except physical disability or temporary absence from the community) shall have absented themselves from the regular services of the church for a period of ninety (90) days or more shall be classified as inactive members by the Official Board. They shall be notified in writing of such action and shall not be qualified to participate in the business of the church.

Such inactive members may be restored to full membership following their resumption of church attendance of not less than thirty (30) days, and if they have not departed from the standard of membership of the church. Their names may be returned to the active list upon their request and by action of the Official Board without public reception into membership again.

Section 4. **Revision of Membership and Discipline of Members**

It shall be the duty of the Pastor and Official Board to revise the membership roll of the church at least once a year, and prior to all business meetings. The names of those whose lives no longer conform to the standards of membership, or who willfully cause discord within the church by word or action (Romans 16:17,18) may be removed from the membership roll by the action of the Official Board.

Written notification will be given to a member so removed. It is understood that no such action shall be taken until patient and persistent effort shall have been made to win such individuals back to the standard of faith and conduct of the church. If individuals removed from membership shall protest the action
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of the Official Board, they shall be entitled to a hearing before the District
Officiary.

Section 5. Transfer of Membership

a. Transfer to another church. A letter of transfer of membership
signed by the Pastor shall be granted upon the request of the individual
desiring the membership transfer. The letter shall be addressed to the
Pastor of the receiving church and shall state whether or not the member
is in good standing.

b. Transfer from another church. When an individual desires to
transfer membership from an Assemblies of God church to this church, a
letter of transfer of membership shall be required. The transferring
church should state whether or not the individual is in good standing.
Responsibility for accepting or rejecting the transferee shall rest with the
Official Board of this church.

Section 6. Arbitration

Inasmuch as the Scriptures require Christians to take their disputes to other
believers and not to the civil courts (1 Corinthians 6:1-8), all disputes which
may arise between any member of the church and the church itself (including
any officer or director thereof) while the individual is a member, shall be
resolved by binding arbitration if efforts to mediate or conciliate the dispute
have failed. Either party to the dispute may initiate the arbitration process by
filing with the other party a written request for arbitration within a reasonable
time after the dispute has arisen and efforts to mediate or conciliate have
failed. In such a case, the member and the church shall each name an
arbitrator, and the two so selected shall name a third. All arbitrators must be
born-again Christians, who have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit
(according to Acts 2:4) and who are members in good standing of an
Assemblies of God church. The third arbitrator chosen by the other two shall
disclose, before the appointment, any financial or personal interest in the
outcome of the arbitration, and any existing or past financial, professional,
family or social relationships which are likely to affect impartiality or might
reasonably create an appearance of partiality or bias. Either of the parties to
the arbitration, on the basis of such disclosures, may disqualify such a
candidate from serving as a third arbitrator. A third arbitrator who serves
without objection from either party has a continuing duty to disclose
relationships or interests which may impair impartiality. Either party, disregarding of the stage of the arbitration process, may, on the basis of such
disclosures, disqualify such a person from further participation. The
arbitration process shall not proceed until the third arbitrator is selected.

The arbitrators shall appoint the time and place for the hearing and cause
notification to the parties to be served personally or by registered mail not less
than five (5) days before the hearing. Appearance at the hearing waives such
notice. The arbitrators may adjourn the hearing from time to time as necessary,
and, on the request of a party and for good cause upon their own motion, may
postpone the hearing to a later date. The arbitrators may hear and determine the
controversy upon the evidence produced notwithstanding the failure of a party

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duly notified to appear. The parties are entitled to be heard, to present evidence material to the controversy, and to cross-examine witnesses appearing at the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by all arbitrators, but a majority of them may determine any question or render a final award. If, during the course of the hearing, an arbitrator for any reason ceases to act, he shall be replaced in the same manner in which he was originally selected. The arbitrators may in their absolute discretion admit as evidence any affidavit or declaration concerning the matter in dispute, a copy thereof having been given at least three (3) days previously to the party against whom the same is offered, but that person whose evidence is so taken shall be subject to cross-examination by such party. The arbitrators shall have the power to order and direct what they shall deem necessary to be done by either of the parties relating to the matters in the dispute. Costs and awards of the arbitration shall be assessed at the discretion of the arbitrators. Any submission of a dispute shall not be revoked by the death of any party to the dispute and award will be binding upon such person's heirs and successors.

The decision of the arbitrators shall be binding on both parties, and both parties shall submit themselves to the personal jurisdiction of the courts of Michigan, both state and federal, for the entry of a judgment confirming the arbitrator’s award. The arbitration process is not a substitute for any disciplinary process set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, and shall in no way affect the authority of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, to investigate reports of misconduct, conduct hearings, or administer discipline. Any matter not provided for herein shall be governed by the provisions of the Uniform Arbitration Act.

ARTICLE V. ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. Official Board and Church Officers

There shall be an annually appointed Official Board of the church as provided in these Rules of Order. The Michigan Missions and Church Planting Director shall appoint the Official Board, subject to the approval of the Church Planting and Development Board. There shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the church, and other offices as determined by the Official Board.

Section 2. Duties

a. Official Board. The Official Board shall:

1) Serve as trustees of the Corporation. Their fiduciary responsibilities shall include the duties of due care and diligence, loyalty, avoidance of self-dealing, expending designated contributions for the purposes specified, and not co-mingling personal and corporate funds.

2) Appoint a Pastor in conjunction with the District Superintendent. In making Pastoral appointments, the Official Board shall endeavor to determine how the proposed appointment will be received by the members of the church.
3) Appoint a Secretary, Treasurer, or Secretary-Treasurer. Such appointments are for one (1) year and may be renewed.
4) May appoint a local Advisory Committee as the church progresses and qualified personnel become available. Such appointments are for one (1) year and may be renewed.
5) Retain the right to remove any officer and to make new appointments as may seem advisable.

b. Pastor. The Pastor shall:
1) Be recognized as the spiritual leader of the church.
2) Have general oversight of the church and direct all its activities under the supervision of the Official Board. All other officers or committees who may be appointed shall serve under the Pastor’s supervision.
3) Serve as the chairperson of the local Advisory Committee where one exists. The Pastor, or Pastor’s designee, shall record the minutes of all Annual and Special Business Meetings and the Advisory Committee Meetings, and shall forward them to the Secretary of the Official Board.
4) In consultation with the Secretary, Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer, and the Advisory Committee where one exists, submit an annual budget to the Official Board for review and approval prior to the beginning of the church’s fiscal year.
5) Serve as the Vice-President of the Corporation. The Vice-President, with the President, shall sign all legal documents.

c. President. The President, or President’s designee, shall:
1) Serve as the chairperson of all Annual and Special Business Meetings.
2) Be a signatory on all bank accounts.
3) With the Vice-President, sign all legal documents.

d. Secretary. The Secretary shall:
1) Keep the minutes of the official meetings of the Advisory Committee where one exists, and of Annual and Special Business Meetings of the church.
2) Keep a record of the membership of the church and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of the duties of the office.
3) Be the custodian of all legal documents.
4) Sign all legal documents if the Vice-Presidency (Pastorate) is vacant.

e. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall:

1) Be the custodian of the funds of the church and deposit same in the name of the church in a financial institution approved by the Official Board.

2) Keep an accurate record of the disbursements and receipts of all departments and conduct the work of the office according to accepted methods of business.

3) Give a monthly report, and other reports as requested, to the Official Board.

4) Have the financial reports of the church reviewed at least once a year, and reviewed or audited as directed by the Pastor and Official Board, or the Michigan Missions and Church Planting Director.

f. Advisory Committee. Where one exists, the Advisory Committee shall:

1) Serve under the direction of the Pastor and Official Board. Any action taken by the Advisory Committee or by the church shall be subject to review and approval by the Official Board.

2) Meet at least six (6) times per year.

3) Qualifications of Advisory Committee members:

Minimum requirements for Advisory Committee members shall be as follows, or as provided by the Official Board with the approval of the Michigan Church Planting Director and ratification by the District Officiary:

a) Meet the minimum requirements for membership.

b) Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.

c) Be an active member of the church where membership has been established.

d) Meet the high standards that Scripture sets for leadership in regards to maturity, attitude and behavior (1 Timothy 3:8-13; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 13:17; Ephesians 4:1-3).

While we recommend that each Assemblies of God church restrict divorced and remarried believers from holding the office of elder or deacon if either marriage partner has a former spouse living, unless the divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion (2 Corinthians
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5:17), or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse’s marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15); each local church shall have the prerogative to set their own standards in the light of its understanding of Scripture.

Section 3. District Advice and Counsel

The Pastor or Official Board may seek the advice and counsel of the District Officiary at any time.

ARTICLE VI. BUSINESS MEETINGS

Section 1. Parliamentary Order

In order to expedite the work of the church and to avoid confusion in its deliberations, all business meetings shall be governed by accepted rules of parliamentary procedure as set forth in Roberts’ Rules of Order Newly Revised, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Section 2. Annual Business Meeting

There shall be an annual business meeting of the church, at which time reports shall be given and pertinent matters discussed as may be placed on the agenda by the Pastor, along with the Official Board, and the Michigan Missions and Church Planting Director. The time and date of this meeting shall be set by the Pastor and Official Board and announcement or notification shall be made at least two (2) Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.

The President, or the President’s designee, shall serve as the chairperson of the annual business meeting.

The order of business shall include:

a. Devotional.
b. Presentation of previous minutes by Secretary.
e. Unfinished business.
f. New business.

Section 3. Special Business Meetings

Special business meetings may be called by the Official Board or the Michigan Missions and Church Planting Director. Announcement or notification, including the purpose of the special meeting, shall be made at least two (2) Sundays prior to the date of the meeting, or seven (7) days notice may be given to all active members by first-class mail.
The President, or President’s designee, shall serve as the chairperson of all Special Business Meetings.

Section 4. Quorum and Voting Constituency

Active members of the church responding to a call for a regular or special business meeting who are in good standing shall constitute a quorum and shall be entitled to vote. Absentee ballots shall not be allowed.

