



# BYLAWS

## District Affiliated Assemblies of the South Carolina District Council Assemblies of God

### PREAMBLE

WE BEAR WITNESS AND DECLARE ourselves to be constituted by, affiliated with and governed by the South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God, hereafter referred to as the District Council. As such, we shall be in compliance with and governed by its Bylaws. Through this charter affiliation, we shall enjoy the rights, privileges and benefits of being listed as an assembly of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, hereafter referred to as the General Council, a voluntary, cooperative fellowship, and shall be in compliance with and governed by its Constitution and Bylaws.

### ARTICLE I. NAME

The corporate name of this assembly shall be \_\_\_\_\_ Assembly of God, \_\_\_\_\_, South Carolina, of the South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God.

### ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

#### Section 1. Reason-for-Being

The priority reason-for-being of this assembly shall be to be an agency of God for evangelizing and making disciples in the homeland and throughout the world, to be a corporate body in which man may worship God, to be a channel of God’s purpose to build a body of believers, Jew and Gentile, being perfected in the image of his Son, and to be a people who demonstrate God’s love and compassion for all peoples of the homeland and world.

#### Section 2. Organizational Goal

- A. The organizational goal of this assembly of believers shall be to become an affiliated assembly of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, having complied fully with and satisfied all seven requirements of the General Council Constitution, Article XI, and its Bylaws, Article VI.
- B. A General Council affiliated assembly is one that has applied for and has received a Certificate of Affiliation from The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION

## Section 1. Affiliation and Assistance

- A. In matters of biblical doctrine and conduct in conformity to the established doctrine and principles of conduct of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, this body of leaders, members and associates is in affiliation with and under the oversight and assistance of the South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God with its district office in West Columbia, South Carolina, or at such location it may relocate.
- B. The assembly, in whole or part, shall not have the right or prerogative to alter, amend or replace these bylaws. These bylaws shall be updated and edited automatically by the District Presbytery to bring them into conformity and compliance with the General Council Constitution and Bylaws and the General Council Bylaws when amendments or other changes may be made.

## Section 2. Basic Terms for General Council Affiliation

The assembly shall be privileged to apply for a change of status to General Council affiliation from District Council affiliation as an autonomous, indigenous assembly when it satisfies the required basic qualifications as set by the General Council Constitution and Bylaws and District Council Bylaws.

- A. Before requesting an official application for change of status to the District Council for recognition and endorsement, this assembly shall have demonstrated effectively by its required reports to the District Executive Presbytery that it is:
  - (1) Self-supporting and financially independent of the District Council's financial backing for operations and mission, and insured adequately against normal risks;
  - (2) Self-governing under pastoral leadership credentialed by and in good standing with the General Council of the Assemblies of God;
  - (3) Self-propagating of the gospel of the kingdom of God in evangelism, District-sponsored missions, U.S. Missions, and Assemblies of God World Missions;
  - (4) Cooperative in support of the District Council with one percent of gross income designated for the Unified Ministries Fund to support District Council departments and another one percent of gross income designated for the Advance Fund for planting new churches and revitalizing older assemblies (see Article VIII, Section 6); and
  - (5) Shall have been under District Council assistance for at least one year as defined and prescribed in the District Council Bylaws.
- B. In consideration of General Council affiliation requirements, this assembly shall:
  - (1) Accept the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God;
  - (2) Adopt a standard of membership that may be determined either by the local assembly or by agreement with the District Council;
  - (3) Have a minimum active voting membership of 20 persons who shall accept responsibility to maintain scriptural order in the local body;
  - (4) Adopt Articles of Incorporation, a constitution or bylaws compatible with models recommended by the District Council, or district-approved governance models that provide for adequate accountability, amenability, and safeguards so that a pastor

- and/or governing body cannot directly or indirectly exert dictatorial control over a church;
- (5) Have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of the assembly called for in its constitution or bylaws;
  - (6) Make provision for a pastor who is a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council and the District Council; and
  - (7) Participate in and support General Council and District Council world missions.
- C. Upon the District Executive Presbytery's acceptance of the application, it shall act in accordance with the District Council's Bylaws and General Council's Bylaws to initiate the application process for General Council status.
  - D. The membership of the assembly shall express its desire for the change of status at a duly called business meeting by a two-thirds majority of votes cast.
  - E. Upon acceptance, the District Executive Presbytery shall recommend the change of status to the District Council Presbytery which, in turn, shall recommend this assembly to become a General Council assembly.

