

BYLAWS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL**ARTICLE ONE – PARLIAMENTARY LAW**

- A. In order to expedite the work of this District Council and to avoid confusion in its deliberations, all meetings of the Executive Presbytery and District Presbytery, all District Council Conventions and Special Business Meetings of the membership, shall be conducted under and governed by parliamentary authority and provisions of the current version of **Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised**, subject to the foregoing Constitution and in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit of God.
- B. The District Superintendent in consultation with the District Presbytery shall appoint a special committee, which shall be known as the Parliamentary Committee, consisting of qualified persons capable to act as parliamentarians for District Council membership meeting sessions. Such appointees shall be notified of respective appointment not less than sixty days prior to the District Council Convention. All members of such Parliamentary Committee shall be expected to attend all business sessions of the District Council Convention.

ARTICLE TWO – MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS, VOTING CONSTITUENCY

- A. The voting constituency for all meetings of the membership of this District Council in session shall consist of all accredited members present and registered, and participating in the business being conducted.
- B. The term accredited members shall include the following:
 - 1. Ordained Ministers in good standing holding current ministerial credentials registered with this District Council;
 - 2. Licensed Ministers in good standing holding current ministerial credentials registered with this District Council;
 - 3. Persons holding current Certificates of Ministry in good standing and serving as senior pastor of an affiliated Assemblies of God church in this District Council shall be recognized as though they were licensed ministers for purpose of registration and participation as part of the voting constituency in business session meetings of the membership of this District Council;
 - 4. Churches within the geographical territory of this District Council that have been issued a letter of affiliation from The General Council of the Assemblies of God, having current status as a sovereign Assemblies of God church may be represented by two designated non-credentialed delegates and each District Council affiliated church may be recognized by one designated non-credentialed delegate.
 - 5. Non-credentialed persons who are regular members of boards and standing committees of this District Council shall be accorded the privilege of voice and vote in membership sessions of this District Council.
 - 6. Non-credentialed persons approved by the Executive Committee to serve as senior pastors of General Council affiliated assemblies shall be accorded the privilege of voice and vote in membership sessions of this District Council.
 - 7. Non-credentialed persons appointed by the District Churches and District Missions Board to serve as senior pastors of District Council affiliated assemblies, shall be accorded the privilege of voice and vote in membership sessions of this District Council.
- C. All persons comprising the voting constituency shall have the right to be recognized by the chair, to bring motions and offer resolutions, to engage in debate and discussion, and to vote on elections and legislation and all other matters properly before the body in all business sessions of the membership of this District Council.
- D. Persons holding current Certificates of Ministry registered with this District Council, upon recognition of the chair, shall have the privilege of participation in debate and discussion on legislative issues before the membership in its business sessions, but they shall have no right to nominate or bring motions or offer resolutions, or to vote in elections or on legislation in these premises.
- E. A participating member church shall be represented in meetings of the membership of this District Council, and in regional caucus and sectional meetings, by its properly designated delegate, and as follows:
 - 1. Delegates may only act personally at a meeting or by written ballot and may not act by proxy, and the delegate may not assign or transfer the delegacy.
 - 2. A member church delegate should be chosen annually well in advance of the District Council meeting in a

- regular or special business session, directly by the membership of the church which they represent, or they may be appointed by the church board when authorized by the governing documents or vote of the membership of the particular local church.
3. A written report certifying the selection or reappointment of the delegate by a member church should be sent immediately to the District Secretary at the District Office, for the record, and well in advance of the meeting of the membership of District Council.
 4. A lay delegate of a member church shall be at least 21 years of age, and must have written documentation to establish the delegate status, confirmed by the signature of the pastor or corporate secretary of the local member church, certifying the delegate's selection by the church membership or the church board. Such documentation establishes the power of the delegate to participate in membership sessions. The written documentation certifying a delegate to represent the member church shall be on forms provided by the District Council and shall not contain conditions or restrictions upon the delegate's authority or right of participation in meetings of membership of this District Council.
 5. A delegate certified by a member church shall have no proprietary right or economic interest in the certification or status, and suffers no loss or injury of any kind upon termination or decertification. A delegate or proposed delegate accepts the appointment subject to these conditions.
- F. Accredited and registered members may only participate in business of the District Council membership in session as takes place subsequent to their being properly registered.

ARTICLE THREE – QUALIFICATIONS, NOMINATIONS, AND ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS

Section One: Qualifications of Officers

A. General Qualifications

To be eligible for nomination to any elected office in this District, a candidate must meet the following criteria in addition to any criteria specific to the office:

1. The candidate must be a person of mature experience and ability, at least 25 years of age;
2. The candidate must have been ordained to the ministry for at least two full years immediately preceding election;
3. The candidate must have been a member of this District Council for at least one full year immediately preceding election;
4. The candidate must have manifested a genuine interest in and spirit of cooperation with the ministry of this District Council.

B. Additional Qualifications for Executive Officers

Candidates for an Executive Office of this District Council must have been ordained to the ministry by the Assemblies of God for at least five years and a member of this District Council for at least two full years immediately preceding election.

C. Additional Qualifications for Executive Presbyters

Candidates must have been a resident Senior Pastor in the region that they are to represent for at least twelve consecutive months immediately preceding the election and continued ministry as a resident Senior Pastor in that region shall be a condition of continued service as an Executive Presbyter. Candidates to become an Executive Presbyter-At-Large must fulfill the normal qualifications for the office, with the exception that, instead of ministry in a geographic region, they must be a resident Senior Pastor among the larger constituency from which they are nominated.

Candidates to become a Female Executive Presbyter-At-Large must fulfill the normal qualifications for the office, with the exception that, instead of ministry as a Senior Pastor in a geographic region, they must be an active minister within the District.

D. Additional Qualifications for Presbyters

Candidates must have been a resident Senior Pastor in the section that they are to represent for at least twelve consecutive months immediately preceding the election and continued ministry as a resident Senior Pastor in that section shall be a condition of continued service as a Sectional Presbyter. Candidates to become a Presbyter-At-Large must fulfill the normal qualifications for the office, with the exception that, instead of ministry in a geographic section, they must be a resident Senior Pastor among the larger constituency from

which they are nominated.

Candidates to become a Female District Presbyter-At-Large must fulfill the normal qualifications for the office, with the exception that, instead of ministry as a Senior Pastor in a geographic section, they must be an active minister within the District.

In addition, no Sectional Presbyter or Presbyter-At-Large may also serve as an Executive Presbyter or Executive Presbyter-At-Large. In the event that a Sectional Presbyter or Presbyter-At-Large is elected as an Executive Presbyter or Executive Presbyter-At-Large, the individual must choose which position to accept; the other becomes vacant.

E. Additional Qualifications for Honorary and Emeritus Officials

1. Emeritus Executive Officers: The candidate must have served as an Executive Officer in this District, served the District Presbytery for 15 or more years, and must be at least 65 years old.
2. Honorary Officials: Honorary Executive Presbyter, Honorary Sectional Presbyter: The candidate must have served the District for at least 15 years as an Executive or Sectional Presbyter and must be at least 65 years old.

Section Two: Nominations of Officers

A. Nomination of District Officials and General Council Presbyters

1. Nomination of District Superintendent, Assistant District Superintendent and General Council Presbyters

All candidates for District Superintendent, Assistant District Superintendent, and General Council Presbyter Necessarily-A-Pastor shall be nominated by secret ballot of the membership at a meeting of the membership of the District Council in session. The Tellers Committee shall tally the nominations and provide the chairman with a list of all names which received six or more nominations ordered by decreasing number of votes along with the number of nominations received. Other names receiving less than six votes will be reported as *Other Names* along with the total number of votes received.

2. Nomination of District Secretary-Treasurer

The District Presbytery shall investigate and discuss the qualifications and general fitness of candidates for this office and shall select by secret ballot one or more names to be presented to the District Council in session for election. The District Presbytery, serving as the nominating committee, shall submit as nominees to the District Council all qualified candidates who have received at least six votes. There shall be no further nominations from the District Council floor.

3. Nomination of Non-Resident Executive Presbyters.

The District Presbytery shall act as the nominating committee for the offices of Non-Resident Executive Presbyters. The District Presbytery shall by secret ballot select one or more names for each office to be presented to the District Council for election. The District Presbytery shall submit all qualified candidates who have received at least three votes on the nominating ballot. There shall be no further nominations from the District Council floor.

