



CONSTITUTION
and
BYLAWS
of
FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

In Affiliation With:

Alaska Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God
and
The General Council of the Assemblies of God
Springfield, Missouri

Table of Contents

CONSTITUTION	1
ARTICLE I. NAME	1
ARTICLE II. PEROGATIVES AND PURPOSES	1
ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION	2
ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH	2
ARTICLE V. ORDINANCES.....	8
ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP	8
ARTICLE VII. OFFICIAL CHURCH BOARD	8
ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS	8
ARTICLE IX. FINANCES.....	8
ARTICLE X. PROPERTY	8
ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS	9
 BYLAWS	 9
ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP	9
ARTICLE II. GOVERNMENT.....	11
ARTICLE III. ELECTIONS, VACANCIES, AND REMOVALS	14
ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS	16
ARTICLE V. DEPARTMENTS	18
ARTICLE VI. FINANCE.....	19
ARTICLE VII. PROPERTY	19
ARTICLE VIII. ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES.....	20
ARTICLE IV. AMENDMENTS	22

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Ketchikan, Alaska

WHEREAS, it is the express purpose of God, our Heavenly Father, to call out of the world a saved people who shall constitute the Body or Church of our Lord Jesus Christ, built and established upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone: and, WHEREAS, God having ordained that this Universal Church should find its expression in and through local churches, enjoining them to assemble together for worship, fellowship, council, and instruction in the Word of God, and for the work of the ministry, and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament: therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we whose names appear on the Assembly Roster as of this date do recognize ourselves as a local Assembly under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ, first organized as such August 2, 1934, and do so affirm ourselves to be in cooperative fellowship with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, and an active member of the Alaska District Council of the Assemblies of God, and do hereby adopt the following articles for this local assembly this 10th day of September, in the year of our Lord, 1993. The adoption of these articles shall supersede all previous Constitution and Bylaws and a copy thereof shall be filed with the State.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this church shall be First Assembly of God, of the city of Ketchikan, state of Alaska.

ARTICLE II. PREROGATIVES AND PURPOSES

The prerogatives and purposes of a General Council affiliated assembly shall be:

Section 1. TO GOVERN

This assembly shall have the right to govern itself and to conduct its own affairs according to the standard of the New Testament Scriptures and of the Alaska District Council and General Council of the Assemblies of God. This right shall specifically include such matters as the calling of a pastor, the election of the church board, and the discipline of its members and the conducting of its own services and church programs.

Section 2. TO ACQUIRE AND DISPOSE

In connection therewith, or incidental thereto, this assembly shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as many 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.

Section 3. TO WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, AND PROPAGATE

The purpose of this assembly shall be to establish and maintain a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Spirit may be honored according to our distinctive testimony, and 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.

Section 4. TO COOPERATE

This Assembly shall cooperate with the District Council and the General Council to extend the work and kingdom of God throughout the world. It shall support the missionary program as agreed upon. It shall participate in District Council and General Council sessions through its chosen delegates and share in the support of the ministries of these bodies.

Section 5. TO RECOGNIZE

This assembly shall recognize that the District Council and the General Council have the authority and right to approve scriptural doctrine and conduct; also to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct and to withdraw their certificates of membership if deemed necessary.

ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION

While maintaining its inherent right to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, this assembly shall voluntarily enter into full cooperative fellowship with Assemblies of like precious faith associated in the Alaska District Council, and the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri; and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation.

As a member of the General Council, this assembly has the right to request the assistance of both the General Council and the District Council in dealing with any of its problems, upon the request of the pastor, a majority of the church board, or a petition signed by at least twenty percent (20%) of the active voting members of the assembly. Only those members who have regularly attended services of, and supported, this assembly for a period of at least three consecutive months prior to signing the petition shall be counted.

We hereby declare our unswerving loyalty to the Government of the United States of America and affirm our fixed purpose to assist it in every way morally possible, consistent with our faith.

ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH

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

Section 1. THE SCRIPTURES INSPIRED

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

Section 2. THE ONE TRUE GOD

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

The Adorable Godhead

A. Terms Defined

The terms “trinity” and “person” 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 therefor 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 (see, for example, Matthew 28:19; John 14:16-17; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

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 (Matthew 11:25-27, 28:19; Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3-4).

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

Accordingly, 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 (Zechariah 14:9; John 1:18, 15:26, 17:11, 21).

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 and the son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation and authority. Therefore, 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, belong 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 divine and human; who because He is divine and human, 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” belong to the order of eternity, and the title “Son of Man” to the order of time (Matthew 1:21-23; Hebrews 1:1-3, 7:3; 1 John 3:8; 2 John 3).

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 (John 1:1-2, 14, 18, 29, 49; Hebrews 12:2; 1 John 2:22-23, 4:1-5; 2 John 9).

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 (Acts 2:32-36; Romans 14:11; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22).

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, D) and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22-23; Philippians 2:8-9; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 4:8-11, 5:6-14, 7:9-10).

Section 3. THE DEITY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

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

A. His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35).

- B. His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26, 1 Peter 2:22).
- C. His miracles (Acts 2:22, 10:28).
- D. His substitutionary work on the Cross (1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- E. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4)
- F. His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, 11, 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3).

Section 4. THE FALL OF MANKIND

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

Section 5. THE SALVATION OF MANKIND

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

- A. Conditions of Salvation
Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, being justified by grace through faith, a person 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 people is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12).

Section 6. THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

- A. Baptism in Water
The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47, 48; Romans 6:4).
- B. Holy Communion
The Lord’s Supper, consisting of the elements – bread and the fruit of the vine – is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers “till He come.”

Section 7. THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY GHOST

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it comes the 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 1:4-5, 8; 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), in intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word, and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

Section 8. THE INITIAL PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY GHOST

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.

Section 9. SANCTIFICATION

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

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

Section 10. THE CHURCH AND ITS MISSION

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

Since God’s purpose concerning humanity is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshiped by people, and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, 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 (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:8).
- B. To be a corporate body in which people may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- C. To be a channel of God’s purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (1 Corinthians 12:28, 14:12; Ephesians 4:11-16).

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

- A. Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3-4)
- B. Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; and Chapters 12 through 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 (1 Corinthians 12:28, 14:12; Galatians 5:22-26; Ephesians 4:11-12; Colossians 1:29).

Section 11. THE MINISTRY

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

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

Section 12. DIVINE HEALING

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

Section 13. THE BLESSED HOPE

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

Section 14. THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST

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

Section 15. THE FINAL JUDGEMENT

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

Section 16. THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH

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

ARTICLE V. ORDINANCES

Section 1. BAPTISM IN WATER

The ordinance of baptism by immersion in water (Matthew 28:19) shall be administered to all who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls, and who give clear evidence of their salvation (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12).

Section 2. HOLY COMMUNION

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

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP

Individuals shall be eligible to membership in this assembly who give evidence of a personal, living faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who voluntarily subscribe to its tenets of faith and agree to be governed by its constitution and bylaws, as herein set forth.

ARTICLE VII. OFFICIAL CHURCH BOARD

The officers of the assembly shall be the pastor, three or more deacons and trustees. These officers shall constitute the church board.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Section 1. ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

There shall be an annual business meeting of the assembly at which time reports shall be given and the election of officers shall take place. This meeting shall convene on or about the end of February of each year. Due notice thereof shall be given on the two Sundays prior.

Section 2. ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

An annual Budget Meeting shall be held in the Fall of each year to pass the next year's budget. This meeting shall be held no later than November 15 of each year.

ARTICLE IX. FINANCES

The assembly shall be financed according to the Scriptural method by the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the organization (Malachi 3:10; Matthew 23:23; Hebrews 7:4-9).

ARTICLE X. PROPERTY

All property of the assembly shall be deeded to the assembly and held in its NAME. The sale, lease, mortgage, or any other disposition of property shall be governed by current bylaws (See Bylaws Article VII, Property).

ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution may be made by a two-thirds majority vote at any regular or special business meeting of the assembly in which the voting members of the assembly have been properly notified of such a purpose at least two Sundays preceding the time of such meeting, and that the proposed amendment is posted in the Assembly Hall over the same period.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP

Individuals shall be eligible for membership in this Assembly who give evidence of a personal, living faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who voluntarily subscribe to its tenets of faith and agree to be governed by its constitution and bylaws, as herein set forth.

Section 1. MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

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

- A. A testimony to an experience of the “new birth”.
- B. Encouraged to be baptized in water by immersion
- C. Evidence of a consistent Christian life (Romans 6:4, 8:1-4, 13:13-14; Ephesians 4:17-32, 5:1-2, 15; 1 John 1:6-7).
- D. An indication of a willingness to contribute regularly to the financial support of the church of which he/she is to become a member.
- E. Acceptance of the Tenets of Faith as set forth in Article IV of the constitution.
- F. Having reached at least 18 years of age.
- G. Having regularly attended services of, and supported, this assembly for a period of at least 30 days prior to the date of application for membership.
- H. Agreement to being governed by the bylaws of this assembly, and of the Alaska District Council of the Assemblies of God, as both may be amended from time to time.
- I. No member shall hold dual membership concurrent with the Assemblies of God and any other denomination.

Section 2. PROCEDURE FOR MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION

Those individuals eligible for membership who shall desire to become members of this church shall make written application to the pastor or church board. The church board shall have the right and authority to determine the eligibility and acceptability of all applicants for membership by majority vote. Those approved for membership by the church board shall be received into the church publicly at any of its regular services, and their names thereupon added to the church membership roll. No applicant for membership shall be accepted as a member within 30 days before an annual business meeting or within 10 days before a special business meeting. Furthermore, completion of the membership class is a prerequisite to membership.

Section 3. PASTOR AND SPOUSE

By virtue of office, the pastor shall be considered an active voting member of the church during his tenure. The pastor's spouse shall become an active voting member simultaneously with the pastor, subject to Section 6 of this Article 1.

Section 4. TRANSFER MEMBERS

A member in good standing of another Assembly of God church, who satisfies the standards for membership eligibility specified in Section 1 of this Article I (other than attendance and support requirements), may apply for membership by submitting a letter of transfer from the pastor of the other assembly. The transfer member shall be received into membership upon the approval of a majority of the church board. The transfer member shall be screened on a case-by-case basis, by the Pastor and Board, to determine whether the membership class will be required or not.

Section 5. JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

Junior membership is available for young people 12 to 18 years of age who give evidence of the new birth, meet the scriptural standards for membership as specified in these bylaws, and are approved by majority vote of the church board.

Junior members will be encourage to participate and attend business meetings and will also be required to take the membership class in order to qualify as junior members.

Section 6. DISCIPLINE AND REVISION OF ROSTER

- A. Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible (Matthew 16:19; 18:15-20, 35; Luke 17:3; John 20:23, Acts 16:4; Ephesians 5:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:11-15; 1 Timothy 5:20; 2 Timothy 4:2; Hebrews 13:17). The purpose of discipline is to promote repentance and restoration through exposing sinful behavior. It is to be redemptive in nature as well as corrective. Any member of the assembly is subject to discipline on the basis of unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the Tenets of Faith of this assembly. The discipline of pastors is administered by the District Presbytery.

Unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the Tenets of Faith held by this assembly, (see Article IV of the constitution), shall be considered grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member.

- B. Any member of the assembly who shall willfully absent himself from the regular services for a period of three consecutive months, or who shall be under charges, shall be temporarily suspended from active voting membership pending investigation and final decision in his/her case.
- C. The official church board shall be authorized to examine the membership roll of the assembly, and to recommend to the assembly the removal from the list of active members all names of those who may have deceased, together with the names of those who may have withdrawn from the fellowship, or who may have become inconsistent with the standards of membership of this

assembly, and thereupon shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to Active membership. The official church board may also move from active to inactive status those members who are out-of-town college students, military service people, or Missionaries on the field (Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 16:17-18; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15).