ARTICLE VII. PROPERTY

Section 1. Incorporation

The church shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan. Its property shall be held in its corporate name subject to the provisions in Article VII, Section 3 of these Rules of Order. If, on the acquisition of property or the construction of a building, the church shall require the signatures and credit of the Michigan District, the church’s property shall be held in the name of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, until such time as the debt shall be retired.

Section 2. Right to Own

No real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other property of whatever kind, of the church in excess of a fair market value of $10,000, shall be taken, or sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated, without the same having been authorized by the Official Board. In making such decisions, the Official Board shall endeavor to determine how the proposed action will be received by the members of the church.

Section 3. Property Rights

Notwithstanding language to the contrary in these Rules of Order, if the Presbyter Board determines, in its sole and unrestricted discretion, that a church has ceased to be a viable church, or no longer adheres to Assemblies of God doctrine and practices, then the Presbyter Board shall have the option to take possession of and full title to all real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other property of whatever kind of the church on behalf of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, an ecclesiastical corporation organized under the law of the State of Michigan with headquarters in Farmington Hills. It is the parent body for Assemblies of God churches in Michigan and is an integral part of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, whose national headquarters is in Springfield, Missouri, organized exclusively to operate for religious purposes with tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Assemblies of God, Michigan District, shall forthwith have full authority to use or dispose of the property at the discretion of the Presbyter Board. All written pre-affiliation agreements between the District and other entities will be honored. Proceeds from the sale or rental of any property under this provision shall be used by the Michigan Missions and Church Planting Ministries Department, or to help purchase land and/or buildings for District Supervised or District Advanced churches at the discretion of the Presbyter Board.
ARTICLE VIII. DEPARTMENTS

All departments and department leaders shall be under the direct supervision of the Pastor who may personally direct their activities. The Pastor may, in consultation with the Official Board or Advisory Committee, where one exists, appoint competent leaders as deemed advisable.

ARTICLE IX. REPRESENTATION

This Home Missions church shall be represented at each District and Sectional Council by its Pastor.

ARTICLE X. DEVELOPMENT

The Pastor will endeavor to develop the church to a place of maturity where it may be advanced in its classification. Advancement shall be upon the recommendation of the Church Planting and Development Board in accordance with provisions of the District Bylaws. When said advancement is approved by the District Presbyter Board, the church shall be governed by the appropriate Rules of Order or its own Bylaws.
RULES OF ORDER
FOR
DISTRICT SUPERVISED CHURCHES

The following Rules of Order are approved by the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, for District Supervised Churches [District Bylaws, Article VII, Section 7, subsection g; Article IX, Section 1, subsection a].

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this church shall be ________________________________.

ARTICLE II. AFFILIATION

This church shall be affiliated with the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, as a District Supervised Church. It shall be under the general supervision of the District Officiary, and under the immediate supervision of the District Supervised Church Director or the Director’s designee, who shall then have the full authority to act on behalf of the Director, according to the provisions of the District Constitution and Bylaws and these Rules of Order.

ARTICLE III. TENETS OF FAITH

This church shall accept the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God, the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice; and, for the purpose of maintaining the general unity, adopt the Statement of Fundamental Truths approved by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS*

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

1. The Scriptures Inspired

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

2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth, and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).
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 Ghost, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).

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

d. Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are never identical as to person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the godhead; nor opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father as to authority. The Holy Ghost is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation, and authority. Hence, 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 Ghost. 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 Ghost that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow
our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father
until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God may be
all in all (Hebrews 1:3; 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 Ghost to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes
deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names
and titles of the godhead except those which express relationship (see
paragraphs b, c, and d), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father
(John 5:22,23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2:8,9; Revelation
7:9,10; 4:8-11).

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ
The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare:
b. His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).
d. His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3, 2 Corinthians
5:21).
e. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1
Corinthians 15:4).
f. His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9,11; 2:33; Philippians.
2:9-11; Hebrews 1-3).
4. The Fall of Man

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

5. The Salvation of Man

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

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

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

6. The Ordinances of the Church

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

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

7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

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

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

9. Sanctification

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

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

10. The Church and Its Mission

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

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

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

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

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

d. To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world (Psalms 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

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

a. Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3, 4).

b. Adds a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12:14).
c. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in
expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times
for the edifying of the body of Christ, and 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).

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) in building
a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16),
and (4) meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Psalms
112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

12. Divine Healing

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is
provided for in the Atonement, and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah
53:4,5; Matthew 8:16,17; James 5:14-16).

13. The Blessed Hope

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation
together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is
the imminent and blessed hope of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17;
Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:51,52).

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our
blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign
on the earth for one thousand years (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27,30;
Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring the
salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37:21,22; Zephaniah 3:19,20; Romans
11:26,27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-
8; Micah 4:3,4).

15. The Final Judgment

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

*Under Article V, the Michigan District understands that the term “man” is used to refer to humankind and includes all people except when used in gender-specific cases.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Requirements

Minimum requirements for membership shall be as follows or as provided by the Official Board with the approval of the District Supervised Church Director and ratification by the District Officiary:

a. Born Again. Members in this church shall be expected to give a clear testimony of having been born of the Spirit of God (John 3:3, 5-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17).

b. Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Members shall have received the Holy Spirit or be earnestly seeking to be baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2-4).

c. Baptized in Water. Members shall have followed the scriptural command to be baptized in water by immersion in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19).

d. God's Word. Members shall believe in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures as the Word of God and the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

e. Holiness. Members shall separate themselves from such worldly participation which defiles the body or corrupts the mind and spirit. They shall avoid an inordinate love of or preoccupation with pleasures, position, or possessions which lead to their misuse. They shall not manifest extreme behavior, unbecoming speech, or inappropriate appearance. They shall not hold any fascination or association which would lessen their affection for spiritual things. They shall separate themselves from the world by refraining from the reading, viewing, listening, and participation in any activity, material and/or media that would be contrary to Scripture as pertaining to holiness, righteousness, clean living, and the testimony of such to this world. They shall reflect the truth that each believer's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 21:34,35; Romans 8:5-8, 12:1-2, 14:17-18; 1 Corinthians. 6:9-10, 18-20; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Galatians 5:18-20; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 2:8-10, 4:12; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12; Revelation 21:8).
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f. **Habits.** Members shall abstain from the use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and the misuse of drugs (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

g. **Christ's Return.** Members shall earnestly cherish the hope and expectancy of the premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17).

h. **Tenets of Faith.** Members shall fully subscribe to the Tenets of Faith as set forth in the Rules of Order of this church.

i. **Cooperation.** Members shall indicate a willingness to cooperate in the work of this church, to be governed by its Rules of Order, and to contribute regularly to its financial support as the Lord may prosper.

j. **Age.** Members shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age.

k. **Application for Membership.** Applicants shall have regularly attended the services of, and supported, this church for a period of at least three (3) consecutive months prior to the date of application for membership. Applicants shall use a form provided by the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, or provided by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

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Section 2. **Reception of Members**

After being clearly informed of the privileges and responsibilities of membership, applicants who have been endorsed for membership by the Pastor and Official Board and have been approved by the District Supervised Church Director or the Director’s designee, may publicly be received at any service and their names added to the membership roll. No applicant for membership shall be accepted as a member within thirty (30) days before an annual or special business meeting.

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Section 3. **Inactive Members**

Those who have moved from the community but have not yet transferred their membership to another church, and those who for other reasons (except physical disability or temporary absence from the community), shall have absented themselves from the regular services of the church for a period of ninety (90) days or more shall be classified as inactive members by the Pastor and Official Board. They shall be notified in writing of such action and shall not be qualified to participate in the business of the church.

Such inactive members may be restored to full membership following their resumption of church attendance of not less than thirty (30) days, and if they have not departed from the standard of membership of the church. Their names may be returned to the active list upon their request and by action of the Official Board and the District Supervised Church Director or the Director’s designee without public reception into membership again.
Section 4. Revision of Membership and Discipline of Members

It shall be the duty of the Pastor and Official Board, where Deacons have been appointed, and the District Supervised Director or the Director’s designee to revise the membership roll of the church at least once a year and prior to all business meetings.

The names of those whose lives no longer conform to the standards of membership, or who willfully cause discord within the church by word or action (Romans 16:17,18) may be removed from the membership roll by the action of the Pastor and Official Board. Written notification will be given to a member so removed. It is understood that no such action shall be taken until patient and persistent effort shall have been made to win such individuals back to the standard of faith and conduct of the church. If individuals removed from membership shall protest the action of the District Supervised Church Director or the Director’s designee, they shall be entitled to a hearing before the District Officiary.

Section 5. Transfer of Membership

a. Transfer to another church. A letter of transfer of membership signed by the Pastor shall be granted upon the request of the individual desiring the membership transfer. The letter shall be addressed to the Pastor of the receiving church and shall state whether or not the member is in good standing.

b. Transfer from another church. When an individual desires to transfer membership from an Assemblies of God church to this church, a letter of transfer of membership shall be required. The transferring church should state whether or not the individual is in good standing. Responsibility for accepting or rejecting the transferee shall rest with the Official Board of this church.

Section 6. Arbitration

Inasmuch as the Scriptures require Christians to take their disputes to other believers and not to the civil courts (1 Corinthians 6:1-8), all disputes which may arise between any member of the church and the church itself (including any officer or director thereof), while he or she is a member, shall be resolved by binding arbitration if efforts to mediate or conciliate the dispute have failed. Either party to the dispute may initiate the arbitration process by filing with the other party a written request for arbitration within a reasonable time after the dispute has arisen and efforts to mediate or conciliate have failed. In such a case, the member and the church shall each name an arbitrator, and the two so selected shall name a third. All arbitrators must be born-again Christians, who have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit (according to Acts 2:4) and who are members in good standing of an Assemblies of God church. The third arbitrator chosen by the other two shall disclose, before the appointment, any financial or personal interest in the outcome of the arbitration, and any existing or past financial, professional, family or social relationships which are likely to affect impartiality or might reasonably create an appearance of partiality or bias. Either of the parties to the arbitration, on the basis of such disclosures,
may disqualify such a candidate from serving as a third arbitrator. A third arbitrator who serves without objection from either party has a continuing duty to disclose relationships or interests which may impair impartiality. Either party, regardless of the stage of the arbitration process, may, on the basis of such disclosures, disqualify such a person from further participation. The arbitration process shall not proceed until the third arbitrator is selected.