B. Nomination of Executive Presbyters

1. Regional Executive Presbyters

Regions assigned even numbers by the Executive Presbytery nominate an Executive Presbyter on even years, and regions with odd numbers nominate an Executive Presbyter on odd years using the following procedure:

At a duly-called sectional meeting, each section in the region shall select a nominee from the region using the procedures described in Article Three, Section Three, Paragraph B of these Bylaws. The voting constituency of a section shall meet the same criteria as required for registration at a meeting of the membership of District Council. This selection shall take place at the same meeting at which the section nominates a Sectional Presbyter. The name of the Executive Presbyter nominee shall be reported to the District Secretary and presented for election at the District Council.

Those regions having multiple nominees must caucus to select one of the nominees to present to the District Council. Each caucus shall be chaired by a person selected by the District Superintendent. The caucus shall by two-thirds majority vote select one nominee.

In the event the caucus is unable to select one nominee after five ballots, the two names receiving the highest number of votes shall be presented to the membership of District Council for election.

2. Executive Presbyters-At-Large

- a. Intercultural Executive Presbyters-At-Large

There shall be one Intercultural Executive Presbyter-At-Large. On odd-numbered years, each intercultural church and recognized fellowship is invited to submit to the District Presbytery nominees for this office. The Superintendent shall appoint a District Presbytery Nominating Committee to review submissions and submit a list of qualified candidates to the District Presbytery, who shall by two-thirds majority vote select a candidate to present to the District Council for election.
 - b. Female Executive Presbyters-At-Large

There shall be one Female Executive Presbyter-At-Large. On even-numbered years, credentialed ministers of the District are invited to submit to the District Presbytery nominees for this office. The Superintendent shall appoint a District Presbytery Nominating Committee to review nominees and submit a list of qualified candidates to the District Presbytery, who shall by two-thirds majority vote select a candidate to present to the District Council for election.
- C. Nomination and Election of Presbyters
1. Sectional Presbyters

Sections belonging to regions assigned even numbers nominate and elect a Sectional Presbyter on even years, and sections belonging to regions with odd numbers nominate and elect a Sectional Presbyter on odd years using the following procedure:

Candidates for Sectional Presbyter shall be nominated and elected at a duly called Sectional meeting following the procedures described in Article Three, Section Three, Paragraph B. The meeting shall be called by the District Superintendent and held at least 30 days prior to the annual District Council. The meeting shall be chaired by another Constitutional Officer or the District Superintendent's designee. The voting constituency of a section shall meet the same criteria as required for registration at a meeting of the membership of District Council. The name of the elected Sectional Presbyter shall be reported to the District Secretary. The term of office shall commence at the end of the annual District Council Convention unless the Presbyter is elected to fulfill an unexpired term, in which case the term shall commence immediately upon election.

In the event none of the ministers in a section meet all the qualifications for the office of Sectional Presbyter, then the District Presbytery shall appoint an acting Sectional Presbyter.
 2. Presbyters-At-Large
 - a. Intercultural District Presbyters-At-Large

There shall be two Intercultural District Presbyters-at-Large. On odd-numbered years, each intercultural church and recognized fellowship is invited to submit to the District Presbytery nominees for this office. The Superintendent shall appoint a District Presbytery Nominating Committee to review submissions and submit a list of qualified candidates to the District Presbytery, who shall by two-thirds majority vote select candidates to present to the District Council for election.
 - b. Female District Presbyters-At-Large

There shall be two female District Presbyters-at-Large. On even-numbered years, credentialed ministers of the District are invited to submit to the District Presbytery nominees for this office. The Superintendent shall appoint a District Presbytery Nominating Committee to review nominees and submit a list of qualified candidates to the District Presbytery, who shall by two-thirds majority vote select candidates to present to the District Council for election.
- D. Nomination of Honorary and Emeritus Officers
- Candidates for Honorary and Emeritus Officers shall be nominated by a majority vote of the District Presbytery.

Section Three: Election of Officers

- A. Majorities Required
 1. A two-thirds majority shall be required for all elections not otherwise specified.
 2. Honorary positions require a simple majority.
- B. Election Procedures

All names presented to the membership for consideration shall be voted upon by secret ballot until a nominee receives the required majority of all votes cast. If on the nominating ballot a single candidate receives 75% or more of the votes cast, the chairman shall declare the ballot to be an electoral ballot and the

candidate thereby elected.

After each ballot, the Tellers Committee shall make a report listing the candidates and the number of votes each candidate has received ordered by decreasing number of votes.

If no candidate has received the necessary majority by the second ballot after the nominating ballot the three nominees who have received the highest number of votes in the last round shall be the only nominees to be further voted upon; and all other names shall be removed.

C. Procedure to Elect Honorary and Emeritus Officials

Elections of Honorary and Emeritus District Officials may be conducted by voice vote.

Section Four: Vacancies

- A. In the event that all three Executive Officers are lost to the District, the Regional Executive Presbyter with the longest current consecutive tenure shall convene and chair a meeting of the District Presbytery within 14 days of such loss. The District Presbytery shall elect by simple majority an Acting Superintendent from the Executive Presbytery and an Acting Secretary from the District Presbytery. The Acting Superintendent and Acting Secretary shall be empowered to sign all legal documents. The Acting Superintendent shall call a special District Council within 60 days of the loss to nominate and elect a new Superintendent, a new Assistant District Superintendent, and to elect a new District Secretary-Treasurer who has been nominated by the District Presbytery. The Acting Superintendent and Acting Secretary shall serve only until new Executive Officers are elected. The newly elected officers shall immediately assume their duties.
- B. In event a vacancy shall occur in the office of the District Superintendent, the Assistant District Superintendent shall immediately assume the authority and duties and responsibilities of that office in addition to normal duties of Assistant District Superintendent until the next District Council Convention, at which time the membership of the District Council shall elect a successor for the unexpired term of the District Superintendent.
- C. In event a vacancy shall occur in the office of Assistant District Superintendent, District Secretary-Treasurer, Executive Presbyter, or General Presbyter, same may be filled by two-thirds majority vote of the District Presbytery, by secret ballot, to fill the unexpired term. If for any reason a vacancy in any of these offices is not filled prior to the annual meeting of the membership of the District Council, the District Presbytery shall place in nomination the names of qualified persons to be presented to the membership of District Council for election.
- D. When the office or the unexpired term of Assistant District Superintendent and/or District Secretary-Treasurer becomes vacant during a District Council in session the District Presbytery, by secret ballot, shall select not more than three (3) nominees to be presented to the District Council in accordance with the policy established by the District Presbytery. When the three (3) nominees have been presented to the District Council, the first ballot cast will be considered a nomination ballot, in order to allow additional nominations to be presented from the floor by the voting constituency.
- E. In event a vacancy shall occur in the office of Sectional Presbyter, it shall be the duty of the District Superintendent or the District Superintendent's designee to call and hold a special meeting of the voting constituency in the affected section, for the purpose of conducting an election to fill the vacancy by two-thirds majority vote. Written notice of the meeting shall be sent to the membership at least fifteen days prior to the meeting. In event none of the pastors in a section meet all the criteria and qualifications for the office of Sectional Presbyter, the District Presbytery shall appoint an acting Sectional Presbyter on criteria as may be established by the District Presbytery for the particular situation to serve in the interim or for the unexpired term.
- F. In event a vacancy shall occur in the office of Executive Presbyter At-Large or Presbyter At-Large the District Presbytery shall by two-thirds majority vote elect a nominee to fill the vacancy.
- G. In the event of vacancies on any boards, committees, or teams the District Superintendent shall appoint a replacement with the approval of the District Presbytery.

**ARTICLE FOUR – DUTIES AND PRIVILEGES OF OFFICERS,
BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

Section One: Duties of the Executive Officers

A. Duties of the District Superintendent

1. The District Superintendent shall be the president of this District Council. The District Superintendent is Chief Executive Officer and supervisor of all day to day business of this corporation, empowered to sign legal documents and official certificates on behalf of the corporation, and as required to certify the validity of same. The District Superintendent shall do and perform the functions customary for a corporation presiding officer and such as may be directed by the membership or the Executive Presbytery or District Presbytery. The District Superintendent shall devote full time to the duties of this office.
2. The District Superintendent shall be an ex officio member of all boards, committees, and teams established within this District Council.
3. The District Superintendent shall supervise all the work of the District Council, its departments and programs. All departmental officers and directors within this District Council are under the District Superintendent's authority. The District Superintendent shall serve as, or present for appointment, the Director of each Division of this District Council unless otherwise specifically assigned in these Bylaws.
4. The District Superintendent shall be the supervisor of all activities and business at the District Council office.
5. The District Superintendent shall administer discipline among the membership of this District Council, and is empowered to impose restrictions on any minister whose ministerial credentials are registered with this District Council when such person is under serious allegations or charges, pending determination of the District Presbytery or eventual disposition by the General Council Credentials Committee or the General Presbytery.
6. The District Superintendent shall preside as chair of all annual District Council Conventions and Special Business Meetings of the membership.
7. The District Superintendent shall preside as chair of meetings of the District Presbytery of this District Council.
8. The District Superintendent shall preside as chair of the meetings of the Executive Presbytery of this District Council.
9. The District Superintendent shall preside as chair of the meetings of the Ministerial Relations Committee of this District Council.
10. The District Superintendent shall preside as chair of meetings of the Executive Committee of this District Council.
11. The District Superintendent or the District Superintendent's designee shall be responsible for proper liaison between this District Council and its recognized military chaplains.