## **ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH**

The Articles of Faith shall be the same as those set forth by the General Council of the Assemblies of God, which are as follows:

### **STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS**

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

#### **1. The Scriptures Inspired**

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

#### **2. The One True God**

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

### **THE ADORABLE GODHEAD**

#### **(a) Terms Defined**

The terms "Trinity" and "persons", as related to the Godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from "gods many and lords many." We therefore may speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is One Lord, as a trinity or as one Being of three persons, and still be absolutely scriptural (examples, Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16, 17).

(b) Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

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

(c) Unity of the One Being of Father, Son and Holy Spirit

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

(d) Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are never identical as to Person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the Godhead; not opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father, as to authority. The Holy Spirit is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation and authority. Hence, 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 the Holy Spirit. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God (Romans 1:1-3, 7; 1 John 3).

(f) The Lord Jesus Christ, God with us

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

(g) The Title, Son of God

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

(h) Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ

Wherefore, it is a transgression of the Doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title, Son of God, solely from the fact of the incarnation, or because of his

relation to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (1 John 9; John 1:1, 2, 14, 18, 29, 49; 1 John 2:22, 23; 4:1-5; Hebrews 12:2).

(i) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

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

(j) Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son

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

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

- (a) His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35).
- (b) His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).
- (c) His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
- (d) His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3; 5:21).
- (e) His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4).
- (f) His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, 11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1-3).

4. The Fall of Man

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

5. The Salvation of Man

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

(a) Conditions to Salvation

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

(b) The Evidences of Salvation

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

## 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 (2 Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

## 7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

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

## 8. The Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

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

## 9. Sanctification

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

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

## 10. The Church and its Mission

The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an

integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the Firstborn, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22, 23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

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

- (a) To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16).
- (b) To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- (c) To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of his Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).

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

- (a) Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3, 4).
- (b) Adds a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 12; 13; 14).
- (c) Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ (Galatians 5:22-26; 1 Corinthians 14:12; 12:28; Ephesians 4:11, 12; Colossians 1:29).

#### 11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the threefold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20), (2) worship of God (John 4:23, 24), and (3) building a body of saints being perfected in the image of his Son (Ephesians 4:11-16).

#### 12. Divine Healing

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

#### 13. The Blessed Hope

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

#### 14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

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

#### 15. The Final Judgment

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the

lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

"We, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21, 22).

## **ARTICLE V. PASTORAL CARE**

### Section 1. Pastoral Appointment

The District Executive Presbytery shall appoint the pastor at its discretion in consultation with the members of the local assembly. Pastoral assistants selected by the pastor shall be subject to ratification by the official board.

### Section 2. Pastoral Leadership and Care of the Assembly

The pastor shall lead the assembly and be responsible for pastoral leadership and care for the congregation. He or she shall oversee and supervise all executive, administrative and sacerdotal functions, including weekly services and meetings. He or she shall be directly responsible to and amenable to the District Executive Leadership Team (ELT), the District Executive Presbytery and the District Presbytery. The pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, groups, and departments of the assembly. He shall appoint the assembly's committees, groups department and ministry leaders to be ratified by the official board.

### Section 3. Annual Review of List of District Affiliated Pastors

The District Executive Leadership Team shall review the list of pastors of District Affiliated Assemblies on an annual basis. If a change should be determined as needed in pastoral leadership, the District Executive Leadership Team shall make such a recommendation to the District Executive Presbytery which serves as the Home Missions and Church Planting Committee whose decision shall be final.