The arbitrators shall appoint the time and place for the hearing and cause notification to the parties to be served personally or by registered mail not less than five (5) days before the hearing. Appearance at the hearing waives such notice. The arbitrators may adjourn the hearing from time to time as necessary, and, on the request of a party and for good cause upon their own motion, may postpone the hearing to a later date. The arbitrators may hear and determine the controversy upon the evidence produced notwithstanding the failure of a party duly notified to appear. The parties are entitled to be heard, to present evidence material to the controversy, and to cross-examine witnesses appearing at the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by all arbitrators, but a majority of them may determine any question or render a final award. If, during the course of the hearing, an arbitrator for any reason ceases to act, the arbitrator shall be replaced in the same manner in which the arbitrator was originally selected. The arbitrators may, in their absolute discretion, admit as evidence any affidavit or declaration concerning the matter in dispute, a copy thereof having been given at least three (3) days previously to the party against whom the same is offered, but that person whose evidence is so taken shall be subject to cross-examination by such party. The arbitrators shall have the power to order and direct what they shall deem necessary to be done by either of the parties relating to the matters in the dispute. Costs and awards of the arbitration shall be assessed at the discretion of the arbitrators, who may award by and whom they shall be paid. Any submission of a dispute shall not be revoked by the death of any party to the dispute and award will be binding upon such person’s heirs and successors.

The decision of the arbitrators shall be binding on both parties, and both parties shall submit themselves to the personal jurisdiction of the courts of Michigan, both state and federal, for the entry of a judgment confirming the arbitrator’s award. The arbitration process is not a substitute for any disciplinary process set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, and shall in no way affect the authority of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, to investigate reports of misconduct, conduct hearings, or administer discipline. Any matter not provided for herein shall be governed by the provisions of the Uniform Arbitration Act.

**ARTICLE V. ADMINISTRATION**

**Section 1. Official Board**

The Pastor of the church and the Deacons shall serve as the Official Board of the church. The District Supervised Church Director shall be an ex-officio member of the Official Board.
Section 2. Officers

The officers of the church are the District Supervised Church Director or the Director’s designee, the Pastor of the church, the Deacons, the Secretary, and the Treasurer of the church.

Section 3. Appointments

a. The District Officiary shall appoint a Pastor. In making Pastoral appointments, the District Officiary shall endeavor to determine how the proposed appointment will be received by the members of the church.

b. The District Supervised Church Director or the Director’s designee in conjunction with the Pastor may appoint Deacons as the church progresses and qualified personnel become available. Such appointments are for one (1) year and may be renewed.

c. The District Supervised Church Director or the Director’s designee in conjunction with the Pastor shall appoint a Secretary, Treasurer, or a Secretary-Treasurer. Such appointments are for one (1) year and may be renewed.

Section 4. Qualifications of Deacons and Officers

Minimum requirements for Deacons and officers shall be as follows, or as provided by the Official Board with the approval of the District Supervised Church Director and ratification by the District Officiary:

a. Meet the minimum requirements for membership.

b. Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.

c. Have been an active member of the church for at least one (1) year.

d. Meet the high standards that Scripture sets for leadership in regards to maturity, attitude and behavior (1 Timothy 3:8-13; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 13:17; Ephesians 4:1-3).

While we recommend that each Assemblies of God church restrict divorced and remarried believers from holding the office of elder or deacon if either marriage partner has a former spouse living, unless the divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17), or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse’s marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15); each local church shall have the prerogative to set their own standards in the light of its understanding of Scripture.

e. The District Supervised Church Director may, at the Director’s discretion and in the best interests of the church, appoint non-members to the Official Board.
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The District Supervised Church Director may, at the Director’s discretion and in the best interests of the church, retain otherwise non-qualified members who are currently serving on the advisory committee at the time of the adoption of these Rules of Order, to serve on the Official Board.

Section 5. Duties of Deacons, Officers and Boards

a. Pastor. The Pastor shall:

1) Be recognized as the spiritual leader of the church.
2) Have general oversight of the church and shall direct all its activities under the supervision of the District Supervised Church Director or the Director’s designee. The pastor shall also be amenable to the counsel of the District Supervised Church Director or Director’s designee. All other officers or committees who may be appointed shall serve under the Pastor’s supervision.
3) Serve as chairperson of the Official Board.
4) In consultation with the Deacons, prepare an annual budget and submit it to the District Supervised Church Director or the Director’s designee for review and approval prior to the beginning of the church’s fiscal year.
5) Serve as Vice-President of the Corporation. The Vice-President, with the President, shall sign all legal documents.

b. Official Board. The Official Board shall:

1) Meet no less than six (6) times a year, upon the call of the Pastor.
2) Authorize any non-budgeted church expenditure up to $10,000 with the approval of the District Supervised Church Director or the Director’s designee.

c. Secretary. The Secretary shall:

1) Keep the minutes of the meetings of the Official Board and of the annual and special business meetings of the church.
2) Keep a record of the membership of the church and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of the duties of the office.
3) Be the custodian of all legal documents and be responsible to forward copies to the District Secretary.
4) Sign all legal documents if the Vice-Presidency (Pastorate) is vacant.

d. **Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall:

1) Be the custodian of the funds of the church and deposit same in the name of the church in a financial institution approved by the Official Board.

2) Keep an accurate record of the disbursements and receipts of all departments and conduct the work of the office according to accepted methods of business.

3) Give a monthly report, and other reports as requested, to the Official Board and District Supervised Church Director or Director’s designee.

4) Have the financial reports of the church reviewed at least once a year, and reviewed or audited as directed by the Pastor and Deacons, District Supervised Church Director, or District Officiary.

e. **Deacons.** The Deacons shall:

1) Serve as the trustees of the Corporation. Their fiduciary responsibilities shall include the duties of due care and diligence, loyalty, avoidance of self-dealing, expending designated contributions for the purposes specified, and not co-mingling personal and corporate funds.

2) Serve in an advisory capacity to the Pastor in matters pertaining to the life of the church.

3) Assist the Pastor in such matters as the Pastor may request.

f. **District Supervised Church Director.** The District Supervised Church Director, or the Director’s designee shall:

1) Serve as President of the Corporation.

2) Be a signatory on all bank accounts.

3) With the Vice-President, sign all legal documents.

4) Serve as chairperson or designate a chairperson for all business meetings.

All officers shall serve under the direction of the District Supervised Church Director. Any action taken by the officers or by the church shall be subject to review and approval by the District Supervised Church Director and District Officiary,
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who shall also be recognized as having the right to remove any
officer or make new appointments as may seem advisable.

Section 6. District Advice and Counsel

The Pastor or Deacons of the church may seek the advice and counsel of the
District Officiary at any time.

ARTICLE VI. BUSINESS MEETINGS

Section 1. Parliamentary Order

In order to expedite the work of the church and to avoid confusion in its
deliberations, all business meetings shall be governed by accepted rules of
parliamentary procedure as set forth in *Roberts’ Rules of Order Newly
Revised*, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship under the
guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Section 2. Annual Business Meeting

There shall be an annual business meeting of the church, at which time reports
shall be given and pertinent matters discussed as may be placed on the agenda
by the Pastor, along with the Deacons, and the District Supervised Church
Director or the Director’s designee. The time and date of this meeting shall be
set by the District Supervised Church Director or the Director’s designee and
announcement or notification shall be made at least two (2) Sundays prior to
the date of the meeting.

The President, or the President’s designee, shall serve as the chairperson of the
annual business meeting.

The order of business shall include:

a. Devotional.
   b. Presentation of previous minutes by Secretary.
   e. Unfinished business.
   f. New business.

Section 3. Special Business Meetings

Special business meetings may be called by the Pastor and District Supervised
Church Director or the Director’s designee, or by petition signed by not less
than twenty-percent (20%) of the active members of the church.
Announcement or notification, including the purpose of the special meeting,
shall be made at least two (2) Sundays prior to the date of the meeting, or
seven (7) days notice may be given to all active members by first-class mail.

The President, or the President’s designee, shall serve as the chairperson of all
Special Business Meetings.
Section 4. Quorum and Voting Constituency

Active members of the church responding to a call for a regular or special business meeting who are in good standing shall constitute a quorum and shall be entitled to vote. Absentee ballots shall not be allowed.

ARTICLE VII. PROPERTY

Section 1. Incorporation

The church shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan. Its property shall be held in its corporate name subject to the provisions in Article VII, Section 4. If, on the acquisition of property or the construction of a building, the church shall require the signatures and credit of the Michigan District, the church's property shall be held in the name of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, until such time as the debt shall be retired.

Section 2. Right to Own

No real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other property of whatever kind, of the church in excess of a fair market value of $10,000, shall be taken, or sold, leased, mortgaged or otherwise alienated, without the same having been authorized by the District Presbyter Board and at least a two-thirds majority vote of the membership present at any duly called business meeting. The proposed action shall be announced in the notice of the business meeting.

Section 3. Certification

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

Section 4. Property Rights

Notwithstanding language to the contrary in these Rules of Order, if the Presbyter Board determines, in its sole and unrestricted discretion, that a church has ceased to be a viable church, or no longer adheres to Assemblies of God doctrine and practices, then the Presbyter Board shall have the option to take possession of and full title to all real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other property of whatever kind of the church on behalf of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, an ecclesiastical corporation organized under the laws of the State of Michigan with headquarters in Farmington Hills. It is the parent body for Assemblies of God churches in Michigan and is an integral part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, whose national headquarters is in Springfield, Missouri, organized exclusively to operate for religious purposes with tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Assemblies of God, Michigan District, shall forthwith have full authority to use or dispose of the property at the discretion of the Presbyter Board. Proceeds from the sale or rental of any property under this provision shall be used by the Michigan Missions and Church Planting Ministries Department, or to help purchase land and/or buildings for District...
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Supervised or District Advanced Churches at the discretion of the Presbyter Board.