B. Duties of the Assistant District Superintendent

1. The Assistant District Superintendent shall serve as vice-president of this District Council Corporation. The Assistant District Superintendent shall do and perform the functions customary for a corporation vice-president and such as may be directed by the District Presbytery or Executive Presbytery, and is amenable to the District Superintendent in all matters of work and policy. The Assistant District Superintendent shall devote full-time to the duties of the office.
2. The Assistant District Superintendent shall be an ex officio member of all boards, committees, and teams within this District Council.
3. In absence of the District Superintendent, the Assistant District Superintendent shall preside as chair at all District Council Conventions and Special Business Meetings of the membership, meetings of the District Presbytery, meetings of the Executive Presbytery, and meetings of the District Executive Committee.
4. In order to provide for the necessary continuity in the work of this District Council, the Assistant District Superintendent shall sign legal documents and as required certify to their validity when either the District Superintendent or District Secretary is absent, when a written request has been received from the absent executive to so do; or, when there is a vacancy or other incapacity in the office of either the District Superintendent or District Secretary such may be authorized by the Executive Presbytery.
5. The Assistant District Superintendent shall assist in the operations of the District Council Office, and in supervision of the work on the field within the area served by this District Council, in cooperation with the District Superintendent.
6. The Assistant District Superintendent shall be the Director of the Division of District Churches and District Missions, to oversee District affiliated churches and approved and recognized ministries.

7. The Assistant District Superintendent shall be responsible to investigate applications for financial assistance for minister members of this District Council, and may administer funds made available by the District Presbytery for such assistance. The Assistant District Superintendent is empowered, as funds and facility are available, to arrange for financial and material aid to affiliated Assemblies of God churches in event of disaster. The Assistant District Superintendent shall act as liaison in this District Council for the General Council Benevolence Department and administer that part of its activities as directed by the General Council. The Assistant District Superintendent will provide regular reports of all expenditures to the Executive Presbytery.
 8. The Assistant District Superintendent shall serve as the Director of other Divisions of the District Council as requested by the Superintendent and approved by the District Presbytery.
- C. Duties of the District Secretary-Treasurer
1. Duties as the District Secretary
 - a. The District Secretary of this District Council shall perform such functions as are customary to the office of a corporate secretary and as may be directed by the membership of the District Council or the District Presbytery or the Executive Presbytery, and is amenable to the District Superintendent in all matters of work and policy. The District Secretary shall devote full-time to the duties of the office of District Secretary-Treasurer.
 - b. The District Secretary shall be the corporate secretary of the District Council Corporation, and as such shall be the custodian of the corporate seal; and, shall sign, seal and deliver all legal documents as necessary, and when required shall certify the validity of same.
 - c. The District Secretary shall make and keep true record of proceedings of the District Council and publish same as required by this Constitution and Bylaws and as approved and directed by the membership of the District Council, District Presbytery or Executive Presbytery.
 - d. The District Secretary shall act as secretary of meetings of the Executive Presbytery, the District Presbytery, the Ministerial Relations Committee, and the Executive Committee, and shall make and keep records of the deliberations of such bodies.
 - e. The District Secretary shall be an ex officio member of all boards, committees, and teams within this District Council.
 - f. The District Secretary shall endorse and certify all applications for ministerial credentials approved by the District Credentials Board as authorized by the General Council Credentials Committee. The District Secretary shall keep a record of the assemblies within this District Council, and shall maintain a continuing record of reception, transfer, discipline, dismissal or withdrawal, and demise, of all ministers whose ministerial credentials are or have been or shall in the future be registered with this District Council.
 - g. The District Secretary shall keep all essential records of membership within this District Council, and transactions between the District Council and local churches.
 - h. In the absence of both the District Superintendent and Assistant District Superintendent, the District Secretary shall preside as chair at meetings of the membership and boards and committees in which such absent officers would otherwise preside.
 - i. The District Secretary shall serve as the Director of any Divisions of the District Council at the request of the Superintendent as approved by the District Presbytery.
 2. Duties as the District Treasurer
 - a. The District Treasurer of this District Council shall perform such functions as are customary to the office of a corporate chief financial officer and as may be directed by the membership of the District Council or the District Presbytery or the Executive Presbytery, and is amenable to the District Superintendent in all matters of work and policy. This officer shall devote full-time to the duties of the office of District Secretary-Treasurer.
 - b. The District Treasurer shall be the custodian of all funds of this corporation and shall initially deposit such funds in the corporate name of the District Council in federally insured institutions designated by the Executive Presbytery. When it is appropriate that District funds be invested, the District Treasurer shall invest such funds in investment institutions which are affiliated with the Assemblies of God (CEP, AGFSG, etc.) or loaned to Assemblies of God churches and other affiliated organizations in this District. The deposited funds shall remain in these designated or affiliated institutions until

- disbursement.
- c. The District Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements of funds of this District Council and administer the work of the office according to acceptable methods of business procedure.
 - d. The District Treasurer shall be bonded by a good and sufficient employee's fidelity bond in the minimum amount of \$100,000; the cost of the bond to be paid from the general funds of this District Council.
 - e. The District Treasurer shall make monthly reports of the business activity of this District Council to the District Superintendent and to the Executive Presbytery and quarterly to the District Presbytery and make an annual financial report to the membership at the District Council Convention which shall include a confirming report of a Certified Public Accountant, a copy of which shall be made available to each member and delegate then present.
 - f. The District Treasurer shall supervise the development of comprehensive insurance programs for churches, ministers, affiliated organizations, and employees, of this District Council.

Section Two: Duties of the Executive Presbytery

- A. The Executive Presbytery shall serve as the statutory board of directors of this District Council. They shall supervise and have general oversight over all District ministries and shall execute the will of the Council carrying out the policies established by the Council and the District Presbytery, being at all times under the authority of the District Presbytery. They shall exercise the corporate duties of the Council when the Council is not in session, shall control the business affairs of the corporation and shall ratify the appointment of divisional personnel and all boards and committee members who serve the District Council unless stipulated otherwise elsewhere in these Bylaws. They shall make regular reports of their actions to the District Presbytery and shall edit and approve the minutes of the meetings of the membership of the District Council for publication.
- B. The Executive Presbytery serves as the finance board of the District and shall approve and monitor both the administrative and divisional budgets, shall approve all personnel and officer's salaries and shall approve all financial reports for the District Council. The Executive Presbytery is empowered to buy, sell, or receive properties for the District valued up to one million dollars.
- C. The Executive Presbytery shall act as the District Credentials Board in all matters relating to the execution of policy for ministerial credentials.
 1. They shall receive and act upon the credentialing recommendations of the Sectional Leadership Committee, review and act upon applications for life experience and recognition of credentials, and shall evaluate and apply all policies regarding credentials as recommended by the General Council and District Presbytery according to Bylaws described below
 2. All applications for ministerial credentials or certifications to be issued through this District Council shall be filed with the District Secretary, on forms approved by the District Presbytery. Procedure for processing such applications for ministerial credentials or certifications, interviewing applicants, and arranging interviewing committees, shall be as elsewhere provided in these Bylaws. The Committee may recommend procedural policies to the District Presbytery in order to maintain a consistent high level of ministerial quality.
- D. The Ministerial Relations Committee investigates charges brought against members of this District Council.
 1. The Executive Presbytery, functioning as the Ministerial Relations Committee of this District Council shall act as a judicial forum to investigate, hear charges and impose discipline against credentialed ministers and members, giving a complete report to the District Presbytery regarding the execution of policy between meetings of the District Presbytery.
 2. The membership of the committee may from time to time be augmented by the addition of the Sectional Presbyter of the affected section. The District Superintendent is authorized to appoint special committees from the members of the District Presbytery to assist with an investigation when appropriate.
 3. The committee shall investigate all charges brought against any minister of this District Council and shall receive the reports from other duly appointed committees or officers authorized to investigate allegations and complaints against such minister. The Ministerial Relations Committee shall present a report of its findings and recommendations to the District Presbytery for any disciplinary action deemed necessary.