## **ARTICLE VI. ORDINANCES**

### Section 1.

The ordinances 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 clear evidence of their salvation. (Romans 6:3-5; Col. 2:12)

### Section 2.

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



## **ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS**

### Section 1. Official Board

(a) The Official Board of the District Affiliated Assembly shall be the pastor, a qualified member of the assembly's Support Committee, the Sectional Presbyter and the Assistant Presbyter. A quorum shall consist of a majority. The Regional Executive Presbyter is an officer ex-officio as are members of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT).

(b) In the case of new church plants, until a qualified person shall be appointed by the pastor from the Support Committee, the pastor, Sectional Presbyter and Assistant Presbyter shall constitute the official board. When a person from the Support Committee qualifies, he or she shall be appointed by the pastor with ratification by the District Executive Presbytery serving as the Home Missions and Church Planting Committee.

### Section 2. Support Committee

The official board shall appoint the members of the Support Committee. They shall be selected from ministry leaders. They shall serve in a supportive role to the pastor in the ministries of the assembly. They shall not constitute, infer or act as the legal and official board of the assembly. Dates and times of their monthly, bimonthly or quarterly meetings shall be set by the pastor.

## **ARTICLE VIII. DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

### Section 1. The Pastor

The pastor shall be the overseer of the District Affiliated Assembly and shall provide for all services and meetings. No person shall invite another to preach or speak without his approval. The pastor shall supervise all matters of routine business of the assembly and the orderly maintenance of the property as authorized by the District Executive Presbytery. He or she shall report to the District Council in compliance to the approved form, if the church owes an outstanding debt to the District Council, each month, or, if the assembly is debt-free, each quarter of the fiscal year. Monthly financial reports shall be included.

### Section 2. Secretary-Treasurer

(a) A Secretary-Treasurer shall be appointed by the Official Board of the Assembly.

(b) Records and accurate minutes of all official meetings of the Official Board and business meetings of the Assembly shall be kept. Copies of said minutes shall be submitted to both the pastor and the District Council office.

(c) All church funds shall be deposited in the name of the Assembly in an approved bank account on Monday and Thursday of each week by the Pastor, Secretary-Treasurer, or another responsible person appointed by the Official Board.

(d) All authorized disbursements shall be made by check and shall be countersigned by the Pastor. In the absence of a pastor, another person may be approved by the Official Board.

(e) Receipts and disbursements shall be properly recorded. A monthly financial report shall be sent to the pastor and district office if the local assembly is not in full compliance with the required reporting items on the monthly report, and/or owes the District Council for incurred debt. If the local assembly is in full compliance with the requirements of the financial report and owes no debt to the District Council, it shall file a quarterly report with the District office.

(f) All Assembly funds and records are the property of the Assembly and shall always be available to the pastor, the Official Board and members of the District Executive Presbytery for review.

## **ARTICLE IX. VACANCIES**

### Section 1. Pastor

(a) A pastor wishing to resign should submit a written resignation to the District Superintendent at least thirty (30) days in advance.

(b) A pastor may be removed or replaced by the District Executive Presbytery when deemed necessary for the best interest of the Assembly and the District Council. The Executive Presbytery shall endeavor to give such pastor a thirty-day (30) advance notice unless the situation is too acute to warrant the same.

### Section 2. Other Officers

Any other office or position in the assembly may be declared vacant by the District Executive Presbytery when deemed necessary for the best interest of the Assembly and the District Council. Offices, when vacated, will be filled by appointment of the pastor as approved by the Official Board.

## **ARTICLE X. MEMBERSHIP**

### Section 1. Qualification

Only those shall be eligible for membership in this assembly who:

- (a) Have a clear testimony of the New Birth (John 3:3-8).
- (b) Have received the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4, or to be earnestly seeking for the same.
- (c) Have been baptized in water by immersion or a candidate for baptism (Matt. 28:19, 20).
- (d) Fully subscribe to our Tenets of Faith.

- (e) Show a sincere desire to live a consistent Christian life and to honor Christ in every activity, in personal attitude and in association with others (2 Cor. 6:14-18; Romans 6:4).
- (f) Support the local church regularly with tithes and offerings (Mal. 3:10; I Cor. 16:2).
- (g) Who have reached the age of 18 years.

