



**CONSTITUTION
AND BY-LAWS**

PREAMBLE

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For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of the precious faith, where the Holy Ghost 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; we, whose names appear upon the assembly roster under above date, do hereby recognize ourselves as a local assembly in fellowship with and a part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

It is our desire to be incorporated under the laws of the State of Minnesota, in order that we might hold property and manage our own affairs, give expression to our faith and adopt such rules as may be necessary to conduct business in harmony with the statutes of the State of Minnesota.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this church shall be **Heritage Assembly of God**. *(Amended 07/25/04)*

ARTICLE II. PREROGATIVES

Section 1. This assembly shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures, “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace..till we all come into the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” Eph. 4:3,13

Section 2. In connection therewith, or incidental thereto, it shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes; all in accordance with its constitution and bylaws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION

While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, this assembly shall voluntarily enter into full cooperative fellowship with assemblies of like precious faith associated in the Minnesota 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.

ARTICLE IV. TENANTS OF FAITH

(Same as General Council Assemblies of God Statement of Fundamental Truth.)

GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

(Revised 1961 General Council)

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. The Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same thing, I Cor. 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 New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct (2 Tim. 3:15-17; I Thess. 2:13; II 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 (Deut. 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, Matt. 28:19; II Cor. 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; I Cor. 1:24; Matt. 121:25-27; 28:19; II Cor. 13:14; I John 1:3,4.

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

Accordingly, therefore, there is that in the son which constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Ghost which constitutes Him the Holy Ghost and not either the Father or the Son.

Wherefore the Father is the Begetter, the Son is the Begotten, and the Holy Ghost is the one preceding 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 is one. John 1:18; 15:26; 17:11,21; Zech. 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 preceding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation and authority. Hence, neither Person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others. John 5:17-30,32,37; John 8:17,18.

e) The Title, Lord Jesus Christ

The appellation, "Lord Jesus Christ," is 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. Rom. 1:1-3,7; II 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. Matt. 1:23; I John 4:2,10,14; Rev. 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 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 title, son of man, to the order of time. Matt. 1:21-23; II John 3; I John 3:8; Heb. 1:1-13; 7:3.

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 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 displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. II John 9; John 1:1,2,14,18,29,49; I John 2:22, 23; 4:1-5; Heb. 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. Heb. 1:3; I Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Rom. 14:11; I Cor. 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 give Him all the honor and glory contained in all the name 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; I Peter 1:8; Rev. 5:6-14; Phil. 2:8,9,10; 4:8-11.

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

- a) His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31,35)
- b) His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; I Peter 2:22).
- c) His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
- d) His substitutionary work on the cross (I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21).
- e) His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; I Cor. 15:4).
- f) His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9,11; 2:33; Phil. 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 by 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, 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 man is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12).

6. *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 (II Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (I Cor. 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (I Cor. 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He come"!

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 Churches. 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 24:29; Acts 1:4,8; I Cor. 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 4:43; Heb. 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 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 (I Cor. 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 (Rom. 12:1, 2; I Thess. 5:23; Heb. 13:12). the Scriptures teach a life of “holiness without which no man shall see the Lord” (Heb. 12:14). By the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to obey the command: “Be ye holy, for I am holy” (I 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 (Rom. 6:1-11,13; 8:1,2,13; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 2:12,13; I Peter 1:5).

10. The Church

The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointment 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).

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for a twofold purpose: 1) The evangelization of the world, and 2) The edifying of the Body of Christ (Mark 16:20; Ephesians 4:11-13).

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; Matt. 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 Thess. 4:16, 17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; I Cor. 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 the thousand years (Zech. 14:5; Matt. 24:27,30; 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 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 condemned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matt. 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).

ARTICLE V. ORDINANCES

Section 1. The ordinance of Baptism by immersion in water (Matt. 28:19) shall be administered to all those who have repented of their sins and who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls, and who give evidence of their salvation. (Romans 6:3-5; Col. 2:12).

Section 2. The ordinance of the Lord's supper shall be observed regularly as enjoined in the Scriptures. (Luke 22:19,20; I Cor. 11:23-36).

ARTICLE VI. OTHER MINISTRIES

SECTION 1. Infants and children may be dedicated to the Lord publicly upon request. (Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-16).

SECTION 2. The sick shall be ministered unto according to Mark 16:18; James 5:14.