- E. By virtue of their respective offices, the members of the Executive Presbytery of this District Council shall be members of the District Presbytery.
- F. The Executive Presbytery of this District Council shall meet at least nine times each year. Such meetings may take place at any location within or without the boundaries of this District Council, at the discretion of the Board.
- G. In the event the District Superintendent shall determine that circumstances constitute an emergency, the Executive Presbytery shall be authorized to deliberate by means of mail, electronic communications, conference call, or telephone polling conducted by or under supervision of the District Superintendent or the Assistant District Superintendent. All such discussion, deliberation and action shall be pursuant to the normal rules of parliamentary procedure, except that a two-thirds majority vote shall be required to adopt and the quorum and vote shall be recorded by roll call. Such action, and all related documentation shall be reviewed by the Executive Presbytery at its next regular or special meeting, and entered into the minutes of that meeting.
- H. The Executive Presbytery shall serve as a Mediation Board to help in resolution of disputes between individuals, churches, or factions within the fellowship. In the event of failure of mediation then the Mediation Board may act as arbitrators to make finding and binding determination in such matters. Decisions of the Mediation Board may be appealed to the District Presbytery and its decision shall be final.
- I. The Executive Presbytery shall be responsible to assist the District Treasurer in the coordination of financial programs of all departments of this District Council and in preparation of budgets, including implementation of a program for fulfillment of the budget.
- J. The Executive Presbytery shall provide preliminary survey and advice on major projects undertaken by this District Council at District or departmental level involving expenditure of funds.
- K. All proposals for expenditure of funds of this District Council or any of its departments shall be first presented to the Executive Presbytery for review and recommendation.
- L. The Executive Presbytery shall be responsible for recommending adequate insurance programs for the District Council and its members, affiliated ministries and churches, including but not limited to fire, liability, property, medical and life insurance policies.
- M. The Executive Presbytery shall constitute sub-committees of Finance and Missions with the appointment of resource persons to serve on these sub-committees. The Executive Presbytery may constitute other sub-committees as need arises to serve specific areas of need regarding District business or policies, and may retain resource people to assist in their areas of expertise.
- N. The Executive Presbytery has the privilege of input in writing to the Bethany University Trustees on behalf of the District Presbytery, and is charged to work to foster growing relationships between the University and the District.

Section Three: Duties of the District Presbytery

- A. Providing Sectional Pastoral Leadership
 - 1. The individual Sectional Presbyter together with the Sectional Leadership Committee shall be responsible to monitor the conditions, needs, ministries, and ministers residing in their respective sections. They shall provide pastoral oversight of their section or language groups, assist churches with open pastorates, act as the Advisory Committee of District affiliated churches which do not have a qualified Advisory Committee, develop a sectional ministry network to enhance sectional meetings, work with the Church Planting Team to develop church planting strategies for their section and assist in the mentoring, discipline, and rehabilitation programs of ministers within the section.
 - 2. The individual Sectional Presbyters serving on the District Presbytery of this District Council shall serve in their respective sections as presiding officer of meetings of membership in respective section, and shall be in charge of all fellowship meetings and ministers meetings as shall take place within such section, and shall arrange at least four such meetings each calendar year.
 - 3. The individual Sectional Presbyters shall preside at business meetings in a local church in their respective sections of this District Council in response to request from the pastor or official board of the church, after first consulting with the District Superintendent.
 - 4. The individual Sectional Presbyters shall work with the District Churches and District Missions Director and the District Churches and District Missions Board to provide oversight of District affiliated churches in

their section, and receive annual reports from the pastor of the District affiliated churches. Each Sectional Presbyter or respective designee shall meet with each pastor of the District affiliated churches at least once each calendar year on the premises of that local church to conduct a tour and inspection of the church premises and any District owned parsonage and property, and to review the files regarding employee and volunteer workers, and to discuss the ministerial goals of the pastor and the local church. Written reports of these meetings shall be forwarded to the Director of the Division of District Churches and District Missions.

5. The individual sectional presbyters together with the Sectional Leadership Committee shall serve as the credential review committee for their section. As such they shall interview and make recommendations regarding prospective candidates within their section and shall establish a mentoring relationship for six months with all first-time credential holders.
- B. Serving as District Policy Board
1. The District Presbytery shall serve as the official legislative and policy-making body of this District Council when the membership is not in session, and is empowered to review and determine broad policies in regard to District operations, administration, and ministries. Accordingly, the District Presbytery is empowered to adopt and establish rules and regulations for conduct of all business of this District Council, particularly to establish fiscal policies for the corporation. Accordingly, the District Presbytery is empowered to interpret policy mandates and Bylaws adopted by the membership of the District Council in session, to receive reports of action from the Executive Presbytery, formally approve the opening and closing of churches, approve the sale or purchase of property valued from one million to three million dollars, and review and suggest action to address needs of churches and ministers. Its decisions in this regard shall be final unless reversed or modified by the membership of the District Council in session. The District Presbytery is amenable to the membership in this regard, and shall make reports to the membership upon its request.
 2. The District Presbytery of this District Council shall meet quarterly to conduct its regular business, and shall meet annually in a retreat to pray, have fellowship, review the previous year's ministry, and to seek direction for the coming year's ministry. Such meetings may take place at any location within or without the boundaries of this District Council, at the discretion of the District Presbytery.
 3. In event the District Superintendent or any three Executive Presbyters shall determine that circumstances constitute an emergency, the District Presbytery shall be authorized to deliberate by means of mail, electronic communications, conference call, or telephone polling conducted by or under supervision of the District Superintendent or Assistant District Superintendent. All discussion, deliberation and action taken in conference telephone meetings shall be pursuant to the normal rules of parliamentary procedure, except a two-thirds majority shall be required to adopt and the quorum and vote shall be recorded by roll call. Such action and all related documentation shall be reviewed by the District Presbytery at its next regular or special meeting, and entered into the minutes of that meeting.
 4. The District Presbytery is empowered to endorse or withhold endorsement from local churches seeking General Council affiliation, and is empowered to request that sovereign churches which are disapproved be removed from the roster of General Council churches.
 5. The District Presbytery of this District Council is authorized to establish the office of controller, having such duties and authority as shall be assigned to that office by the Executive Committee.

Section Four: Composition and Duties of Sectional Leadership Committees

- A. There shall be in each section of this District Council a Sectional Leadership Committee, consisting of not less than three nor more than five members, with the numbers thereof to be determined by the membership of the section from time to time. In addition to such elected members, the Regional Executive Presbyter for the particular section shall be an ex officio member of each such Sectional Leadership Committee within respective region.
- B. The members of the Sectional Leadership Committee shall be elected to serve for a two year period by the membership of the section, at the biennial business meeting of the section by secret ballot. The section may adopt a special rule to accept preferential majority in these elections. Vacancies on the Sectional Leadership Committee shall be filled by special resolution of the committee composed of the remaining members
- C. A candidate for election to the Sectional Leadership Committee shall be an ordained minister who shall have

resided in the particular section for at least twelve consecutive months immediately prior to election. In event a section has too few ministers who meet the criteria for such election, the District Presbytery shall appoint members under criteria established by its resolution.

- D. The Sectional Leadership Committee shall be responsible for implementing, coordinating, supervising and promoting the work of the section, including aiding and assisting churches and ministers in the section with spiritual under girding and promoting cooperative programs.
- E. The individual Sectional Presbyter for the section shall serve as chair of the Sectional Leadership Committee, and be responsible for notifying all elected and appointed and ex officio members of the committee of time and place of meeting, and determine and assign the portfolio of duties to each elected or appointed committee member, as established and set forth in the District Administrative Procedures Manual.
- F. The Sectional Leadership Committee shall be amenable to the District Presbytery in all matters of policy and procedure, as set forth in the District Administrative Procedures Manual.
- G. The Sectional Leadership Committee shall:
 - 1. Provide the Church Planting Team with a list of potential church plant sites annually;
 - 2. Promote financial aid and other assistance from the Sectional churches to any new church planted in the Section; and
 - 3. Promote the District affiliated church tour.
- H. The Sectional Leadership Committee is authorized to raise funds in its section to cover operating expenses as approved by the Executive Presbytery and the District Presbytery. All such funds shall be deposited in a special fund established with a federally insured financial institution, in the name of the District Council and under the District Council's Federal Identification Number, for the benefit of the section, for which account the District Secretary-Treasurer shall be principal signatory, and other signatories as allowed by written confirmation of the District Secretary-Treasurer.
- I. It shall be the responsibility of the particular Sectional Presbyter, as the chair of such Sectional Leadership Committee, to personally monitor the fiscal activities of the Sectional Leadership Committee, and to provide the District Secretary with quarterly reports of income and disbursements, accompanied by copies of monthly account statements from the financial institution in which funds are deposited.
- J. The Sectional Leadership Committee shall serve as an interviewing committee to examine certain candidates for ministry within this District Council in the respective section.
- K. The Sectional Leadership Committee shall also serve as a missions committee. It shall be responsible for promoting in its section the missions programs of this District Council, and to cooperate with the World Missions Team and the District Churches and District Missions Board in arranging itineraries of U.S. Missionaries and World Missionaries in its respective section.