ARTICLE VIII. DEPARTMENTS

All departments and department leaders shall be under the direct supervision of the Pastor who may personally direct their activities. The Pastor may, in consultation with the Deacons, appoint competent leaders as deemed advisable.

ARTICLE IX. REPRESENTATION

This District Supervised Church shall be entitled to send one (1) lay delegate to each District and Sectional Council in addition to its Pastor.

ARTICLE X. DEVELOPMENT

The Pastor will endeavor to develop the church to a place of maturity where it may be advanced in its classification. Advancement shall be upon the recommendation of the District Supervised Church Director in accordance with provisions of the District Bylaws. When said advancement is approved by the District Presbyter Board, the church shall be governed by the appropriate Rules of Order or Bylaws.
RULES OF ORDER
FOR
DISTRICT ADVANCED CHURCHES

The following Rules of Order are approved by the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, for District Advanced churches [District Bylaws, Article VII, Section 7, subsection g; Article IX, Section 1, subsection a].

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this church shall be _____________________________.

ARTICLE II. AFFILIATION

This church shall be affiliated with the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, as a District Advanced church. It shall be under the general supervision of the District Officiary, according to the provisions of the District Constitution and Bylaws and these Rules of Order.

ARTICLE III. TENETS OF FAITH

This church shall accept the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God, the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice; and, for the purpose of maintaining the general unity, adopt the Statement of Fundamental Truths approved by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS*

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

1. The Scriptures Inspired

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

2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth, and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).
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 Ghost, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode, is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).

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

d. Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are never identical as to person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the godhead; nor opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father as to authority. The Holy Ghost is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation, and authority. Hence, 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 Ghost. 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 Ghost that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God may be all in all (Hebrews 1:3; 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 Ghost to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the godhead except those which express relationship (see paragraphs b, c, and d), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22,23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2:8,9; Revelation 7:9,10; 4:8-11).

3. **The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ**

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

b. His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).
d. His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3, 2 Corinthians 5:21).
f. His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9,11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1-3).
4. The Fall of Man

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

5. The Salvation of Man

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

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

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

6. The Ordinances of the Church

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

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

7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

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

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

9. Sanctification

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

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

10. The Church and Its Mission

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

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

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

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

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

d. To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world (Psalms 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

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

a. Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3,4).

b. Adds a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12-14).
c. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ and 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).

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) in building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16) and (4) meeting human need with ministries of love and compassions (Psalms 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

12. Divine Healing

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the Atonement, and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4,5; Matthew 8:16,17; James 5:14-16).

13. The Blessed Hope

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:51,52).

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27,30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37:21,22; Zephaniah 3:19,20; Romans 11:26,27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-8; Micah 4:3,4).

15. The Final Judgment

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

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

"We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:22).
*Under Article V, the Michigan District understands that the term “man” is used to refer to humankind and includes all people except when used in gender-specific cases.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Requirements

Minimum requirements for membership shall be as follows or as provided by the Official Board with the approval of the District Officiary:

1. **Born Again.** Members in this church shall be expected to give a clear testimony of having been born of the Spirit of God (John 3:3, 5-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17).

2. **Baptism in the Holy Spirit.** Members shall have received the Holy Spirit or be earnestly seeking to be baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2-4).

3. **Baptized in Water.** Members shall have followed the scriptural command to be baptized in water by immersion in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19).

4. **God's Word.** Members shall believe in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures as the Word of God and the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

5. **Holiness.** Members shall separate themselves from such worldly participation which defiles the body or corrupts the mind and spirit. They shall avoid an inordinate love of or preoccupation with pleasures, position, or possessions which lead to their misuse. They shall not manifest extreme behavior, unbecoming speech, or inappropriate appearance. They shall not hold any fascination or association which would lessen their affection for spiritual things. They shall separate themselves from the world by refraining from the reading, viewing, listening, and participation in any activity, material and/or media that would be contrary to Scripture as pertaining to holiness, righteousness, clean living, and the testimony of such to this world. They shall reflect the truth that each believer's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 21:34,35; Romans 8:5-8, 12:1-2, 14:17-18; 1 Corinthians. 6:9-10, 18-20; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Galatians 5:18-20; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 2:8-10, 4:12; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12; Revelation 21:8).

6. **Habits.** Members shall abstain from the use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and the misuse of drugs (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

7. **Christ's Return.** Members shall earnestly cherish the hope and expectancy of the premillenial coming of the Lord Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17).
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h. Tenets of Faith. Members shall fully subscribe to the Tenets of Faith as set forth in the Bylaws of this church.

i. Cooperation. Members shall indicate a willingness to cooperate in the work of this church, to be governed by its Bylaws, and to contribute regularly to its financial support as the Lord may prosper.

j. Age. Members shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age.

k. Application for Membership. Applicants shall have regularly attended the services of, and supported, this church for a period of at least three (3) consecutive months prior to the date of application for membership. Applicants shall use a form provided by the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, or provided by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Reception of Members

After being clearly informed of the privileges and responsibilities of membership, applicants who have been endorsed for membership by the Pastor and Official Board may publicly be received at any service and their names added to the membership roll.

Section 3. Pastor and Spouse

The Pastor and Pastor’s spouse shall be considered active voting members of the church during the tenure of the Pastor.

Section 4. Inactive Members

Those who have moved from the community but have not yet transferred their membership to another church and those who for other reasons (except physical disability or temporary absence from the community) shall have absented themselves from the regular services of the church for a period of ninety (90) days or more shall be classified as inactive members by the Official Board. They shall be notified in writing of such action and shall not be qualified to participate in the business of the church.

Such inactive members may be restored to full membership following their resumption of church attendance of not less than thirty (30) days, and if they have not departed from the standard of membership of the church. Their names may be returned to the active list upon their request and by action of the Official Board without public reception into membership again.

Section 5. Revision of Membership and Discipline of Members

It shall be the duty of the Pastor and Official Board to revise the membership roll of the church at least once a year and prior to all business meetings. The names of those whose lives no longer conform to the standards of membership, or who willfully cause discord within the church by word or action (Romans 16:17,18) may be removed from the membership roll by action of the Official Board.
Written notification will be given to a member so removed. It is understood that no such action shall be taken until patient and persistent effort shall have been made to win such individuals back to the standard of faith and conduct of the church.

An individual removed from membership may appeal the action by presenting a written request to the secretary of the Official Board for a hearing before the active membership of the church at a business meeting called for that specific purpose. Such meeting shall take place within sixty (60) days of the request being received by the secretary and a majority vote of the active members at the meeting shall be considered final.

Upon receipt of the appeal by the secretary, the Pastor and/or Official Board shall notify the District Superintendent for counsel. The Superintendent, or the Superintendent’s designee, shall chair the business meeting at which the appeal will be presented. Other than the Superintendent, or the Superintendent’s designee, only active members of the church shall be permitted to attend such a business meeting. Others may attend the business meeting at the discretion of the Superintendent or Superintendent’s designee in consultation with the Official Board of the church.

Section 6  Transfer of Membership

a. Transfer to another church. A letter of transfer of membership signed by the Pastor shall be granted upon the request of the individual desiring the membership transfer. The letter shall be addressed to the Pastor of the receiving church and shall state whether or not the member is in good standing.

b. Transfer from another church. When an individual desires to transfer membership to this church from another Assemblies of God church, a letter of transfer of membership shall be required. The transferring church should state whether or not the individual is in good standing. Responsibility for accepting or rejecting the transferee shall rest with the Official Board of this church.

Section 7.  Arbitration

Inasmuch as the Scriptures require Christians to take their disputes to other believers and not to the civil courts (1 Corinthians 6:1-8), all disputes which may arise between any member of the church and the church itself (including any officer or director thereof), while the individual is a member, shall be resolved by binding arbitration if efforts to mediate or conciliate the dispute have failed. Either party to the dispute may initiate the arbitration process by filing with the other party a written request for arbitration within a reasonable time after the dispute has arisen and efforts to mediate or conciliate have failed. In such a case, the member and the church shall each name an arbitrator, and the two so selected shall name a third. All arbitrators must be born-again Christians, who have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit (according to Acts 2:4) and who are members in good standing of an Assemblies of God church. The third arbitrator chosen by the other two shall disclose, before the appointment, any financial or personal interest in the
outcome of the arbitration, and any existing or past financial, professional, family or social relationships which are likely to affect impartiality or might reasonably create an appearance of partiality or bias. Either of the parties to the arbitration, on the basis of such disclosures, may disqualify such a candidate from serving as a third arbitrator. A third arbitrator who serves without objection from either party has a continuing duty to disclose relationships or interests which may impair impartiality. Either party, regardless of the stage of the arbitration process, may, on the basis of such disclosures, disqualify such a person from further participation. The arbitration process shall not proceed until the third arbitrator is selected.

The arbitrators shall appoint the time and place for the hearing and cause notification to the parties to be served personally or by registered mail not less than five (5) days before the hearing. Appearance at the hearing waives such notice. The arbitrators may adjourn the hearing from time to time as necessary, and, on the request of a party and for good cause upon their own motion, may postpone the hearing to a later date. The arbitrators may hear and determine the controversy upon the evidence produced notwithstanding the failure of a party duly notified to appear. The parties are entitled to be heard, to present evidence material to the controversy, and to cross-examine witnesses appearing at the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by all arbitrators, but a majority of them may determine any question or render a final award. If, during the course of the hearing, an arbitrator for any reason ceases to act, the arbitrator shall be replaced in the same manner in which the arbitrator was originally selected. The arbitrators may, in their absolute discretion admit as evidence any affidavit or declaration concerning the matter in dispute, a copy thereof having been given at least three (3) days previously to the party against whom the same is offered, but that person whose evidence is so taken shall be subject to cross-examination by such party. The arbitrators shall have the power to order and direct what they shall deem necessary to be done by either of the parties relating to the matters in the dispute. Costs and awards of the arbitration shall be assessed at the discretion of the arbitrators. Any submission of a dispute shall not be revoked by the death of any party to the dispute and award will be binding upon such person’s heirs and successors.