ARTICLE VII. FINANCES

All funds for the maintenance of the assembly shall be provided by the voluntary giving of tithes and offerings by 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 official Board and shall be administered by the Treasurer under their direction (Mal. 3:10; Luke 6:38; I Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:6-8).

ARTICLE VIII. MEMBERSHIP

Persons who give scriptural evidence of saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and voluntarily subscribe to its tenets of faith, and agree to be governed by its Constitution and Bylaws as herein set forth, shall be eligible for membership in this church.

ARTICLE IX. GOVERNMENT AND OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The officers of the Corporation shall be President, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall by virtue of their office be members of the Board of Trustees. Other officers may be added as needed.

SECTION 2. All matters of church government shall be carried on by the Official board except in matters affecting the entire body. In such cases they shall present their recommendations to the church for ratification.

SECTION 3. The trustees and deacons shall constitute the official board of the church. Provided they qualify, the trustees and deacons can be the same individuals.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. This constitution may be amended or changed by a two thirds vote of the membership of the assembly who are in attendance at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made four consecutive Sundays preceding the time of such meeting.

SECTION 2. All matters of church government shall be carried on by the Official board except in matters affecting the entire body. In such cases they shall present their recommendations to the church for ratification.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. QUALIFICATIONS

(Amended 4/3/2022)

Those eligible for membership in this church must:

- A. A testimony to an experience of the “new birth”. John 1:12-13; I Peter 1:18-25
- B. Be baptized in water by immersion except where deemed physically impossible. Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47-48; Romans 6:4-6.
- C. Be baptized in the Holy Spirit with the physical evidence of speaking in other tongues or earnestly seeking according to Acts 2:4.
- D. Evidence of a consistent Christian life to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. (Exodus 20: 11-17; Matthew 5, 6, 7; Romans 6: 4; 8: 14; 13: 13, 14; I Corinthians 6; Galatians 5: 19-25; Ephesians 4: 17 5: 21; I John 1:6, 7).
- E. Contribute regularly to the financial support of this church with tithes and offerings along with serving those within and outside of this church. (Malachi 3:10, II Corinthians 9:7, Romans 12:4-7)
- F. Believe in all the tenets of faith as set forth in the Constitution, Article IV.
- G. Be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- H. Shall have regularly attended this church for at least three (3) consecutive months prior to the date of application for membership. (Hebrews 10: 25)
- I. Complete a Membership Class of the church and agree to abide by the membership commitments.

SECTION 2. MATTERS OF CONCERN (Amended 4/27/06)

- a) Low standards on marriage and divorce are very hurtful to individuals, to the family and to the cause of Christ. There are individuals who became entangled in their former lives of sin that have been divorced and remarried and do not see how those matters can be adjusted. We recommend that these issues be left in the hands of the Lord, and that they walk in the light as God lets it shine on their souls.
- b) According to the teaching of the Holy scriptures, we positively disapprove of Christians getting divorced for any cause except the sins of adultery or fornication (Matt. 19:1-9) and for the reason of abandonment as outlined in I Corinthians 7:10-16; and we recommend divorced Christians prayerfully consider and follow I Corinthians 7 as it pertains to their personal situation.

SECTION 3. ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

All those who meet the scriptural standards for membership, whose names appeared on the original membership roll of the assembly at the time the assembly was first organized, together with those names which shall be added from time to time, shall constitute the legal voting membership of the assembly, provided they are eighteen years of age or over, that they regularly attend the means of grace and take part in the services, that they are living consistent Christian lives and are in agreement with our distinctive testimony.

SECTION 4. INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Enrolled members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of the assembly for a period of three consecutive months or more, who cease to contribute of their means to its support, who may be out of harmony with its teachings or its ministries, or who shall be under charges for misconduct, or who may have fallen under condemnation through sinful or worldly practices, shall be considered as inactive members and shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to the fellowship, their standing to be settled by the definite action of the assembly through its elected officers.

SECTION 5. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Shall consist of those members who have entered into the ministry either as District Officers, Pastors, Evangelists, Missionaries, Religious Educators, etc.; together with those who are serving in the armed forces or attending college away from home which makes it impossible to serve as active members; also shut-ins and members in good standing who have moved from the area. Honorary membership shall continue as long as the members maintain a cooperative attitude toward the home assembly. Voting privileges may be granted at the discretion of the assembly.