Section Five: Privileges of the Honorary and Emeritus Officers

- A. Persons elected to the office of Emeritus Executive Officers shall be designated with the title "Emeritus" preceding the highest position in which the person had served. Emeritus Executive Officers shall have the privilege of attending meetings of the Executive and District Presbyteries at their own expense, with voice and no vote.
- B. Persons elected to the office of Honorary Presbyter shall be designated with the title "Honorary" preceding the highest position in which that person served. Honorary Presbyters may have the privilege of attending meetings of the District Presbytery at their own expense, with voice but no vote.

Section Six: Duties Involving Oversight of Properties

- A. All real property belonging to this District Council or held by it in trust, or otherwise, shall be deeded to the District Council in its official corporate name.
- B. The Executive Presbytery shall have oversight and management control of all property belonging to or held in trust by this District Council, particularly to safely keep same, acquiring appropriate and adequate insurance against loss, with coverage sufficient to take care of replacement value, or in appropriate situations to cover at least the extent of District Council's financial interest in the property.

Section Seven: Duties in Acquiring or Conveyance of Property

- A. No real property of this District Council shall be purchased, taken by gift or trade, or otherwise acquired, sold,

transferred, mortgaged, leased, assigned, conveyed or otherwise alienated, without the same shall have been first authorized by a two-thirds majority vote of the bodies authorized to conclude the transaction at a regular or special meeting called for that purpose as follows:

1. Real property purchase or sale transactions by this District Council or any of its subordinate departments or programs involving sums in excess of Three Million Dollars shall require authorization of the membership of District Council at a regular meeting or special meeting duly called and noticed for that purpose.
 2. Real property purchase or sale transactions by this District Council or any of its subordinate departments or programs involving sums of Three Million Dollars or less may be negotiated and concluded by the District Presbytery.
 3. Real property purchase or sale transactions by this District Council or any of its subordinate departments or programs involving sums of One Million Dollars or less may be negotiated and concluded by the Executive Presbytery.
- B. Conditional gifts or transactions involving gifts to this District Council of personal property or real property valued in excess of One Hundred Thousand Dollars by will or trust, by unitrust or other means, may be negotiated by the District Executive Committee, but such gift transactions shall not be concluded except by an authorizing special resolution of the District Presbytery. If it is the intent of the donor that such real or personal property so gifted is to be sold, or otherwise disposed of at option of District Council and to apply the proceeds to benefit ministries or programs of this District Council, and such intention or option is evidenced in writing signed by the donor, same may be subsequently sold or otherwise disposed of by the District Presbytery under such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate for any amount, without consent of the membership.
- C. Conditional gifts or transactions involving gifts to this District Council of personal property or real property valued at less than One Hundred Thousand Dollars, by will or trust, by unitrust or other means, may be negotiated and concluded by acceptance of the District Executive Committee, but the gift or its proceeds may not be disposed of except through action of the District Presbytery. However, if it is the intent of the donor that such real or personal property so gifted is to be sold or otherwise disposed of at option of the District Council, and to apply the proceeds to benefit particular ministries or programs of this District Council, and such intention or option is evidenced in writing signed by the donor, same may be subsequently sold or otherwise disposed of by the District Executive Committee under such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate for any amount, without consent of the membership or the District Presbytery.
- D. Transactions involving unconditional gifts to this District Council of personal property or real property, by will or trust, by unitrust or other means, for less than One Hundred Thousand Dollars may be negotiated and concluded by acceptance of the District Executive Committee, with gifts of substantial amounts reported at intervals by the District Secretary to the District Presbytery. If such gift is a wasting or deteriorable item, and if it is the intent of the donor that such real or personal property so gifted is to be sold or otherwise disposed of at option of District Council and to apply the proceeds to benefit ministries or programs of this District Council, and such intention or option is evidenced in writing signed by the donor, same may be subsequently sold or otherwise disposed of by the District Executive Committee under such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate, without consent of the membership or District Presbytery.
- E. Unconditional donations of money to this District Council of any amount shall not require particular acceptance or concluding approval of any board or officer, and same shall be receipted accordingly and the funds placed in the general funds of the District Council.
- F. Gifts to this District Council of personal property of value less than \$50,000 may be negotiated and concluded by acceptance of the members of the District Executive Committee under terms and conditions they find acceptable, and such property may be then sold or otherwise disposed of by that committee for consideration or terms it deems acceptable, and any funds thereby recovered shall be applied as designated by the donor under original terms of the gift, or if there be no such terms or conditions apparent the proceeds shall be deposited to the general funds of this District Council.
- G. Certification on Real Property Conveyancing: The District Superintendent and the Secretary of this District Council shall certify in all conveyances, leases, mortgages, or other document affecting the real property of this District Council that such action has been authorized by proper vote of the authorizing committee or board, and such certificates shall be conclusive evidence thereof.

ARTICLE FIVE – ESTABLISHMENT OF DIVISIONS

All activities and affairs of this District Council are conducted under the corporate authority and ultimate amenability to the Executive Committee, the Executive Presbytery, the District Presbytery, the Constitution and Bylaws of the District Council, and the District Council in session. The District Council shall establish the following divisions.

Section One: Division of District Churches and District Missions

A. Purpose

This division exists to oversee District affiliated churches and District approved and recognized ministries. The District Churches and District Missions Board shall endorse and/or supervise all nationally appointed U.S. missionaries who are members of this District.

B. Leadership and Composition

This division shall be led by the Assistant District Superintendent who shall also be known as the Director of this division.

The District Churches and District Missions Board shall be comprised of the Executive Committee, regional representatives, the chairpersons of the intercultural fellowships, and any other specially appointed persons. All members are appointed by the Executive Presbytery and ratified by the District Presbytery.

C. Funding

1. The operation of the Division of District Churches and District Missions shall be funded through designated contributions of churches, individuals and endowments. The Executive Presbytery may allocate additional funds from the General Fund.
2. This division shall administer all designated funds set apart for District churches and District missions personnel, programs, and projects, including proceeds from loans approved by the District Presbytery, gifts, and specially designated endowments. All receipts, deposits, and disbursements shall be according to policies established in these Bylaws and by the Executive Presbytery and under the custodianship of the District Treasurer.

D. Operations

1. The District Churches and District Missions Board serves as the governing board of all District affiliated churches and District approved ministries, and shall provide oversight to District-appointed missionaries. As such, it shall appoint pastors, approve directors of ministries, recommend mortgages, leases, property acquisitions, budgets, contracts, and other such items identified in the Rules of Order for District Affiliated Churches.
2. The Sectional Presbyter together with the Sectional Leadership Committee shall have the right to make recommendations to the Division of District Churches and District Missions regarding ministries within their sections.
3. Neither this division nor its director shall underwrite or otherwise guarantee or endorse any debt, nor are they authorized to give consent to any person or agency for guaranteeing debt. All matters involving debt shall be referred to the Executive and District Presbyteries.
4. Disbursements of funds of this Division for sums of \$10,000 or less may be authorized by the Director. Disbursements of funds in excess of \$10,000 must be approved by the Executive Committee. All such action shall be reported to the District Churches and District Missions Board and to the Executive Presbytery and recorded in their respective minutes.
5. This division shall encourage all local Assemblies of God churches to include in their budgets' giving programs, with special consideration for those missionary personnel and projects identified with this District Council.
6. The director of this division shall make recommendations to the District Presbytery regarding District Recognized ministries.
7. This division shall oversee District-appointed missionaries and domestic evangelists and shall maintain an account for each at the District Office where designated contributions, offerings and honorariums may be received and credited to the minister's account and issue the donor World Ministries giving credit. The Division shall review the status of each District-appointed missionary and domestic evangelist annually.

8. The District Churches and District Missions Board shall oversee U.S. missions endowment funds for the purpose of support and promotion of U.S. missions and missionaries.

Section Two: Division of Leadership Development and Pastoral Care

A. Purpose

This division shall establish a system to encourage professional growth of the District's ministers and to provide for their pastoral care.