The decision of the arbitrators shall be binding on both parties, and both parties shall submit themselves to the personal jurisdiction of the courts of Michigan, both state and federal, for the entry of a judgment confirming the arbitrator’s award. The arbitration process is not a substitute for any disciplinary process set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, and shall in no way affect the authority of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, to investigate reports of misconduct, conduct hearings, or administer discipline. Any matter not provided for in herein shall be governed by the provisions of the Uniform Arbitration Act.
ARTICLE V. ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. Official Board and Church Officers

The Official Board shall consist of the Pastor, a Board of Deacons, a Secretary and a Treasurer (or a Secretary-Treasurer). Other officers may be added as may be needed.

Section 2. Duties

a. Official Board. The Official Board shall:

1) Serve as the trustees of the corporation. Their fiduciary responsibilities shall include the duties of due care and diligence, loyalty, avoiding conflicts of interests, expending designated contributions for the purposes specified, and not co-mingling personal and corporate funds.

2) Act as in the examination of applications for membership and in the administration of discipline. They shall review the membership list at least annually and prior to all business meetings.

3) Meet at least monthly, and at the call of the Pastor, who shall determine the time and place. A majority of the Official Board members present shall constitute a quorum.

b. Pastor. The Pastor shall:

1) Be a credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God and be in good standing with the District and General Councils.

2) Be recognized as the spiritual leader of the church.

3) Have general oversight of the church and shall direct all its activities in conjunction with the Official Board. All other officers or committees who may be appointed shall serve under the Pastor’s supervision. The Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

4) Provide for all the services of the church and arrange for all special speakers and meetings; no person shall be invited to speak, preach, or minister in the church without the Pastor’s approval, except where provided for elsewhere in these Rules or Order or the Bylaws of The General Council or Michigan District.

5) Be the President of the Corporation. With the secretary, sign all legal documents on behalf of the church.
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6) Act as chairperson of the Official Board and as chairperson of all business meetings of the church, except as otherwise provided.

7) Serve as the chairperson of the nominating committee for the selection of deacon nominees.

c. Deacons. There shall be _____ (minimum of three (3) Deacons. The Deacons shall:

1) Function under the leadership of the Pastor. They are to assist the Pastor and make themselves available for advice and counsel.

2) Serve for the good of the church and handle the routine and administrative business of the church as directed by the Pastor, except in matters otherwise specified in these Rules of Order.

3) Serve as the Pulpit Committee in the case of the pastorate becoming vacant. They shall contact the District Superintendent as soon as the vacancy occurs and work in conjunction with the Superintendent. In the event a deacon’s term ends during a Pastoral search, the deacon will continue to serve on the Pulpit Committee, along with any newly elected deacons, until a Pastor is elected.

d. Secretary. The Secretary shall:

1) Keep the minutes of the meetings of the Official Board and of the annual and special business meetings of the church.

2) Keep a record of the membership of the church and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of the duties of the office.

3) Be the custodian of all legal documents.

4) With the President, sign all legal documents on behalf of the church. In the case the pastorate is vacant, be authorized to sign all legal documents as directed by majority vote of the Official Board.

5) File annual corporation reports with the Secretary of State as required by State law.

d. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall:

1) Be the custodian of the funds of the church and deposit same in the name of the church in a financial institution approved by the Official Board.
2) Keep an accurate record of the disbursements and receipts of all departments and conduct the work of the office according to accepted methods of business.

3) Give a monthly report and other reports as requested to the Official Board; present an annual report to the church at its annual business meeting.

4) Have the financial reports of the church reviewed at least once a year and reviewed or audited as directed by the Pastor or Official Board.

Section 3. Qualifications of Officers

The minimum requirements for Officers shall be:

a. Meet the minimum requirements for membership.

b. Be at least 21 years of age.

c. Be an active member of the church for at least one (1) year prior to election.

d. Meet the high standards that Scripture sets for leadership in regards to maturity, attitude and behavior (1 Timothy 3:8-13; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 13:17; Ephesians 4:1-3).

While we recommend that each Assemblies of God church restrict divorced and remarried believers from holding the office of elder or deacon if either marriage partner has a former spouse living, unless the divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17), or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse’s marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15); each local church shall have the prerogative to set their own standards in the light of its understanding of Scripture.

No individual, other than the Pastor, can be a member of the Official Board if that individual is a credentialed minister.

ARTICLE VI. ELECTIONS, VACANCIES AND REMOVALS

Section 1. Elections

a. Pastor

1) The pastor shall be nominated in the following manner:

The pastor shall be nominated by the Pulpit Committee. Recommendations may be made to the church board by any member of the church but the approval of the District Superintendent shall be required before any nominee is contacted.
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2) The pastor shall be elected to serve for an indefinite period of time.

3) Election shall be by secret ballot at the annual business meeting of the church or at a special business meeting called for that purpose. Only one (1) candidate shall be considered at a time.

4) A two-thirds majority vote of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election.

b. Deacons

1) Deacons shall be nominated by a Nominating Committee in accordance with Article VI, Section 2 of these Bylaws.

2) Deacons shall be elected by secret ballot by a majority vote at the annual business meeting of the church or at a special business meeting called for that purpose.

When a nominee receives a majority of all votes cast, the individual shall be declared elected. If a majority for each office shall not have been reached by the first three ballots, all nominees except those receiving the highest number of votes shall be eliminated from further balloting. The number of nominees remaining shall be determined by the number of open offices plus one additional nominee.

3) Deacons shall be elected for three (3) year terms with their terms being staggered appropriately. A deacon may only serve two (2) consecutive three (3) year terms and then be eligible for election again after one (1) year. If a deacon has been previously elected or appointed to serve a vacated, partial term, the individual shall be eligible to serve two (2) full consecutive terms.

c. Secretary

1) The secretary shall meet the minimum requirements for Officers (Article V., Section 3).

(Note: The local church must choose from among the following procedures for selecting a secretary, but must choose only one):

2) The secretary shall be elected by the Official Board. The term of office shall be one (1) year and the secretary may serve up to six (6) consecutive terms and then be eligible for election again after one (1) year.

or

2) The secretary shall be elected in the same manner as the deacons and shall have the same term of office.

or
2) The secretary shall be elected by the Official Board from among the voting members of the church and ratified by majority vote at a duly authorized business meeting. The term of office shall be one (1) year and the secretary may serve up to six (6) consecutive terms and then be eligible for election again after one (1) year.

d. Treasurer

1) The treasurer shall meet the minimum requirements for Officers (Article V., Section 3).

(Note: The local church must choose from among the following procedures for selecting a treasurer, but must choose only one):

2) The treasurer shall be elected by the Official Board. The term of office shall be one (1) year, and the treasurer may serve up to six (6) consecutive terms and then be eligible for election again after one (1) year.

or

2) The treasurer shall be elected in the same manner as the deacons and shall have the same term of office.

or

2) The treasurer shall be elected by the Official Board from among the voting members of the church and ratified by majority vote at a duly authorized business meeting. The term of office shall be one (1) year and the treasurer may serve up to six (6) consecutive terms and then be eligible for election again after one (1) year.

Section 2. Nominating Committee

a. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five (5) active members of the church in good standing appointed by the Pastor and ratified by the Official Board.

b. The Pastor shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Nominating Committee and serve as the chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

c. The Nominating Committee shall consider names for all offices, except the Pastorate, submitted to it by the active members of the church.
Section 6. Vacancies and Removals

a. Any office, other than that of Pastor, shall become vacant:

1) Upon the death of the officeholder.

2) Upon the resignation of the officeholder.

3) If the officeholder ceases to meet the requirements for election to the office.

4) If the officeholder is removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Official Board due to the departure from the Tenets of Faith, declared open change in doctrinal views, moral depravity, mental or physical incapacity, dereliction of duty or any good and sufficient cause.

An individual removed from an office may appeal the action by presenting a written request to the secretary of the Official Board for a hearing before the active membership of the church at a business meeting called for that specific purpose. Such meeting shall take place within sixty (60) days of the request being received by the secretary. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the active members at the meeting shall be considered final.

Upon the receipt of the appeal by the secretary, the Official Board shall notify the District Superintendent for counsel. The Superintendent, or the Superintendent’s designee, shall chair the business meeting at which the appeal will be presented. Other than the Superintendent, or the Superintendent’s designee, only active voting members of the church shall be permitted to attend such a business meeting. Others may attend at the discretion of the Superintendent or Superintendent’s designee in consultation with the Official Board of the church.

b. Pastor. The office of Pastor shall become vacant:

1) Upon the death of the Pastor.

2) Upon the resignation of the Pastor.

3) Upon the action of the District or General Council that suspends or withdraws the ministerial credentials of the Pastor due to departure from the Tenets of Faith, declared open change in doctrinal views, moral depravity, mental or physical incapacity, dereliction of duty or any good and sufficient cause.
4) If serious charges are preferred against the Pastor, or the Pastor’s ministry has ceased to be effective, and no provision has been made for the termination of the Pastor’s ministry, the officers may ask for the resignation of the Pastor at any of its regular Official Board meetings by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. If such resignation is refused, the pastorate shall not be considered vacant until the action of the officers has been sustained by a two-thirds majority vote of the active members at a special business meeting called for that purpose. Such meeting is to be presided over by the District Superintendent or Superintendent’s designee.

Other than the Superintendent, or the Superintendent’s designee, only active members of the church shall be permitted to attend such a business meeting. Others may attend at the discretion of the Superintendent or Superintendent’s designee in consultation with the Official Board of the church.

5) By a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the active members at a special business meeting called for that purpose, initiated by a petition signed by not less than twenty (20%) of the active members of the church. The business meeting shall be chaired by the District Superintendent or the Superintendent’s designee.

Other than the Superintendent, or the Superintendent’s designee, only active members of the church shall be permitted to attend such a business meeting. Others may attend at the discretion of the Superintendent or Superintendent’s designee in consultation with the Official Board of the church.