Three months after members have been placed on the Inactive Roster (this is three months of non-attendance), they will be sent a letter asking them if they want their membership transferred to another church and if no response is received within three months, their names will be removed from this membership roster. Anyone with special circumstances wishing to have their membership remain here will have to receive permission from the church board.

ARTICLE II. GOVERNMENT

Section 1. THE CHURCH BOARD

A. In General

The government of this assembly shall be vested in the church board which shall consist of the pastor and at least three deacons and trustees to the extent that such authority is not limited by district supervision as provided for under the bylaws of the District Council.

B. Qualifications of Church Board Members

See qualification for pastors and deacons below.

C. Duties of Church Board

- 1) The deacons and trustees shall serve in an advisory capacity to the pastor in all matters pertaining to the assembly in its spiritual life and in the ministry of its ordinances.
- 2) The church board shall have general charge and management of the affairs, funds, and property of the assembly. The church board shall have the authority to carry out the purposes of the assembly according to its charter and these bylaws.
- 3) The church board shall act in the examination of applications for membership and in the administration of discipline.
- 4) For so long as the church is temporarily without a pastor, the remaining members of the church board, shall be empowered to select a temporary chairman of the church board.

Section 2. OFFICERS

A. In General

There shall be a president, secretary, and treasurer. The pastor, by virtue of office, shall be the president and chairman of the church board. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be held simultaneously by the same individual.

B. Qualifications

1) Pastor

The pastor shall be in good standing with both The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the District Council, holding a current fellowship card.

2) Secretary

The secretary shall be an active voting member of this assembly for at least one (1) year immediately preceding election to office and may be a member of the church board.

3) Treasurer

The treasurer shall be an active voting member of this assembly for at least one (1) year immediately preceding election to office, and shall currently support the church with tithes, and shall have a cooperative spirit, and shall be faithful in attendance at church service.

C. Duties of Officers

1) Pastor

- a. Shall be the spiritual overseer of the assembly and shall direct its activities.
- b. Shall be recognized as a member of the church board, president of the assembly, and shall act as chairman of all the business meetings of the assembly and of the church board.
- c. Shall provide for all services of the assembly and shall specifically arrange for all special meetings, conventions, and revival campaigns. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the assembly without his approval.
- d. Shall, as chairman of the church board, be chairman of the nominating committee for the selection of deacon nominees. The pastor shall privately interview those nominated, ascertaining their eligibility and availability to serve as deacons.
- e. Shall conduct a training class at least once a year on the responsibilities of the church board, deacons, trustees, secretary, treasurer, and other church leaders. Such a training course shall be based upon the scriptural directive for church leadership and the church bylaws.
- f. Shall be an ex officio member of all committees.

2) Secretary

- a. Shall keep the minutes of the official meetings of the church board and of the annual and special business meetings of the assembly.
- b. Shall keep a record of the membership of the assembly and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of his/her duties.
- c. Shall be the custodian of all legal documents.
- d. Shall file such annual corporation reports with the secretary of state as may be required by state law.
- e. May be appointed as a Trustee.

3) Treasurer

- a. Shall be entrusted with all the finances of the assembly, subject to the supervision of the church board, and shall deposit all funds in federally insured accounts in the name of the assembly. All checks issued in excess of \$1,500.00 shall require two signatures, both the signature of the treasurer and one additional authorized officer designated by the board, otherwise the treasurer shall be empowered to write checks with only one signature up to that fixed amount.
- b. Shall keep an itemized account of receipts and disbursements, shall present a report for each regular meeting of the church board, and shall present an annual report to the assembly in its annual meeting.
- c. Shall assist the assembly in acquiring and maintaining available tax exemptions under state and local law.
- d. Shall provide a record of all identified giving to each donor at least annually.

- e. Shall be the custodian of all the financial records of the church.
- f. May be appointed as a Trustee.

Section 3. DEACONS

The deacons shall be members, (men or women), of mature Christian experience and knowledge, who shall be expected to meet the requirements set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Acts 6. Deacons shall be at least 23 years old, and shall have been members of the assembly for at least one year. They shall currently support the assembly with their tithes and offerings, have a cooperative spirit, and regularly attend church services. They shall be the custodians of all property of the assembly, and shall be responsible for the maintenance of the property. They shall not hold ministerial credentials.