B. Leadership and Composition

This division shall be led by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee, as approved by the District Presbytery, who shall also be known as the director of this division.

The Leadership Development and Pastoral Care Team shall be comprised of the Executive Committee and any other specially appointed persons. All members are appointed by the Executive Presbytery and ratified by the District Presbytery.

C. Funding

The Division of Leadership Development and Pastoral Care shall be funded through a budget allocation from the General Administration Fund, as established by the Executive Presbytery, and any other designated contributions made to this division. The assistance and ministry of the Division of Leadership Development and Pastoral Care shall be made available without charge to the ministers of the District Council, with the exception of those instances where there is a direct cost incurred for participation such as attendance at seminars, conferences, etc., when products are supplied, or when other professional costs are incurred.

D. Operations

This division shall serve the ministers, churches, and ministries of this District by providing opportunities for personal, professional, and church development. This division may assemble a network of confidential pastoral counselors and approved professional counselors and may also make provision for financial assistance when needed.

Section Three: Division of Church Ministries

A. Purpose

This division shall assist local churches to develop and implement their ministries.

B. Leadership

This division shall be led by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee, as approved by the District Presbytery. All personnel and activities shall at all times be directly amenable to the Superintendent and shall make regular reports to the District Presbytery.

C. Organization/Composition/Structure

This division shall be comprised of specially appointed persons who are recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the District Presbytery to facilitate the ministries of local churches such as youth, women's, men's, children's, music, small group ministries, and/or other needed ministries.

D. Duties/Responsibilities

The Division of Church Ministries shall conduct its ministries according to the Division of Church Ministries Operations Manual published by the District Presbytery.

E. Operations

The services of the Division of Church Ministries shall be made available without charge to the ministers and churches of the District Council, with the exception of those instances where there is a direct cost incurred for participation such as attendance at seminars, conferences, etc. when products are supplied, or when other professional costs are incurred.

F. Funding

The operations of the Division of Church Ministries shall be funded through contributions to the Church Ministries Fund which shall be promoted and administered by the Director of the Church Ministries Division. All receipts, deposits, and disbursements shall be according to policies established in these Bylaws and by the Executive Presbytery and, under the custodianship of the District Treasurer. The Director of the Division of Church Ministries shall supervise the budgets of all departments and operations within the Church Ministries Division, under the direction of the District Treasurer.

ARTICLE SIX – BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND TEAMS

Section One: Establishment of Boards, Committees, and Teams

There shall be boards, committees and teams established to function within this District Council by action of the membership or special resolution of the Executive Presbytery or District Presbytery, or by appointment of the District Superintendent with the approval of the District Presbytery.

All Boards, Committees, and Teams named in these Bylaws or created by special resolution shall be subject to the following guidelines unless otherwise specified herein.

Section Two: Common Features of Boards, Committees, and Teams

A. Definitions:

1. Boards fulfill governing functions: they are standing groups with specific decision-making authority.
2. Committees fulfill administrative functions: processing information, executing tasks, and reporting findings and recommendations to their appointing power.
3. Teams fulfill specific missions: within the scope of their mission they may make decisions and implement them while remaining amenable to their appointing power.

B. Qualifications

1. In order for a minister to be considered for election or appointment to serve or to continue in service on any board, committee or team of this District Council at sectional, District or General Council level, it is required that such minister be in good standing and have ministerial credentials registered with this District Council, and have manifested a genuine interest in District and sectional activities, and be current in financial responsibilities to both this District Council and the General Council.
2. In order for a layperson to be considered for election or appointment to serve or to continue in service on any board, team, committee of this District Council at sectional, District or General Council level, it is required that such layperson be in good standing with the local Assemblies of God church.

C. Ex Officio Board, Committee and Team Members

1. Ex officio members of boards, committees and teams of this District Council shall serve in addition to the numerical complement comprising the board, committee, or team.
2. All ex officio members of boards, committees, and teams of this District Council shall have all the rights, and may be assigned responsibilities and duties, as any other member.

D. Appointment

The members of the various boards, committees, and teams shall be appointed by the director of their respective division. If the group is not accountable to a specific division then the members shall be appointed by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee. All appointments are subject to ratification by the District Presbytery.

E. Term of Office

The terms of each member of the various boards, committees, and teams within this District Council shall be three years commencing January 1st unless otherwise noted. The terms of members shall be staggered in such a way that one-third of the complement of the respective group shall be appointed each year.

F. Rights of Members

All members of boards, committees, and teams, whether elected, appointed, or serving ex officio, are entitled to notice of meetings and right of participation in all respective sessions.

G. Quorum

A quorum for the conduct of business by a board, committee, or team shall consist of a simple majority of the group's current full complement.

Section Three: Committees and Teams Not Described Elsewhere

A. Finance Committee

1. Purpose: The Finance Committee shall review all financial activities and policies and make recommendations to the Executive Presbytery regarding financial decisions.
2. Amenability: As a subcommittee of the Executive Presbytery, the Finance Committee shall be amenable to them in all matters.
3. Leadership: This committee shall be chaired by the District Treasurer.

4. Organization/Composition/Structure: This committee shall be comprised of selected members of the Executive Presbytery along with any special resource persons recommended by the District Treasurer and ratified by the District Presbytery.
 5. Operations: The Finance Committee has the right to inspect any financial records of this District Council and to make recommendations to the Executive Presbytery regarding all financial decisions.
- B. World Missions Team
1. Purpose: The World Missions Team shall promote and assist appointed Assemblies of God World Missionaries who are members of this District.
 2. Amenability: The World Missions Team shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery in all matters.
 3. Leadership: The World Missions Team shall be led by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee as recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the District Presbytery.
 4. Organization/Composition/Structure: This committee shall be comprised of selected ministers along with any special AGWM or other resource persons appointed by the District Superintendent and ratified by the District Presbytery.
 5. Operations: The World Missions Team shall provide coaching and assistance to individual world missionaries in their fundraising and shall also offer advice to local churches in developing a missions program. They shall manage and use the world missions endowments, and they shall approve prospective world missionaries.
 6. Funding: The World Missions Team shall be funded through designated contributions of churches, individuals and endowments. The Executive Presbytery may allocate additional funds from the General Fund.

Section Four: District Council Convention Committees

- A. District Council Roster Committee
1. Purpose: The District Council Roster Committee certifies the voting constituency at official meetings of this District Council.
 2. Amenability: This committee is amenable to the chair of the meeting at which they are serving.
 3. Leadership: This committee's chair shall be selected by the District Presbytery.
 4. Organization/Composition/Structure: This committee shall consist of at least three capable and mature ordained ministers.
 5. Operations: This committee shall review the credentials or certification of members and delegates seeking registration or continuing their respective registration at a District Council Convention or other meeting of the membership of this District Council shall report same to the chair of such meeting which shall be made a part of the permanent record of the meeting. Committee members shall be expected to be a part of all of the meetings of the membership.
- B. Parliamentary Committee
1. Purpose: The Parliamentary Committee advises the chair of the District Council in session on matters of parliamentary procedure.
 2. Amenability: This committee is amenable to the chair of the meeting at which they are serving.
 3. Leadership: This committee's chair shall be selected by the District Presbytery.
 4. Organization/Composition/Structure: This committee shall consist of at least three persons who are well-versed in parliamentary procedure.
 5. Operations: Appointees shall be notified of their appointment not less than sixty days prior to the District Council Convention. All members of the Parliamentary Committee shall be expected to attend all business sessions of the District Council Convention.
- C. Resolutions Committee
1. Purpose: The Resolutions Committee screens and prepares for voting resolutions presented to this District Council.
 2. Amenability: This committee is amenable to the chair of the meeting at which they are serving.
 3. Leadership: This committee's chair shall be selected by the District Presbytery.
 4. Organization/Composition/Structure: This Committee shall consist of seven or more members.
 5. Operations: The Resolutions Committee is responsible to determine the propriety in content and form of proposed resolutions to be submitted to the membership of the District Council in session at any District

Council Convention or special meeting of the membership.

If the Resolutions Committee determines that a proposed resolution is inappropriate or otherwise unacceptable, it shall in writing inform the author of the details of impropriety or other reason explaining why the proposal is not acceptable to the committee, and in such writing inform the author of the right to present the proposal to the voting constituency for determination of propriety, with copies of such writing provided for the District Secretary.

The Resolutions Committee shall arrange proposed resolutions into a proper design and logical sequence, and in proposals affecting these Constitution and Bylaws, shall indicate which parts of the code are so affected.