Section 4. Filling Vacancies

Any office or position of leadership in the church (other than that of Pastor) may be filled by appointment of the Official Board for the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings for Worship

Meetings for public worship shall be provided for under the direction of the Pastor or the Official Board if the pastorate is vacant.

Section 2. Annual Business Meeting

There shall be an annual business meeting of the church at which time the election of officers shall take place and the report of all officers shall be presented. This meeting shall be held on the ____________ (example: “third Wednesday in February”) of each year. The time and place shall be announced on each of the two (2) Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting or notice may be given to all active members by first class mail postmarked not less than seven (7) days prior to the meeting.
The regular order of business for the annual business meeting of this church shall include:

- Devotional
- Reading of previous minutes
- Report of treasurer
- Report of committees
- Unfinished business
- Election of officers
- New business
- Adjournment

Section 3. Special Business Meetings

Special business meetings of the church may be called and/or initiated by the Pastor, by a majority vote of the Official Board or by the District Superintendent.

Special business meetings may also be initiated by a petition signed by not less than twenty (20) percent of the active membership. Such petition shall state the purpose of the meeting and be delivered to the secretary of the Official Board. The special business meeting shall be conducted within thirty (30) days of the delivery of the petition and chaired by the District Superintendent or Superintendent’s designee.

The purpose, time and place of special business meetings shall be announced at least two (2) Sundays prior to the date of the meeting or notice may be given to all active members by first class mail postmarked not less than seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

Section 4. District Participation

The District Superintendent shall be notified in writing of all business meetings by first class mail postmarked not less than seven (7) days prior to the meeting. The purpose, time, date and location of the meeting shall be stated. The District Superintendent, or Superintendent’s designee, may participate in, and shall have the right to act as chairperson at all business meetings.

Section 5. Parliamentary Order

In order to expedite the work of the church and to avoid confusion in its deliberations, all business meetings of the church shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
Section 6. Voting Constituency and Quorum

The voting constituency at all business meetings of the church shall consist of all active members. A quorum shall consist of all active members present at any duly called business meeting. Absentee ballots shall not be allowed.

ARTICLE VIII. DEPARTMENTS

All departments and committees shall exist to help carry out the declared purposes and intents of this church. They shall operate under the direct supervision of the Pastor, under their approved policies and guidelines.

ARTICLE IX. PROPERTY

Section 1. Incorporation and Prerogatives

The church shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan. Its property shall be held in its corporate name subject to the provisions in Article IX, Section 2. If, on the acquisition of property or the construction of a building, the church shall require the signatures and credit of the Michigan District, the church's property shall be held in the name of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, until such time as the debt shall be retired.

The Official Board, on behalf of the church, shall be authorized 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, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or property of whatever kind, 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.

No real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other property of whatever kind, of the church in excess of a fair market value of $10,000, shall be taken, or sold, leased, mortgaged or otherwise alienated, without the same shall have been authorized by a majority of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the ballots cast by members who are in attendance at an annual or special business meeting which has been called for the consideration of the proposal. The Pastor and secretary of the church shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized and recommended by a vote of the church. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof. The purchase and sale of real estate, and any action that encumbers church property, shall require the approval of the Presbyter Board.

Section 2. Property Rights

Notwithstanding language to the contrary in these Rules of Order, if the Presbyter Board determines, in its sole and unrestricted discretion, that a church has ceased to be a viable church, or no longer adheres to Assemblies of God doctrine and practices, then the Presbyter Board shall have the option to take possession of and full title to all real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other property of whatever kind of the church on behalf of the
Assemblies of God, Michigan District, an ecclesiastical corporation organized under the laws of the State of Michigan with headquarters in Farmington Hills. It is the parent body for Assemblies of God churches in Michigan and is an integral part of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, whose national headquarters is in Springfield, Missouri, organized exclusively to operate for religious purposes with tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Assemblies of God, Michigan District, shall forthwith have full authority to use or dispose of the property at the discretion of the Presbyter Board. Proceeds from the sale or rental of any property under this provision shall be used by the Michigan Missions and Church Planting Ministries Department, or to help purchase land and/or buildings for District Supervised or District Advanced Churches at the discretion of the Presbyter Board.

ARTICLE X. REPRESENTATION

This District Advanced church shall be entitled to send one (1) lay delegate to each District and Sectional Council in addition to its Pastor.

ARTICLE XI. DEVELOPMENT

The Pastor shall endeavor to develop this church to a place of maturity where it may be advanced in its classification to a General Council affiliated church, having at least twenty (20) members, six (6) of whom qualify for election to office. An application for General Council affiliation signed by the Pastor and secretary of the church shall be filed with the District Secretary. With the assistance and approval of the District Officiary, appropriate Bylaws shall be adopted.
Recommended Bylaws for General Council Churches

BYLAWS OF

______________________________________________

Adopted this ______ day of ________________, 20_____

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this church shall be ___________________________________.

ARTICLE II. AFFILIATION

We believe that God’s purpose concerning mankind finds fulfillment in a priority reason-for-being: 1) to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world, 2) to be a corporate body in which people may worship God, 3) to be a channel of God’s purpose to build a body of saints, being perfected in the image of His Son., and 4) to be a people who demonstrate God’s love and compassion for all the world.

We 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, which enables us to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs, adding a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God, and enabling us 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.

We give expression to our reasons for being by establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy 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.

While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs as herein set forth, this church declares itself to be voluntarily in full cooperative fellowship with all other churches affiliated with the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, with headquarters in Farmington Hills, Michigan, and The General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri; and shares in the privileges and assumes the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation. “Voluntary cooperation” means that once a church, out of its own free will, decides to be a cooperating church of the Assemblies of God, this cooperation becomes obligatory and not optional.

This church agrees to:

a. Abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the District and General Councils, and conform to the decisions of the District and General Councils in the interests of general unity.
b. Participate in and financially support the missionary programs agreed upon by the District and General Councils in order to extend God’s work and kingdom throughout the world.

c. Participate in District and General Council sessions via duly chosen delegates.

d. Invite the counsel of the District Officiary when a pastoral change occurs and in the event of church difficulty.

e. Participate in and financially support the District and General Councils [District Bylaws Article XVII. Section 1. b.; General Council Bylaws Article XIII. Section 1. c. (2)].

f. Recognize that the District Council or General Council shall have the right and authority to:

1) Approve scriptural doctrine and conduct.

2) Disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct as stated in the General Council Constitution [Article IX].

3) Withdraw the church’s Certificate of Affiliation if deemed necessary.

ARTICLE III. TENETS OF FAITH

This church shall accept the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God, the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice; and, for the purpose of maintaining the general unity, adopt the Statement of Fundamental Truths approved by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS*

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

1. The Scriptures Inspired

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

2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth, and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).
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 Ghost, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).

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

d. Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are never identical as to person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the godhead; nor opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father as to authority. The Holy Ghost is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation, and authority. Hence, 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 Ghost. 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 Ghost that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God may be all in all (Hebrews 1:3; 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 Ghost to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the godhead except those which express relationship (see paragraphs b, c, and d), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22,23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2:8,9; Revelation 7:9,10; 4:8-11).

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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


b. His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).


d. His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3, 2 Corinthians 5:21).


f. His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9,11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1-3).
4. The Fall of Man

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

5. The Salvation of Man

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

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

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

6. The Ordinances of the Church

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

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

7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

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

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

9. Sanctification

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

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

10. The Church and Its Mission

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

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

a. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).
b. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
c. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfect in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).
d. To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world (Psalms 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

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

a. Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3,4).
b. Adds a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12-14).
Recommended Bylaws for General Council Churches

c. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in
expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times
for the edifying of the body of Christ and 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).

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) in building
a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16),
and (4) meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Psalms
112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

12. Divine Healing

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is
provided for in the Atonement, and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah
53:4,5; Matthew 8:16,17: James 5:14-16).

13. The Blessed Hope

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation
together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is
the imminent and blessed hope of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17;
Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:51,52).

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our
blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign
on the earth for one thousand years (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27,30;
Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring the
salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37:21,22; Zephaniah 3:19,20; Romans
11:26,27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-
8; Micah 4:3,4).

15. The Final Judgment

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

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).
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*Under Article V, the Michigan District understands that the term “man” is used to refer to humankind and includes all people except when used in gender-specific cases.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Requirements

Minimum requirements for membership shall be as follows or as provided by the Official Board with the approval of the District Officiary:

a. **Born Again.** Members in this church shall be expected to give a clear testimony of having been born of the Spirit of God (John 3:3, 5-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17).

b. **Baptism in the Holy Spirit.** Members shall have received the Holy Spirit or be earnestly seeking to be baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2-4).

c. **Baptized in Water.** Members shall have followed the scriptural command to be baptized in water by immersion in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19).

d. **God’s Word.** Members shall believe in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures as the Word of God and the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

e. **Holiness.** Members shall separate themselves from such worldly participation which defiles the body or corrupts the mind and spirit. They shall avoid an inordinate love of or preoccupation with pleasures, position, or possessions which lead to their misuse. They shall not manifest extreme behavior, unbecoming speech, or inappropriate appearance. They shall not hold any fascination or association which would lessen their affection for spiritual things. They shall separate themselves from the world by refraining from the reading, viewing, listening, and participation in any activity, material and/or media that would be contrary to Scripture as pertaining to holiness, righteousness, clean living, and the testimony of such to this world. They shall reflect the truth that each believer’s body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 21:34,35; Romans 8:5-8, 12:1-2, 14:17-18; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 18-20; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Galatians 5:18-20; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 2:8-10, 4:12; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12; Revelation 21:8).

f. **Habits.** Members shall abstain from the use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and the misuse of drugs (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

g. **Christ’s Return.** Members shall earnestly cherish the hope and expectancy of the premillenial coming of the Lord Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17).

h. **Tenets of Faith.** Members shall fully subscribe to the Tenets of Faith as set forth in the Bylaws of this church.
i. **Cooperation.** Members shall indicate a willingness to cooperate in the work of this church, to be governed by its Bylaws, and to contribute regularly to its financial support as the Lord may prosper.

j. **Age.** Members shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age.

k. **Application for Membership.** Applicants shall have regularly attended the services of, and supported, this church for a period of at least three (3) consecutive months prior to the date of application for membership. Applicants shall use a form provided by the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, or provided by The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

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**Section 2. Reception of Members**

After being clearly informed of the privileges and responsibilities of membership, applicants who have been endorsed for membership by the Pastor and Official Board may publicly be received at any service and their names added to the membership roll.