- A. Qualifications for the office of deacon are to be interpreted as stressing matters of Character and not of marital history prior to the cross.
- B. Qualifications for the office of deacon are not to be interpreted as excluding people who were divorced under the conditions stated in Matthew 19:9 or 1 Corinthians 7:15, or people divorced prior to conversions, from serving as deacons.

Section 4: TRUSTEES

When scripturally qualified deacons are not available, faithful members may be chosen by the official church board as trustees. The board may also appoint such trustees as may be helpful and needed for a period of one year. Trustees are to serve in an advisory capacity with the deacons and pastor in all matters pertaining to the governing of the church. They shall be the custodians of all property of the assembly, and shall be responsible for the maintenance of the property. They shall support the assembly with their tithes and offerings, have a cooperative spirit, and regularly attend church services.

Section 5: FIDUCIARY DUTIES

In accordance with the law, officers, deacons, and trustees, shall exercise due care and diligence, loyalty, avoidance of self-dealing, expending designated contributions for the purposes specified, and not commingling personal and corporate funds.

Section 6: TEMPORARY CHURCH BOARD

Should irreconcilable differences arise between the pastor and other members of the church board, destroying the unity and the successful ministry of the local assembly, the District Executive Presbytery along with the sectional presbyter (the investigating committee), upon request from the pastor or a majority of the church board members, shall investigate such differences. Upon a two-thirds majority vote of the investigating committee, they may declare the church under District supervision. The term "District supervision" means that the investigating committee has the authority to:

- A. Suspend the constitution and bylaws of this assembly,
- B. Suspend this church board,
- C. Reclassify this assembly as a District Council affiliated church, and
- D. Appoint and establish a temporary church board invested with the authority to manage both the secular and ecclesiastical affairs of the church until such strife shall cease.

If the pastor is also the sectional presbyter, an alternate appointed by the District Presbytery, shall be a member of the investigating committee in his place.

ARTICLE III. ELECTIONS, VACANCIES, AND REMOVALS

Section 1. ELECTIONS

A. Pastor

- 1) The pastor shall be nominated by the pulpit committee, consisting of six members; three shall be members of the board, three shall not be members of the board. Recommendations may be made to the pulpit committee by any member of the assembly.
- 2) The pastor shall be called for a period of one year. It would then be necessary to vote for his re-election by a two-thirds majority vote. Election shall be by secret ballot. Following this on-year period, tenure shall be indefinite with the provision that a simple majority, by the signing of a petition and presentation of the petition to the Board, may call for a vote of confidence. The pulpit committee, after prayerful inquiry, and with judicious counsel, full consideration being given to the leading of the Holy Spirit, shall select an available, scripturally qualified minister, who is in good standing with the Alaska District and/or the General Council of the Assemblies of God, as a nominee to the office of Pastor, and present his name for the vote of the assembly without undue delay.
- 3) Election shall be by secret ballot at the annual business meeting of the assembly or at a special business meeting called for that purpose. Only one candidate shall be considered at a time.
- 4) A two-thirds majority vote of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election, or to constitute a vote of confidence to perpetuate his ministry to the assembly.
- 5) In the event either the pastor or any other member of members of the assembly shall challenge the validity of an election, the validity of the election shall be arbitrated by the District Executive Presbytery, or any three persons of its choice, and its decision shall be final.

B. Secretary

The secretary shall be appointed from the membership of the assembly by the official church board. The term of office shall be one year, and the secretary may serve consecutive terms without limitation (see Bylaws Article II, Section 2, C, 2).