SECTION 6. RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

(Amended 4/28/2024)

- a) Persons desiring to become active members of the assembly shall make the fact know to the pastor, who shall examine the applicant according to the standard for membership.
- b) The Pastor shall present the names of those who apply for membership with his recommendation to the Board of Deacons, who shall act upon said recommendation and render a final decision. All persons who shall have met the membership requirements and have been passed on favorably shall be received in to the assembly publicly at the Annual Meeting and their names inscribed on the roster.
- c) It is recommended that reception of members from other Assemblies of God Churches be by letter of transfer only.

SECTION 7. DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

- a) Any member of the assembly who shall willfully absent himself from the regular services for a period of three consecutive months, unless his name is retained by special request, or who shall be under charges, shall be temporarily suspended from active voting membership pending investigation and final decision in his case.
- b) Un-scriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith held by this assembly shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member. Matt. 18:15-18; Rom. 16:17,18; I Cor. 5:11; Gal. 1:8,9; Titus 3:1-15.
- c) If any member of this church shall, in the opinion of the Official Board, fall below the standard of membership as stated above in the faith or practice, his membership in this church shall be terminated and his name be removed from the membership list. It is understood that no such action shall be taken unless and until patient and persistent effort shall have been made to win such an individual back to the standard of faith and conduct of this church. If any individual removed from membership shall protest the action of the Official Board in the matter, he shall be entitled to a hearing before the church. The action of the assembly, by a majority vote, shall be considered final.

SECTION 8. REVISION OF MEMBERSHIP ROLL

The Pastor and Official Board shall be authorized to revise the membership roll of the assembly periodically and to remove from the list of active members all names of those who have become deceased during the year, together with the names of those who have withdrawn from the fellowship, or who have fallen into sin and whose lives may have become inconsistent with the standards and teaching of the Assembly. If a name is removed for cause, the one whose name is removed shall be notified of the action of the Pastor and Official Board through the Secretary. If appeal is made to the Board for reconsideration of their action and reinstatement is not granted, the dismissed member may appeal to the congregation. The action of the Assembly, by a majority vote, shall be considered final. Matt. 18:15-17; Rom. 16:17-18; I Cor. 5:1-5; II Thess. 3:6-15.

SECTION 9. TRANSFER OR WITHDRAWAL

- a) Members in good standing, who may wish to sever their relationship with the assembly may apply for a letter of transfer or withdrawal signed by the Pastor and Secretary. Such letter shall be granted upon request and shall be addressed to the Pastor and Secretary of the receiving church and shall state whether the member is in good standing in the local assembly or not.

ARTICLE II. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1. PASTOR

- a) **QUALIFICATIONS:** The Pastor shall be a member in good standing with the General Council and the District of the Assemblies of God and shall comply with the Scriptural and Assemblies of God standards for the ministry. (I Tim. 3:2-7; Titus 1:6-9; I Peter 5:2-3).
- b) **DUTIES:** The Assembly finds its headship under the Lord Jesus Christ, in its pastor. He should be honored in his sacred office, as the spiritual overseer of the assembly and shall be general supervisor of all of its activities. He shall be the president of the corporation and shall act as chairman of the business meetings of the assembly and of the Official Board. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and departments. He shall provide for all the services of the assembly and shall arrange for all special meetings, giving due regard to the assembly with approval of the Official Board. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the assembly without his approval.

SECTION 2. PASTOR'S ASSISTANTS

- a) **DEFINITION:** Assistant Pastor, Youth Pastor, Minister of Christian Education, Minister of Music, etc.
- b) **QUALIFICATIONS:** The Pastor's Assistant shall have the same qualifications as the Pastor as set forth in Section 1. a).

SECTION 3. DEACONS (Amended 7/12/2020)

- a) **QUALIFICATIONS:** The deacons shall be full of faith and the Holy Spirit whose lives and conduct shall conform as closely as possible to the following Scriptures: Acts 6:3; I Tim. 3:8-13. Members of the official board shall be at least 21 years of age and a member of the assembly for at least twelve months. Number of deacons of this church shall be at least seven and not exceeding eleven.
- b) **DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE:** A member is not qualified to serve as a Church Board Member if either they or their spouse has a former spouse living unless the divorce occurred:
- (i) prior to conversion or
 - (ii) for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness, or
 - (iii) the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever.
- c) **DUTIES:** The deacons shall act in an advisory capacity with the pastor in all matters pertaining to the assembly in its spiritual life and in the ministry of its ordinances. They are not a legislative body but are for counsel and mutual assistance in the administration of the business and work of the assembly. They shall act in the examination of applicants for membership, also in the administration of the discipline of the assembly. In the event the assembly is temporarily without a pastor, the deacons shall be empowered to provide for their own chairman from their membership in order to transact business for the assembly. Where no other provisions are made, they shall also perform the duties and functions of trustees.