Resolutions to be considered by the Resolutions Committee should be in conformity with the regulations set forth hereinafter at Article Fourteen Resolutions.

D. Revisions Committee

1. Purpose: The Revisions Committee reviews and edits these Bylaws for clarity, simplicity, continuity, and for conformity with the General Council Bylaws.
2. Amenability: This committee is amenable to the District Presbytery.
3. Leadership: The chair of this committee shall be appointed by the District Presbytery.
4. Organization/Composition/Structure: This committee shall consist of five or more members.
5. Operations: The Revisions Committee shall review and edit the Bylaws of this District Council, for clarity, simplicity and continuity. It shall also edit and review the District Council Bylaws for conformity with the General Council Bylaws. Such conformity changes shall not require a vote of the District Council for implementation. Such change shall be reported to the District Council.

The Revisions Committee has authority to edit and align the entire text for grammatical constructions and consistency on all revisions adopted by the membership in session.

The Revisions Committee shall assist the District Secretary in preparation and publication of the annual yearbook of this District Council.

E. Spiritual Life Committee

1. Purpose: The Spiritual Life Committee evaluates and reports on the spiritual pulse of the constituency.
2. Amenability: This committee is amenable to the District Superintendent.
3. Leadership: The chair of this committee shall be appointed by the District Superintendent and ratified by the District Presbytery.
4. Organization/Composition/Structure: This committee shall be composed of at least five members esteemed for their character, wisdom, and faith.
5. Operations: This committee shall prayerfully prepare and deliver a bi-annual report to the District Council offering a provocative call to renewing our focus, call, and passion for ministry.

F. Tellers Committee

1. Purpose: The Tellers Committee processes nominations and prepares and tallies ballots for elections.
2. Amenability: This committee is amenable to the District Presbytery.
3. Leadership: The chair of this committee is appointed by the District Presbytery.
4. Organization/Composition/Structure: This committee shall consist of at least five members.
5. Operations: The operations of this committee are described in Article Six of these Bylaws.

Section Five: Other Standing Boards, Committees, and Teams

A. Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Team

1. Purpose: The Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Team shall promote viable Christ-centered Pentecostal witness on the college campuses within this District.
2. Amenability: This team is amenable to the District Churches and District Missions Board.
3. Leadership: The leader of this team shall be selected by the District Churches and District Missions Board and ratified by the District Presbytery to serve for a term specified by the District Presbytery. This person or this person's designee shall serve as the District Chi Alpha Representative for the purposes of the General Council.
4. Organization/Composition/Structure: This team shall consist of at least six persons.
5. Operations: This team, working in concert with the National Chi Alpha Campus Ministries program of the General Council, shall oversee the work of all Chi Alpha and other campus or related programs within this

- District Council.
6. Funding: The team shall be funded by designated contributions and offerings, by a percentage of Speed The Light revenues as provided for by General Council policy, and by any additional funds authorized by the Executive Presbytery.
- B. Church Planting Team
1. Purpose: The Church Planting Team shall promote and assist all church plants within this District.
 2. Leadership: This team shall be chaired by the Assistant District Superintendent who may also appoint a Director of Church Planting subject to ratification by the District Presbytery.
 3. Organization/Composition/Structure: The Assistant District Superintendent shall recommend ministers and laypersons to serve on the Church Planting Team for ratification by the District Presbytery.
 4. Operations: The Church Planting Team shall identify, evaluate and promote church planting sites, shall recruit prospective church planters, and shall make recommendations to the District Presbytery. The Church Planting Team shall also offer to assist and coach church planters, create partnerships between established churches and church plants, and serve as a resource network for church planting.
 5. Funding: The Church Planting Team shall be funded through designated contributions of churches, individuals, and endowments. The Executive Presbytery may allocate additional funds from the General Fund.
- C. Teen Challenge Executive Team
1. Purpose: The Teen Challenge Executive Team administrates and promotes the Teen Challenge programs of this District.
 2. Leadership: The leader of this team shall be selected by the team.
 3. Amenability: This team shall be amenable to the District Churches and District Missions Board.
 4. Organization/Composition/Structure: This team shall consist of at least six persons.
 5. Operations: This team, working in concert with the national Teen Challenge program of the General Council, shall oversee the work of all Teen Challenge programs in this District.
 6. Funding: This team shall be funded by designated contributions and offerings along with any additional funds authorized by the Executive Presbytery.
- D. Augmenting and Miscellaneous Boards, Committees and Teams
- As need arises, the District Presbytery may authorize additions to standing boards, committees, or teams, and may even establish independent ad hoc groups and determine their purpose, leadership, amenability, composition, operations, funding and any additional policies pertaining to their work.

ARTICLE SEVEN – MINISTERS AND MINISTRY

Section One: Establishment of Ministry

- A. Sacerdotal Rites and Ministry
1. This District Council recognizes that a divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord Jesus Christ for the threefold purpose of leading the Church in evangelization of the world, the worship of Almighty God and the building of a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son. Furthermore, this District Council recognizes the gifts of our Lord Jesus Christ to His Church, including the gifts of ministry of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, exhorters, administrators, leaders and helpers. Three formal classifications of ministry are recognized and transferable by the Assemblies of God: the ordained minister; the licensed minister (including specialized licenses); and the certified minister, and provisions are made in this Fellowship for issuance of ministerial credentials to those individuals that have demonstrated their qualifications and dedication in these premises.
 2. A fourth classification of ministry, a local church credential, may be provided by a local General Council affiliated church under basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines adopted by the District Council. The local church credential shall be non-transferable (limited to the issuing local church) and shall be limited to 2 years renewable by the local church for an additional 2-year term (up to 4 years total) unless the credential is solely required for active and ongoing local ministry in a prison, hospital or institution. A person holding a local church credential can perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church if authorized in writing by the senior pastor of the local church issuing the credential.

3. Ministers holding certificates of Ordination, Licenses to Preach, and Specialized Ministries Licenses are authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church. Additionally, persons holding Certificates of Ministry and serving as a senior pastor in this District Council and those persons holding a local church credential if authorized by the senior pastor may also perform sacerdotal services subject to such requirements as the State may allow.
4. This District Council recognizes that the ministry is a calling. Credentialed ministerial status is not a profession, nor is it a trade, nor is it a business for profit, nor is it an occupation in which the minister can have any sort of personal economic or proprietary interest. Ministry involves a personal devotion and commitment to God and the Mission of propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and extending His Kingdom. However, formal Credentialed Ministry within the Assemblies of God fellowship is a revocable privilege and not a right upon which any earthly value can be placed. Therefore, any person who applies for ministerial status through this District Council shall have no legal or inherent right to issuance of ministerial credentials nor any sort of legal or inherent right to continue in ministry or to hold ministerial credentials. Furthermore, those persons who are granted ministerial status and credentials, and those persons involved in other sanctioned ministries within this District Council and its member churches who hold no formal credentials, shall have no proprietary right or economic interest in such ministry or the ministerial status or ministerial credential. A person accepting ministerial status or ministerial credentials or sanctioned service within the institutional church or any program of this District Council, is deemed to have waived all legal claims in these premises, being subject to these continuing conditions.

B. Classification of Ministerial Credentials

In accordance with the basic requirements of The General Council, recognition of candidates for the ministry in this District Council shall be considered for those men and women who demonstrate a worthy response to an evident call to service and who have been filled with the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4, and according to the following classifications:

1. Local Church Credential: A local church credential shall be administered by the local church pursuant to basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines adopted by the District Council. It shall be non-transferable (limited to the issuing local church only).
2. Certified Ministers: Certified Ministers are those persons who show promise of usefulness in Christian service, who measure up to scriptural standards, and who have met the necessary requirements and have received divine confirmation of their call to actual service.
3. Licensed Ministers: Licensed Ministers are those persons who have had some experience in the work of the Lord and purpose to give themselves wholly to the ministry. They shall prove this purpose by making such preparation as may be required by the District Presbytery and be actively engaged in some recognized aspect of full time ministry.
4. Specialized Ministries License: Specialized ministers are those persons who show an evident purpose to devote their time to a specialized ministry such as Christian Education, Youth, Ministry of Music, church related ministry by a minister's spouse, or other full time ministries, and who have met the necessary requirements.
5. Ordained Ministers: Ordained ministers are those persons 23 years of age or older who have met the necessary requirements, have been actively engaged as a licensed minister in some recognized aspect of full time ministry for at least two full consecutive years just prior to ordination, and who have appeared and proven themselves before the District Credentials Board.