C. Treasurer

The treasurer shall be appointed by the official church board from the membership of the assembly. The term of office shall be one year, and the treasurer may serve consecutive terms without limitation (see Bylaws Article II, Section 2, C, 3)

D. Deacons

Deacons shall be nominated by a nominating committee appointed by the church board (see Bylaws Article II, Section 2, C, 1, d), and they shall be elected by majority vote of those active voting members present at an annual business meeting of the assembly at which an election is to be conducted. Active voting members may recommend nominees to the nominating committee; however, nominations for deacon shall not be accepted from the floor during any business

meeting. Deacons shall be elected for a three-year term, and shall hold office until the annual business meeting at which their successor is elected. It is recommended that no deacon serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. Successive terms of deacons shall be staggered appropriately, with a one-year interval recommended before eligibility resumes.

Section 2. VACANCIES AND REMOVALS

A. Pastor

When a vacancy in the office of pastor shall occur, a temporary replacement shall be arranged for by the church board until a pastor shall be chosen as prescribed in Article III, Section 1, A. The counsel of the District Superintendent may be sought. When a pastor's credentials are withdrawn by the District or General Council, the pastor's term of office shall be automatically terminated.

B. Secretary and Treasurer

The offices of secretary and treasurer shall be vacant upon the expiration of the term of office, or upon the termination of the officer's active membership, whichever shall occur first.

C. Deacons

The office of deacon shall be vacant upon the expiration of the term of office, or upon the termination of a deacon's active membership, whichever shall occur first.

D. In General

Any office or position leadership in the assembly (other than that of the pastor) may be terminated by a majority vote of the active members present and voting at a special business meeting called for the limited purpose of removal of such member from office or position of leadership which that person holds.

Grounds for such action shall be:

- 1) Unscriptural conduct
- 2) Doctrinal departure from the Tenets of Faith
- 3) Incompetency in office

Incumbents under charges shall have opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing of their case before the assembly if they so desire.

E. Filling Vacancies

Any office or position of leadership in the church (other than that of pastor) may be filled by appointment of the church board for the unexpired term.

Section 3. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

There shall be a Nominating Committee of four members appointed by the official church board, consisting of two from the official board and two from the assembly at large, which committee shall meet thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Business Meeting. They shall submit to the assembly the names of the candidates for the various offices. Nomination can be made from the membership to the Nominating Committee prior to the meeting of the nominating committee.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS

Section 1. MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under direction of the pastor, or the church board if there is no pastor.

Section 2. ANNUAL MEETINGS

- A. There shall be an annual business meeting of the assembly, at which time the election of officers shall take place and the report of all officers shall be presented. This meeting shall be held in late February of each year. The time and place shall be announced by the pastor. Notice of the date, time, and place of each annual business meeting shall be announced from the pulpit during the morning worship services of each of the two Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting.
- B. An annual budget meeting shall be held in the fall of each year to pass the next year's budget. This meeting shall be held no later than November 15 of each year.

Section 3. SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETINGS

Special business meetings of the assembly may be called by the pastor, or by a majority of the church board, or by a petition signed by not less than twenty percent (20%) of the active voting members of the assembly. Only those members who have regularly attended services of, and supported, this assembly for a period of at least three consecutive months prior to signing the petition shall be counted.

- A. Petitions pertaining to the business affairs of the church shall be submitted to the pastor or the secretary of the church board.
- B. A petition pertaining to the status of the pastor shall be directed to the district superintendent, who shall arrange for a special business meeting of the assembly.
- C. No more than one petition on a given subject shall be recognized in any 12-month period. Notice of the date, time, place, and purpose of each special business meeting shall be announced from the pulpit during morning worship services on each of the two Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting.
- D. No business other than that specified in the notice of meeting shall be transacted at any special meeting of the assembly.

Section 4. PARLIAMENTARY ORDER

All business meetings of the assembly shall be governed by parliamentary procedures as set forth in the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order Revised in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

Section 5. VOTING CONSTITUENCY

A. Qualifying of Voters

The voting constituency at all business meetings of the assembly shall consist of all active voting members who are present and who are 18 years of age or older (Bylaws Article I, Section 1).

B. Transfer members

Transfer members shall have voting privileges after 30 days of transfer of membership (Bylaws Article I, Section 4)

C. Members Under Process of Discipline

No member under the process of discipline shall be entitled to a vote until the process is completed (Bylaws Article I, Section 6).