## Section 2. Classification of Membership

- (a) Active Members - Those who take active part in the services, share the financial responsibility of the assembly and have been formally approved by the Official Board for acceptance into membership and documented in the Board's official minutes.
- (b) Inactive Members - Those who have moved from the community, but have not yet transferred their membership to another church. Those who for any other cause (except physical disability or temporary absence from the community) shall absence themselves from the regular services of the assembly for a period of ninety (90) days or more or who have departed from the standards of membership of the assembly shall be classified by the official board as an inactive member and shall not be qualified to participate in the business of the assembly. If such inactive members shall have become active again by resumed attendance at church service, and if he has not departed from the standard of membership of the assembly, the Official Board may return his name to the active list without formal reception into membership again.
- (c) Junior Membership - Such membership may be extended to qualified applicants up through 17 years of age without voting privilege.

## Section 3. Voting Membership

All active members 18 years of age or older shall constitute the voting membership of the District Affiliated Assembly.

## Section 4. Membership Roll

The pastor shall be responsible to see that the secretary maintains a current membership roll which shall be subject to revision by the Official Board of the assembly. The Official Board of the assembly shall revise the membership roll as deemed necessary.

# **ARTICLE XI. MEETINGS**

## Section 1. Public Worship

Congregational meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day, the first day of the week, and any other day of the week, including the Sabbath, as provided for under the direction of the pastor.

## Section 2. Annual Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of the assembly shall be held during the first quarter of the calendar year, preferably during the first quarter of the fiscal year. At such time the pastor's annual report, departmental reports and Presbyter's report shall be presented. Financial reports shall be presented to the Official Board and filed with the District Council. They shall not be acted upon by the membership of the congregation, if presented. If required for church order, or in the absence of a pastor, a member of the District Executive Presbytery or a Presbyter shall preside.

### Section 3. Special Business Meetings

Special business meetings of the District Affiliated Assembly may be called when necessary by the pastor or District Executive Leadership Team after announcing it for two (2) successive Sundays at its regular services prior to the meeting. The District Executive Leadership Team shall provide a presiding officer.

### Section 4. Special Business Meetings by Petition

Special business meetings of the District Affiliated Assembly may be called for by petition of a simple majority of the active members of the District Affiliated Assembly, provided copies of the petition have been placed in the hands of the pastor and the presbyter, has been approved by the District Executive Leadership Team, and has been announced in both services for two (2) Sundays prior to the meeting.

### Section 5. Frequency of Meetings

The official board shall conduct business at least quarterly by available means of communication, meeting in person as a group at least once during the course of the year.

### Section 6. Quorum

One half or more of all active members shall constitute a quorum.

## **ARTICLE XII. DEPARTMENTS**

### Section 1. Sunday School

The Sunday school, or its equivalent, shall be conducted as a branch of the Assembly's activities. The Sunday School Superintendent or presiding director shall be an active, supporting member. The pastor and the superintendent shall appoint all teachers and workers of the Sunday school, or its equivalent.

### Section 2. Men's Ministries

The men of the Assembly shall organize and establish meetings to assist in practical ways the mission of the local Assembly, the district, national and world ministries.

### Section 3. Women's Ministries

The women of the Assembly shall organize and establish meetings to assist in practical ways the mission of the local Assembly, the district, national and world ministries.

### Section 4. Youth Department

The Youth Department shall be in harmony with that of the Assembly and with the district and national youth ministries.

### Section 5. Children's Department

The Children's Department shall be in harmony with that of the Assembly and with the district and national children's ministries.

### Section 6. Other Departments

Other departments may be established as needed under the guidance and supervision of the pastor as are all of the generally established departments and ministries.

## **ARTICLE XIII. FINANCES**

### Section 1. Financial Support of Assembly

The assembly shall be financed by the tithes and offerings of its members, adherents and friends.

### Section 2. Limits on Expenditures and Debt

The spending limit for business and any other types of financial transaction by the assembly, including the acquiring of debt, by any method of payment or agreement shall not exceed ten percent of the average total income of the previous six months without prior approval of the Official Board. Exceptions to the spending limit are mortgage or lease payments, utility payments and health and property-related insurance premiums.