**Section 3. Pastor and Spouse**

The Pastor and Pastor’s spouse shall be considered active voting members of the church during the tenure of the Pastor.

**Section 4. Inactive Members**

Those who have moved from the community but have not yet transferred their membership to another church and those who for other reasons (except physical disability or temporary absence from the community) shall have absented themselves from the regular services of the church for a period of ninety (90) days or more shall be classified as inactive members by the Pastor and Official Board. They shall be notified in writing of such action and shall not be qualified to participate in the business of the church.

Such inactive members may be restored to full membership following their resumption of church attendance of not less than thirty (30) days, and if they have not departed from the standard of membership of the church. Their names may be returned to the active list upon their request and by action of the Official Board without public reception into membership again.

**Section 5. Revision of Membership and Discipline of Members**

It shall be the duty of the Pastor and Official Board to revise the membership roll of the church at least once a year and prior to all business meetings. The names of those whose lives no longer conform to the standards of membership, or who willfully cause discord within the church by word or action (Romans 16:17,18) may be removed from the membership roll by the action of the Official Board.

Written notification will be given to a member so removed. It is understood that no such action shall be taken until patient and persistent effort shall have
been made to win such individuals back to the standard of faith and conduct of
the church.

An individual removed from membership may appeal the action by presenting a
written request to the secretary of the Official Board for a hearing before the
active membership of the church at a business meeting called for that specific
purpose. Such meeting shall take place within sixty (60) days of the request
being received by the secretary and a majority vote of the active members at the
meeting shall be considered final.

Upon the receipt of the appeal by the secretary, the Pastor and/or Official Board
shall notify the District Superintendent for counsel. The Superintendent, or the
Superintendent’s designee, shall chair the business meeting at which the appeal
will be presented. Other than the Superintendent, or the Superintendent’s
designee, only active members of the church shall be permitted to attend such a
business meeting. Others may attend the business meeting at the discretion of the
Superintendent in consultation with the Official Board of the church.

Section 6. Transfer of Membership

a. Transfer to another church. A letter of transfer of membership
signed by the Pastor shall be granted upon the request of the individual
desiring the membership transfer. The letter shall be addressed to the
Pastor of the receiving church and shall state whether or not the member
is in good standing.

b. Transfer from another church. When an individual desires to
transfer membership to this church from another Assemblies of God
church, a letter of transfer of membership shall be required. The
transferring church should state whether or not the individual is in good
standing. Responsibility for accepting or rejecting the transferee shall
rest with the Official Board of this church.

Section 7. Arbitration

Inasmuch as the Scriptures require Christians to take their disputes to other
believers and not to the civil courts (1 Corinthians 6:1-8), all disputes which
may arise between any member of this church and the church itself (including
any officer or director thereof), while the individual is a member, shall be
resolved by binding arbitration if efforts to mediate or conciliate the dispute
have failed. Either party to the dispute may initiate the arbitration process by
filing with the other party a written request for arbitration within a reasonable
time after the dispute has arisen and efforts to mediate or conciliate have
failed. In such a case, the member and the church shall each name an
arbitrator, and the two so selected shall name a third. All arbitrators must be
born-again Christians, who have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit
(according to Acts 2:4) and who are members in good standing of an
Assemblies of God church. The third arbitrator chosen by the other two shall
disclose, before the appointment, any financial or personal interest in the
outcome of the arbitration, and any existing or past financial, professional,
family or social relationships which are likely to affect impartiality or might
reasonably create an appearance of partiality or bias. Either of the parties to
the arbitration, on the basis of such disclosures, may disqualify such a
candidate from serving as a third arbitrator. A third arbitrator who serves
without objection from either party has a continuing duty to disclose
relationships or interests which may impair impartiality. Either party,
regardless of the stage of the arbitration process, may, on the basis of such
disclosures, disqualify such a person from further participation. The
arbitration process shall not proceed until the third arbitrator is selected.

The arbitrators shall appoint the time and place for the hearing and cause
notification to the parties to be served personally or by registered mail not less
than five (5) days before the hearing. Appearance at the hearing waives such
notice. The arbitrators may adjourn the hearing from time to time as
necessary, and, on the request of a party and for good cause upon their own
motion, may postpone the hearing to a later date. The arbitrators may hear and
determine the controversy upon the evidence produced notwithstanding the
failure of a party duly notified to appear. The parties are entitled to be heard,
to present evidence material to the controversy, and to cross-examine
witnesses appearing at the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by all
arbitrators, but a majority of them may determine any question or render a
final award. If during the course of the hearing, an arbitrator for any reason
ceases to act, the arbitrator shall be replaced in the same manner in which the
arbitrator was originally selected. The arbitrators may, in their absolute
discretion, admit as evidence any affidavit or declaration concerning the matter
in dispute, a copy thereof having been given at least three (3) days previously
to the party against whom the same is offered, but that person whose evidence
is so taken shall be subject to cross-examination by such party. The arbitrators
shall have the power to order and direct what they shall deem necessary to be
done by either of the parties relating to the matters in the dispute. Costs and
awards of the arbitration shall be assessed at the discretion of the arbitrators.
Any submission of a dispute shall not be revoked by the death of any party to
the dispute and award will be binding upon such person's heirs and successors.

The decision of the arbitrators shall be binding on both parties, and both
parties shall submit themselves to the personal jurisdiction of the courts of
Michigan, both state and federal, for the entry of a judgment confirming the
arbitrator’s award. The arbitration process is not a substitute for any
disciplinary process set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of The General
Council of the Assemblies of God and the Assemblies of God, Michigan
District, and shall in no way affect the authority of The General Council of the
Assemblies of God and the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, to
investigate reports of misconduct, conduct hearings, or administer discipline.
Any matter not provided for herein shall be governed by the provisions of the
Uniform Arbitration Act.
ARTICLE V. ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. Official Board and Church Officers

The Official Board shall consist of the Pastor, a Board of Deacons, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Other Officers may be added as may be needed.

Section 2. Duties

a. Official Board. The Official Board shall:

1) Serve as trustees of the Corporation. Their fiduciary responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, the duties of due care and diligence, loyalty, avoidance of conflicts of interest, expending designated contributions for the purposes specified, and not co-mingling personal and corporate funds.

2) Act in the examination of applications for membership and in the administration of discipline. They shall review the membership list at least annually and prior to all business meetings.

3) Meet at least ten (10) times each year, and at the call of the Pastor, who shall determine the time and place. A majority of the Official Board members present shall constitute a quorum.

b. Pastor. The Pastor shall:

1) Be a credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God and be in good standing with the District and General Councils.

2) Be recognized as the spiritual leader of the church.

3) Have general oversight of the church and shall direct all its activities in conjunction with the Official Board. All other officers or committees who may be appointed shall serve under the Pastor’s supervision. The Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

4) Provide for all the services of the church and arrange for all special speakers and meetings; no person shall be invited to speak, preach, or minister in the church without the Pastor’s approval, except where provided for elsewhere in these Bylaws or the Bylaws of The General Council or Michigan District.

5) Be the President of the Corporation. With the secretary, sign all legal documents on behalf of the church.

6) Act as chairperson of the Official Board and as chairperson of all business meetings of the church, except as provided for elsewhere in these Bylaws.

7) Serve as the chairperson of the nominating committee for the selection of deacon nominees.
c. **Deacons.** There shall be ________ (minimum of 3) Deacons. The Deacons shall:

1) Function under the leadership of the Pastor. They are to assist the Pastor and make themselves available for advice and counsel.

2) Serve for the good of the church and handle the routine and administrative business of the church as directed by the Pastor, except in matters otherwise specified in these Bylaws.

3) Serve as the Pulpit Committee in the case of the pastorate becoming vacant. They shall contact the District Superintendent as soon as the vacancy occurs and work in conjunction with the Superintendent. In the event a deacon's term ends during a Pastoral search, the deacon will continue to serve on the Pulpit Committee, along with any newly elected deacons, until a Pastor is elected.

d. **Secretary.** The Secretary shall:

1) Keep the minutes of the meetings of the Official Board and of the annual and special meetings of the church.

2) Keep a record of the membership of the church and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of the duties of the office.

3) Be the custodian of all legal documents.

4) With the President, sign all legal documents on behalf of the church. In the case the pastorate is vacant, be authorized to sign all legal documents as directed by majority vote of the Official Board.

5) File annual corporation reports with the Secretary of State as required by State law.

e. **Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall:

1) Be the custodian of the funds of the church and deposit the same in the name of the church in a financial institution approved by the Official Board.

2) Keep an accurate record of the disbursements and receipts of all departments and conduct the work of the office according to accepted methods of business.

3) Give a monthly report, and other reports as requested, to the Official Board; present an annual report to the church at its annual business meeting.

4) Have the financial reports of the church reviewed at least once a year, and reviewed or audited, as directed by the Pastor or Official Board.
Section 3. Qualifications of Officers

The minimum requirements for Officers shall be:

a. Meet the minimum requirements for membership.

b. Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.

c. Be an active member of the church for at least one (1) year prior to election.

d. Meet the high standards that Scripture sets for leadership in regards to maturity, attitude and behavior (1 Timothy 3:8-13; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 13:17; Ephesians 4:1-3).

While we recommend that each Assemblies of God church restrict divorced and remarried believers from holding the office of elder or deacon if either marriage partner has a former spouse living, unless the divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17), or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse’s marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15); each local church shall have the prerogative to set their own standards in the light of its understanding of Scripture.

No individual, other than the Pastor, can be a member of the Official Board if that individual is a credentialed minister.

ARTICLE VI. ELECTIONS, VACANCIES AND REMOVALS

Section 1. Elections

a. Pastor

1) The pastor shall be nominated by the Pulpit Committee. Recommendations may be made to the church board by any member of the church, but the recommendation of the District Superintendent shall be sought before any nominee is contacted.