SECTION 4. TRUSTEES

- a) **QUALIFICATIONS:** The trustees shall have the same qualifications as the deacons in Section 3. a).
- b) **DUTIES:** The trustees shall be custodians of all property of the assembly and shall be responsible for the maintenance and the cleanliness of the same, and for the comfort of the congregation. The trustees shall serve the church in the selling or acquiring of property, as outlined in Article VI or property.

SECTION 5. SECRETARY (Amended 7/12/2020)

- a) **QUALIFICATIONS:** Should be one having clerical ability, faithfulness in character, and possessing a spirit of hearty cooperation.
- b) **DUTIES:** The secretary shall by virtue of office be a member of the official board and will have the following responsibilities:
- Keep the minutes of the official meetings of the board and also the annual and special meetings of the church.
 - Keep a record of the membership of the church and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of their duties.
 - Have charge of all legal documents.

SECTION 6. TREASURER (Amended 7/12/2020)

- a) **QUALIFICATIONS:** Should be one having clerical ability, faithfulness in character, and possessing a spirit of hearty cooperation. If such is not available with clerical and bookkeeping experience, a financial secretary may be appointed by the board.
- b) **DUTIES:** The treasurer shall by virtue of office be a member of the board and will have the following responsibilities:
- Keep an itemized account of the receipts and disbursements of all moneys received.
 - Make an itemized and a summarized statement at the church annual meetings.

Other treasurers may be appointed for special funds.

ARTICLE III. VACANCIES AND ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. THE PASTORATE (Amended 7/12/2020)

- a) **ELECTIONS:** When there is a vacancy in the pastorate, the official board shall act as a nominating committee, and may receive nominations for pastors from any member of the assembly, and after careful and prayerful consideration, shall present one name to the church to be balloted upon. In the event that said nominee fails two-thirds of the votes cast, the board may present successive nominees to be balloted upon separately. Only one nominee shall be considered in any one business meeting. The pastor shall be chosen by the church at the annual or special meeting called for that purpose. If he receives two-thirds of the votes cast he shall be considered elected. All nominations and elections shall be by secret ballot.
- b) **TERM OF OFFICE:** The pastor shall be elected for an indefinite period of time if he/she receives a two thirds majority of the votes cast.
- c) **VACANCIES:** A vacancy in the pastorate shall be supplied under the supervision of the Official Board until a pastor is elected by the church. The Official Board may seek the counsel and help of the district officials.
- d) **DISCIPLINE:** If at any time a situation should arise, where due to unscriptural conduct, a change of doctrinal views, or inefficiency, a pastor can no longer serve the church acceptable, it shall be the duty of the Official Board, upon exercise of the right of initiative by the assembly, to call a special meeting of the church, duly announced two consecutive Sundays. By a two-thirds majority vote of the legal voting membership present at such a meeting, a pastor's office may be declared vacant. Such action on the part of the church is not to be considered as affecting the standing of the pastor with the General Council Fellowship.

SECTION 2. PASTOR'S ASSISTANTS

a) **APPOINTMENT:** The pastor's assistants shall be appointed by the pastor with the approval of the Official Board.

SECTION 3. DEACONS

- a) **ELECTIONS:** The board of deacons shall be elected by a majority vote of the assembly, at the annual or special meeting called for that purpose.
- b) **TERM OF OFFICE:** The term of office shall be for three years and arranged so that one-third of terms shall expire each year.
- c) **VACANCIES:** Vacancies in any office in the church may be declared by action of the church whenever the incumbent has disqualified himself by unscriptural conduct, by a spirit of insubordination, or by a change of belief contrary to the articles of faith, herein, according to the plan outlined and stated in the case of the pastor.
- d) A board member cannot succeed himself after one term, except if a board member is serving a portion of a vacancy of one year or less, and shall again be eligible after a break of one year.

SECTION 4. TRUSTEES

Same as deacons in Section 3. a), b), c), d).

SECTION 5. SECRETARY & TREASURER

- a) **ELECTIONS:** The offices of the church secretary and treasurer shall be filled from the members of the official board by a majority vote at the first meeting of the Official Board following the annual meeting.
- b) **TERM OF OFFICE:** The term of office shall be for one year.