### Section 3. General Fund

All tithes and undesignated offerings received in the regular church services shall be placed in this fund. Offerings for operating expenses, property payments, etc., shall also be placed in this fund.

### Section 4. Designated Funds

All offerings designated for district Home Missions, U.S. Missions, Assemblies of God World Missions, BGMC, Speed-The-Light, Light-for-the-Lost and other board approved missions,

ministries and projects shall be placed in the appropriate designated fund and strictly disbursed only as designated according to federal and state law according to the statutes of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The right of the donors shall be honored.

#### Section 5. Pastor's Salary

The treasurer shall pay to the pastor weekly, bi-weekly or monthly an agreed upon percentage of the tithes, or a stipulated salary as agreed upon by the Official Board of the Assembly. His or her salary shall be reviewed at least once each year.

#### Section 6. District Departmental Support and Home Missions Giving

The District Council Bylaws (Article III, Section 2A) expresses the will of the District Council ministers and churches that all assemblies support the District Council by giving two percent of undesignated monthly gross income to two District Council accounts:

- 1) One half of the two percent of undesignated monthly gross income shall be for the Unified Ministries Fund of the District Council for departmental support.
- 2) One half of the two percent of monthly gross income shall be for the Advance Fund, formerly known as the Harvest Fund, for home missions and church plantings.

#### Section 7. World Missions Giving

Each District Affiliated Assembly is asked to support our national and world mission efforts, supporting missionaries and projects monthly.

### **ARTICLE XIV. PROPERTY**

#### Section 1. Realty

(a) Procurement of all real property shall require specific, prior approval by the District Executive Leadership Team and the title shall be vested in the South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God, a not-for-profit corporation. An approved abstract or title insurance policy is required.

(b) In the event this local assembly should at any time cease to function as an Assemblies of God church under the jurisdiction of the South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God, a not-for-profit Corporation, then the tangible property belonging to said church, real or personal, and all the interest of said church, real or equitable, in any and all property shall be and thereupon become the property of the South Carolina District of the Assemblies of God, a not-for-profit Corporation.

#### Section 2. Construction

All buildings constructed on said property shall be of such size and type specifically approved by the District Executive Leadership Team and sectional Home Missions Committee.

### Section 3. Chattel

All chattel goods secured by or for the assembly shall be its corporate property.

### Section 4. Maintenance

The pastor shall keep the Executive Committee fully apprised of the maintenance needs of the church property and on their specific approval see that such maintenance is done.

### Section 5. Insurance

The pastor shall be responsible to see that property and liability insurance adequately covers church property, facilities and contents, including vehicles, and a copy of the insurance policy is held by the District Council office.

## **ARTICLE XV. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Annual business meetings of the Assembly shall follow the accepted rules of parliamentary procedure according to the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order and should be conducted in the spirit of Christian and brotherly love. The purpose of the business meeting is for the Pastor's Report, departmental and ministry reports, and the Presbyter's Report. Financial reports shall be the business of the Official Board, including stipends, wages and salaries and benefits (*cf.* Article IX, Section 2).

The order of business shall be as follows:

1. Devotional
2. Reading of Minutes
3. Report of Lead Pastor
4. Departmental/Ministry Reports
5. Presbyter's Report and/or District Executive Officer's Report (if present)
6. Introduction of Appointed Officers
7. Adjournment

## **ARTICLE XVI. AMENDMENTS**

These Bylaws shall be amended only by the District Presbytery and shall be brought before the District Council in its next session for ratification.

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### **ACTIONS:**

Recommended amendments by the District Home Missions Committee on April 18, 2013

Adopted by the District Presbytery on April 23, 2013  
Ratified by the District Council in session on May 15, 2013  
Amended by District Presbytery on October 22, 2013  
Amended by the District Council's action, May 21, 2014, including to automatically bring into compliance all bylaws and legal documents into conformity with the General Council Constitution and Bylaws and District Council Bylaws  
Edited per District Presbytery authorization on January 24, 2017.