Section 6. QUORUM

A quorum shall consist of not less than 50% of those members eligible to vote, to be present at any duly called business meeting.

Section 7. ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

- A. Devotional
- B. Roll call of roster
- C. Reading of minutes from business meetings in the last fiscal year
- D. Report of treasurer
- E. Report of committees
- F. Unfinished business
- G. Election of officers
- H. New Business
- I. Adjournment

Section 8. THE CHURCH BOARD

The church board shall meet monthly or at the call of the pastor for the transaction of business for the assembly, time and place to be announced by the pastor. A majority of the board members present shall constitute a quorum.

Section 9. MEMBERSHIP ROLL

The church board shall review the list of active voting members at least annually, at the regularly scheduled meeting of the board immediately preceding the annual business meeting, and compile a current list of active voting members.

Section 10. ABSENTEE BALLOTS

If for any reason, a voting member cannot be present at a duly called business meeting, they can submit an absentee ballot for any office or issue being considered at said meeting.

ARTICLE V. DEPARTMENTS

Section 1. IN GENERAL

This assembly shall create and maintain such departments and sub-organizations as may be necessary and advisable for the extension of its work. All such departments and organizations shall be subordinate to the assembly and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervisions of the pastor and church board, and the pastor shall be an ex officio member of all committees or departments.

Section 2. SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School shall be considered as that department of the assembly which particularly provides for a Christian education ministry and such other ministries as may later be deemed needful. The purpose of the Sunday School is to provide the assembly with a teaching ministry of the Word on the level of understanding of each individual to reach, teach, and win the individual to Christ and to mature and train him for Christian service.

The church board shall appoint the Christian Education Director from among the members of the assembly, which appointment shall be submitted for ratification to the assembly as a whole. The pastor and the CE Director shall exercise oversight of the Sunday School, appointing officers, teachers, and other workers as needed.

There shall be a written operational policy of the Sunday School. It shall be ratified by the official board of the assembly. The operational policy shall be reviewed annually and proposed changes ratified by the official board. The pastor and CE director shall determine all programs of the school in keeping with the operational policy.

Section 3. YOUTH MINISTRIES

The young people of the assembly shall be organized into a Youth Department as soon as their number is sufficient. This organization shall elect its own officers, conduct its own services, and plan its own activities, subject to the authority of the assembly through the pastor and the church board.

Section 4. MEN'S AND WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

There shall be a Men's Ministries Department and a Women's Ministries Department which shall be formed and made operable under the supervision of the pastor and the church board.

ARTICLE VI. FINANCE

Section 1. IN GENERAL

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

Section 2. HANDLING OF OFFERINGS

All offerings shall be counted by at least two authorized persons before the funds are removed from the church building. An offering receipts form shall be signed by those counting the offering. It shall be submitted to the treasurer. A record shall be kept of all receipts and disbursements of the local assembly and of all individual giving.

Section 3. REMUNERATION

A. Regular Remuneration

The pastor shall be remunerated for his services by a salary or by other means agreed upon by the church board and himself. The church board shall review the pastor's remuneration at least annually. All other paid staff shall be remunerated for services by hourly wages determined by the board and subject to annual review.

B. Reimbursement for Expenses

The pastor shall be given consideration by the church board for expenses incurred by his attendance at District Councils, General Councils, and other District Functions by reimbursement of such expenses, according to the ability of the assembly as determined by the church board.

C. Severance Pay

In the event a pastor is removed from office by a vote of the active voting membership of the church, or shall fail to be sustained by a vote of the active voting membership at the end of a term, he shall be given a minimum of two months regular or average remuneration as severance pay, except in the case of moral turpitude.

ARTICLE VII. PROPERTY

Section 1. TITLE

All property of the assembly shall be deeded to the assembly and held in its name or, if required by law, to trustees acting on behalf of the assembly and their successors in office. Should the assembly choose to do so, it may request the Alaska District Council of the Assemblies of God to act as its trustee to hold title.