ARTICLE IV. FINANCES

SECTION 1. The church shall be financed by the scriptural system of tithes and offerings of its members. All finances shall be passed through the hands of the a treasurer and be accounted for. Mal. 3:10; Luke 6:38; I Cor. 16:1-2.

SECTION 2. The pastor and pastor's assistants shall be given adequate support according to his needs, at the discretion of the Official Board. Salaries shall be reviewed annually by the Official Board.

SECTION 3. The church shall give systematically to the world ministries financing program.

ARTICLE V. DEPARTMENTS

SECTION 1. There shall be a Sunday School Department. There shall be a Young Peoples Department. Other departments may be added as needed. They are to governed by their own constitution and bylaws

approved by the church board.

ARTICLE VI. PROPERTY

SECTION 1. The board of deacons/trustees shall have the oversight of all real, or personal property of the church.

SECTION 2. All property, real or personal, of the church shall be held, sold, transferred, assigned or conveyed by the deacons/trustees in its corporate name.

SECTION 3. No real property of the church shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without the same shall have first been recommended by a vote of at least two-thirds of the voting membership of the church being present at a regular or special meeting of the church duly called for that purpose. “The pastor and secretary of the church shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized by resolution of the church adopted by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a meeting thereof called for that purpose. Notice of the time place and object of which shall be given for at least four successive Sundays immediately preceding said meeting. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.” (Quotation from State Statutes.) The District Council recommends that the services of a reputable attorney be secured in all matters affecting the title of real estate.

SECTION 4. The deed shall read “To the corporate name of the church.”

SECTION 5. Personal property of the church shall be sold, leased, or mortgaged or otherwise assigned or transferred by the proper officers of the board, when duly authorized by the church.

SECTION 6. In case of division, church property shall belong to the members holding to the original articles of faith regardless of majority.

SECTION 7. In case the congregation should cease to exist as a church body, and ceases to use their property for church purposes, then the property is to revert to and become the property of the Executive Committee of the District Council of the Minnesota District, an incorporated religious body, with headquarters in Minneapolis, Minnesota, with full authority to sell this property, or use it in any way they see fit, for the cause of Christ.

ARTICLE VII. OFFICIAL MEETINGS

SECTION 1 (Amended 4/28/2024). The annual business meeting of the church will be set by the Board no later than March 31st of each year. Sufficient time, after close of the fiscal year, should be given the treasurer to prepare the financial report for the annual meeting, at which time the election of officers shall take place. Said meeting shall convene at such time and place as the board may decide, and of which due notice shall be given at any of the regular meetings or by publication as prescribed by law.

SECTION 2 (Amended 7/12/2020). Special business meetings may be called by the Pastor, the Church Board, or at least fifty percent of the members with voting rights, who sign a petition and place it in the hands of the Pastor, Treasurer or Secretary of the Church Board. Special meetings called by petition must be conducted no later than ninety (90) days from its receipt. Notice of the date, time, place, and purpose of the special business meeting shall be made during regular worship services for three (3) consecutive weeks directly preceding such meeting. No business other than that specified in the notice of the meeting shall be transacted at any special business meeting of the church.

SECTION 3. The business of the church shall be decided by a necessary majority of the voting members present at any of its regular or special meetings, except as herein provided.

SECTION 4. No one, or any number of persons, shall conduct any private or secret business or devotional meetings without the consent and knowledge of the pastor and the official board.

SECTION 5. Twenty-five per cent of the active voting members of the church membership at a business meeting shall constitute a quorum. *(Revised 04-27-00)*

SECTION 6. The official board shall meet once a month. This shall be known as the regular monthly business meeting of the official board.

SECTION 7. A majority of the board being present at any of their monthly or special meetings shall be considered a quorum.

ARTICLE VIII. RELATIONSHIP

This church being sovereign in all its business and local affairs, shall be in cooperative fellowship with the General Council and Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God, with the privilege of representation in all district affairs, and shall endeavor to perform its part in supporting the work of the District Council. It shall have the right to representation at meetings of the General Council or District Council by a delegate appointed by the board or pastor.

ARTICLE IX. GOVERNMENT

We recognize that government is of God, and the powers that be are ordained of the Lord as ministers of good to the governed, according to Romans 13:1-7.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

The bylaws may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the assembly by a majority vote of the membership present.