2) The pastor shall be elected to serve for an indefinite period of time.

3) Election shall be by secret ballot at the annual business meeting of the church or at a special business meeting called for that purpose. Such business meeting shall be chaired by the District Superintendent or Superintendent’s designee. Only one (1) candidate shall be considered at a time.

4) A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election.
b. **Deacons**

1) Deacons shall be nominated by a Nominating Committee in accordance with Article VI, Section 2, of these Bylaws.

2) Deacons shall be elected by secret ballot by a majority vote at the annual business meeting of the church or at a special business meeting called for that purpose.

When a nominee receives a majority of all votes cast, the individual shall be declared elected. If a majority for each office shall not have been reached by the first three (3) ballots, all nominees except those receiving the highest number of votes shall be eliminated from further balloting. The number of nominees remaining shall be determined by the number of open offices plus one (1) additional nominee.

3) Deacons shall be elected for three (3) year terms with their terms being staggered appropriately. A deacon may only serve two (2) consecutive three (3) year terms, and then be eligible for election again after one (1) year. If a deacon has been previously elected or appointed to serve a vacated, partial term, the individual shall be eligible to serve two (2) full consecutive terms.

c. **Secretary**

1) The secretary shall meet the minimum requirements for Officers (Article V., Section 3).

(Note: The local church must choose from among the following procedures for selecting a secretary, but must choose **only one**):

2) The secretary shall be elected by the Official Board. The term of office shall be one (1) year and the secretary may serve up to six (6) consecutive terms and then be eligible for election again after one (1) year.

   **or**

2) The secretary shall be elected in the same manner as the deacons and shall have the same term of office.

   **or**

2) The secretary shall be elected by the Official Board from among the voting members of the church and ratified by majority vote at a duly authorized business meeting. The term of office shall be one (1) year and the secretary may serve up to six (6) consecutive terms and then be eligible for election again after one (1) year.
d. Treasurer

1) The treasurer shall meet the minimum requirements for Officers (Article V, Section 3).

(Note: The local church must choose from among the following procedures for selecting a treasurer, but must choose only one):

2) The treasurer shall be elected by the Official Board. The term of office shall be one (1) year, and the treasurer may serve up to six (6) consecutive terms and then be eligible for election again after one (1) year.

or

2) The treasurer shall be elected in the same manner as the deacons and shall have the same term of office.

or

2) The treasurer shall be elected by the Official Board from among the voting members of the church and ratified by majority vote at a duly authorized business meeting. The term of office shall be one (1) year and the treasurer may serve up to six (6) consecutive terms and then be eligible for election again after one (1) year.

Section 2. Nominating Committee

a. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five (5) active members of the church appointed by the Pastor and ratified by the Official Board.

b. The Pastor shall serve as the chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

c. The Nominating Committee shall consider names to fill all offices, except the Pastorate, submitted to it by the active members of the church.

Section 3. Vacancies and Removals

a. Any office, other than that of Pastor, shall become vacant:

1) Upon the death of the officeholder.

2) Upon the resignation of the officeholder.

3) If the officeholder ceases to meet the requirements for election to the office.
4) If the officeholder is removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Official Board due to departure from the Tenets of Faith, declared open change in doctrinal views, moral depravity, mental or physical incapacity, dereliction of duty or any good and sufficient cause.

An individual removed from an office may appeal the action by presenting a written request to the secretary of the Official Board for a hearing before the active membership of the church at a business meeting called for that specific purpose. Such meeting shall take place within sixty (60) days of the request being received by the secretary. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the active members at the meeting shall be considered final.

Upon the receipt of the appeal by the secretary, the Official Board shall notify the District Superintendent for counsel. The Superintendent, or the Superintendent’s designee, shall chair the business meeting at which the appeal will be presented. Other than the Superintendent, or the Superintendent’s designee, only active members of the church shall be permitted to attend such a business meeting. Others may attend the business meeting at the discretion of the Superintendent in consultation with the Official Board of the church.

b. Pastor. The office of Pastor shall become vacant:

1) Upon the death of the Pastor.

2) Upon the resignation of the Pastor.

3) Upon the action of the District or General Council that suspends or withdraws the ministerial credentials of the Pastor due to departure from the Tenets of Faith, declared open change in doctrinal views, moral depravity, mental or physical incapacity, dereliction of duty or any good and sufficient cause.

4) If serious charges are preferred against the Pastor, or the Pastor’s ministry has ceased to be effective, and no provision has been made for the termination of the Pastor’s ministry, the Officers may ask for the resignation of the Pastor at any of its regular Official Board meetings by a two-thirds majority vote. If such resignation is refused, the pastorate shall not be considered vacant until the action of the Officers has been sustained by a two-thirds majority vote of the active members at a special business meeting called for that purpose, such meeting to be presided over by the District Superintendent, or Superintendent’s designee.
Other than the Superintendent, or the Superintendent’s
designee, only active members of the church shall be permitted
to attend such a business meeting. Others may attend the
business meeting at the discretion of the Superintendent in
consultation with the Official Board of the church.

5) By a two-thirds majority vote of active members at a special
business meeting called for that purpose, initiated by a petition
signed by not less that twenty (20) percent of the active
members of the church. The business meeting shall be chaired
by the District Superintendent or the Superintendent’s
designee.

Other than the Superintendent, or the Superintendent’s
designee, only active members of the church shall be permitted
to attend such a business meeting. Others may attend the
business meeting at the discretion of the Superintendent in
consultation with the Official Board of the church.

Section 4. Filling Vacancies

Any office or position of leadership in the church (other than that of Pastor)
may be filled by appointment of the Official Board for the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings for Worship

Meetings for public worship shall be provided for under the direction of the
Pastor or the Official Board if the pastorate is vacant.

Section 2. Annual Business Meeting

There shall be an annual business meeting of the church, at which time the
election of officers shall take place and the report of all officers shall be
presented. This meeting shall be held on the __________ (example: “third
Wednesday in February”) of each year. The time and place shall be announced
on each of the two (2) Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting
or notice may be given to all active members by first class mail postmarked
not less than seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

The regular order of business for the annual business meeting of this church
shall include:

a. Devotional.
b. Reading of previous minutes.
e. Unfinished business.
f. Election of officers.
g. New business.
h. Adjournment.
Section 3. Special Business Meetings

Special business meetings of the church may be called when necessary and can be initiated by the Pastor or by a majority vote of the Official Board.

Special business meetings may also be initiated by a petition signed by not less than 20% of the active membership. Such petition shall state the purpose of the meeting and be delivered to the secretary of the Official Board. Such special business meeting shall be conducted within thirty (30) days of the delivery of the petition and chaired by the District Superintendent or Superintendent’s designee.

The purpose, time and place of special business meetings shall be announced at least two (2) Sundays prior to the date of the meeting, or notice may be given to all active members by first class mail postmarked not less than seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

Section 4. Parliamentary Order

In order to expedite the work of the church and to avoid confusion in its deliberations, all business meetings of the church shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Section 5. Voting Constituency and Quorum

The voting constituency of the church shall consist of all active members. A quorum shall consist of all active members present at any duly called business meeting. Absentee ballots shall not be allowed.

ARTICLE VIII. DEPARTMENTS

All departments and committees shall exist to help carry out the declared purposes and intents of this church. They shall operate under the direct supervision of the Pastor, under their approved policies and guidelines.

ARTICLE IX. PROPERTY

Section 1. Incorporation and Prerogatives

The church shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan. Its property shall be held in its corporate name.

The Official Board, on behalf of the church, shall be authorized 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, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or property of whatever kind, 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.
Recommended Bylaws for General Council Churches

No real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other property of whatever kind, of the church in excess of a fair market value of $10,000, shall be taken, or sold, leased, mortgaged or otherwise alienated, without the same shall have been authorized by a majority of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the ballots cast by members who are in attendance at an annual or special business meeting which has been called for the consideration of the proposal. The Pastor and secretary of the church shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized and recommended by a vote of the church. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

Section 2. Defection

In the event defection shall occur from the Tenets of Faith of this church as the same are stated in the Statement of Fundamental Truths in the Constitution of The General Council, any portion of the membership subscribing to and practicing the aforesaid Tenets of Faith and retaining membership with _____________ (name of this church) shall retain possession of, and title to, all properties of said church with full rights thereto as provided in its Bylaws.

The determination of which group of members desires continued affiliation with the Assemblies of God and adheres to its Statement of Fundamental Truths shall be determined by the Presbyter Board of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, and its decision shall be final and binding.

Section 3. Disaffiliation

This church may disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God by a 100% vote of all active members of the church present at a special business meeting called for that purpose [see Article 7, Section 3 and Section 5], provided that the District Superintendent, or Superintendent’s designee, shall be present and actively participate in such meeting.

Section 4. Dissolution

In the event this church shall cease to function for the purposes as declared heretofore in its Articles of Incorporation or its Bylaws or upon its dissolution, none of its funds or assets shall be distributed to any officer, deacon, trustee, or any other individual. The Official Board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the church, dispose of all of the funds and assets of the church by conveying the same to the Assemblies of God, Michigan District within one (1) year, 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 United States Internal Revenue Law); and further provided, that the District Presbytery, in its sole and unrestricted discretion, decides to receive such funds and assets. Any such funds or assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the court having jurisdiction in 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 X. AMENDMENTS

The Bylaws of this church may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of ballots cast at any regular or special business meeting of the church, except as otherwise indicated herein. The proposed change(s) shall be available in written form and announced at least two (2) Sundays prior to the date of the meeting, or notice may be given to all active members by first class mail postmarked not less than seven (7) days prior to the meeting. A written copy of the proposed change(s) shall be included in the mailing.

Article III of these Bylaws is not subject to amendment, except to conform to any amendments made to the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God by The General Council. All amendments must be consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of both The General Council of the Assemblies of God and those of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District.
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E-mail: highlands@ag.org

HILLCREST CHILDREN'S HOME
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ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CONFERENCE CENTER
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