Section 2. PURCHASES AND SALES OF PROPERTY

All purchases of furnishings, equipment, and other items of tangible personal property, exceeding \$5,000 in cost, and all purchases and sales of real property shall be authorized by a vote of at least two-thirds of the voting membership who are in attendance at a regular or special meeting of the assembly.

Section 3. DISCONTINUATION OF CHURCH SERVICES

Should this assembly cease to maintain a weekly worship service for a period of three months under the direction of a leader duly authorized by and in good standing with the District Council, it shall be dissolved and its properties disposed of according to Article VII, Section 4, of these bylaws.

Section 4. DISAFFILIATION

Title to all real property now owned or hereafter acquired by the assembly shall be held in trust as a place of divine worship in full cooperative fellowship and affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, of Springfield, Missouri, and the Alaska District Council of the Assemblies of God. In the event that the assembly shall be divided over doctrinal or any other issues, or shall vote to disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God, all property of the assembly shall remain with those members, whatever their number, desiring continued affiliation with the Assemblies of God and adhering to its Statement of Fundamental Truths. 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 arbitrated by the District Presbytery of the Alaska District Council of the Assemblies of God, and its decision shall be final and binding. If all the members of the assembly shall vote to disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God for doctrinal or any other reasons, then all of the property of such assembly shall revert to said District Council and shall be used by the District as an Assemblies of God church if possible, and if not possible, the District may sell the property and apply the proceeds in any manner consistent with its stated purposes.

Section 5. DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the assembly, none of its funds or assets shall be distributed to any officer, deacon, trustee, or any other individual. The church board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the assembly, dispose of all the funds and assets of the assembly by conveying the same to the Alaska District Council of the Assemblies of God, for the purposes of the assembly, and 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). Any such funds or assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Circuit Court of the borough 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 VIII. ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES

Inasmuch as the Scriptures require Christians to take their disputes to the saints and not to civil courts

(1 Corinthians 6:1-8), all disputes which may arise (1) between any members of this assembly and the assembly itself, or (2) between any member of this assembly and any pastor, officer, director, employee, volunteer, or other worker of this assembly, 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, Spirit-filled believers who are member of an Assemblies of God church. The third arbitrator chosen by the other two shall disclose, before accepting 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 which might reasonably create an appearance of impartiality or bias. Either of the parties to the arbitration, on the basis of such disclosures, may disqualify such a candidate from serving as the third arbitrator. A third arbitrator who serves without objection from either party has a continuing duty to disclose relationships or interest which may impair his impartiality. Either party, regardless of the stage of 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 thirty (30) 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 request of a party and for good cause or 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 the arbitrators, but a majority of them may determine any question and render a final award. If during the course of the hearing an arbitrator for any reason ceases to act, he/she 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 matters in dispute, a copy thereof having been given at least five days previously to the party against whom the same is offered, but the 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 dispute. Cost of the arbitration shall be determined and assessed by the arbitrators. Any submission of a dispute to arbitrations shall not be revoked by the death of any party to the dispute, and any 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 civil courts in this state (including federal courts), as well as the courts of any other state which may have jurisdiction over any dispute contemplated by this Article, for the entry of a judgment confirming the arbitrators' award.

The arbitration process is not a substitute for any disciplinary process set for the in the constitution or bylaws of the assembly, and shall in no way affect the authority of the assembly 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.

If a dispute may result in an award of monetary damages, then use of this arbitration procedure is conditioned on acceptance of the procedure by the liability insurer of the assembly, and the insurer's agreement to honor any arbitration award up to any applicable policy limits.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS

The bylaws may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the assembly by a majority vote of the membership present, except as otherwise indicated herewith. Article III of the constitution, and Articles VII and IX of these bylaws may be amended only by the affirmative vote of 100 percent (100%) of the active voting members present any annual or special business meeting called for the exclusive purpose of amending these bylaws. Article IV of the constitution is not subject to amendment. All amendments must be consistent with the constitution and bylaws of the District Council.

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws must be submitted to the official church board at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Business meeting, except in cases where a duly called Special Meeting has been called for such a purpose.