C. Basic Qualifications Established by District Council

This District Council adopts the basic qualifications established by the General Council for endorsement of candidates for ministerial credentials, and more particularly as follows:

1. The candidate shall have testimony of a personal experience of Salvation and testimony to having experienced the new birth in Jesus Christ;
2. The candidate shall have testimony of a personal experience of Baptism in the Holy Spirit and testimony of having received such baptism with the initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues according to Acts 2:4;
3. The candidate shall have testimony and clear evidence of a divine calling to the ministry as demonstrated by a personal conviction confirmed by the work of the Spirit, recognized by the local church and the testimony of fellow ministers;

4. The candidate shall have personally demonstrated evidence of a blameless Christian life and a good report of those who are without;
 5. The candidate shall have demonstrated a thorough understanding of and agreement with the doctrinal position set forth in the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council of the Assemblies of God;
 6. The candidate shall have acknowledged an active loyalty and commitment to our constitutional agreements, with demonstration of working knowledge of the principles and practices and purposes of the Assemblies of God Fellowship by way of a study of the respective Constitution and Bylaws of both the General Council and this District Council, and a cooperative spirit and readiness to seek and receive the counsel of elders and those in positions of authority in this Fellowship;
 7. The candidate shall have demonstrated an adequate knowledge of the scriptures and the great doctrines of the Holy Bible that are held by the Assemblies of God and the ministerial practices of this Fellowship, by completing approved reading courses or other means acceptable to the General Presbytery of the Assemblies of God;
 8. The candidate shall have demonstrated a personal determination to study and live the Word of God, by every means available for improvement and development of the candidate's ministry, including approved courses or Bible College training; and,
 9. The candidate shall demonstrate adequate knowledge of the Bible, Assemblies of God doctrine, and ministerial practices by either having completed the prescribed courses of the Global University of the Assemblies of God as specified by the General Presbytery, or by equivalent training in an approved school, together with such other training as may be required by this District Council in conformity with such provisions as are made for applicants by the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. In rare cases the candidate may be recommended by the District Credentials Committee as having given evidence of qualifying for credentials through self study and ministerial experience. Such candidates shall have a proven and fruitful ministry of substantial duration. Requests from the District for such a candidate shall be presented to the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and may be granted on a case by case basis.
- D. Specific Qualifications: Establishment of Criteria
1. The District Presbytery of this District Council shall adopt and publish specific criteria and qualifications for consideration of candidates for ministerial credentials. All candidates must meet the minimum standards established in these premises, as hereinabove set forth. Such minimum standards shall include requirement for prescribed courses or equivalent of three parts: the first part shall be required of candidates seeking Certificates of Ministry, the first and second parts shall be required of candidates seeking License to Preach or Specialized Ministries License, and the first and second and third parts shall be required of all candidates for Ordination Credentials.
 2. A person holding a Certificate of Ministry and serving as a senior pastor of an affiliated assembly should seek to qualify for and be granted a License to Preach within three years of first assuming such pastoral role. Failure to do so may disqualify the minister from continuing or serving in a senior pastoral position until granted a License to Preach.
- E. Candidate Application for Ministerial Credentials
1. All candidates for ministerial credentials or certifications to be issued through this District Council and for advancing from one level of credential to the next shall be filed with the District Secretary, on forms approved by the District Presbytery.
 2. Except as provided by special resolution of the District Presbytery, all such applications shall be fully completed and filed with the District Secretary at least 60 days prior to the meeting of the District Credentials Board, and names of candidates shall be published in two consecutive monthly publications authorized by the District Presbytery, indicating the classification of credential or certification sought by the respective candidate.
 3. Any person whose initial application for issuance of ministerial credentials is pending through this District Council shall in no case apply for a position of senior pastor in any Assemblies of God church in this District until the District Secretary and the candidate have received written confirmation from the General Secretary of the General Council indicating that final approval of the ministerial credential has been granted by the General Council Credentials Committee.

4. A fee-based clearinghouse is established by the General Council Executive Presbytery where all ministers receiving credentials would have mandatory screening through a designated screening agency.

F. Credential Application Fees

The District Presbytery of this District Council shall establish reasonable standard fees to be charged for filing applications for ministerial credentials, upon recommendation of the Executive Presbytery. Fee structure may be altered in particular cases by special resolution of the District Presbytery.

G. Procedure to be Adopted and Published

The District Presbytery of this District Council shall by its special resolution adopt procedures for processing such applications for ministerial credentials and advancement of ministerial credentials and certifications, which shall be published and provided for each Sectional Leadership Committee and for informing candidates, setting forth also the procedure for arranging interviews with such committees. Such procedures as may be adopted shall honor the following guidelines:

1. Interview and Examination of First Time Candidates for Credentials

All candidates for first time credentials and all candidates for ordination and recognition of credentials from an independent church or other denomination must present himself or herself in person before the Sectional Leadership Committee, and shall then be prepared for interview and examination, either written or oral, on the General Council of the Assemblies of God Statement of Fundamental Truths, on church history, ministerial relations, and practical ministry.

2. Interview and Examination of Candidates for Ordination

a. The Sectional Leadership Committee shall interview and examine all candidates for ordination, at a time and place determined by the Sectional Presbyter. The Sectional Presbyter, or a designated committee member, shall serve as chair and shall be responsible for receiving the candidate's confidential file from and returning same to the District Council office, along with a written report of the findings and recommendations of the committee, which shall then be presented by the District Secretary to the District Credentials Board for final determination, and the District Secretary shall transmit the appropriate documentation of approved candidates to the General Council Credentials Committee for issuance of the certificate.

b. Upon approval of the application by the District Credentials Board, the District Secretary shall send appropriate copies of the candidate's records, together with documentation of recommendation and endorsement of the District Credentials Board for the ordination of the candidate to the General Council Credentials Committee, for further consideration.

c. The chair of the Sectional Leadership Committee shall notify candidates of the recommendation of the committee, and shall offer counsel toward resolution of any problems relating to the candidate.

d. Upon confirmation of approval from the General Council Credentials Committee that the candidate has been approved for ordination as a minister of this Fellowship and upon receipt of the certificate of ordination issued by the General Council Credentials Committee the District Secretary shall notify the candidate in these premises and ordination shall be conferred on and such certificate issued to approved candidates at the Ordination Service of the District Council Convention with the laying on of hands by the District Presbytery. Only in emergencies or other approvable situations can the ordination and issuance of the certificate take place at another time, place and circumstance approved by the District Credentials Board.

3. Interview and Examination of Candidates for License to Preach and Specialized Ministries License

a. The Sectional Leadership Committee shall interview and examine all candidates for License to Preach or Specialized Ministries License at a time and place determined by the Sectional Presbyter. The Sectional Presbyter, or a designated committee member, shall serve as chair and shall be responsible for receiving the candidate's confidential file from and returning same to the District Council office, along with a written report of the findings and recommendation of the committee, which shall then be presented by the District Secretary to the District Credentials Board for final determination, and the District Secretary shall transmit the appropriate documentation of approved candidates to the General Council Credentials Committee for issuance of the certificate.

b. Upon approval of the application by the District Credentials Board for issuance to the candidate of a License to Preach or Specialized Ministries License the District Secretary shall send appropriate copies of the candidate's records, together with documentation of such approval, recommendation and

- endorsement of the District Credentials Board to the General Council Credentials Committee, for issuance of the credentials.
- c. The chair of the Sectional Leadership Committee shall notify candidates of the recommendation of the committee, and shall offer counsel toward resolution of any problems relating to the rejection of the application.
 - d. Upon confirmation from the General Council Credentials Committee of the issuance of License to Preach or issuance of the Specialized Ministries License, the District Credentials Board shall notify the candidate accordingly and such License to Preach or Specialized Ministries License shall be publicly acknowledged at the same occasion as the Ordination Service of the District Council Convention.
4. Interview and Examination of Candidates for Certificates of Ministry
- Candidates for Certificates of Ministry shall be interviewed by the Sectional Leadership Committee at a time and place determined by the Sectional Presbyter. The Sectional Presbyter shall serve as chair and shall be responsible for receiving the candidate's confidential file from and returning same to the District Council Office, along with a written report of the findings and recommendation of the committee, which shall then be presented by the District Secretary to the District Credentials Board for final determination, and the District Secretary shall transmit the appropriate documentation of approved candidates to the General Council Credentials Committee for issuance of the certificate.
5. Procedure for Filing Applications of Candidates for Ministerial Recognition
- a. Independent ministers or ministers who hold or have previously held ministerial credentials from other denominations who are candidates to be credentialed through this District Council shall follow the prescribed credentialing procedure established by the District Presbytery.
 - b. Such candidate credentialing process shall include a written application on a form approved by the District Presbytery, augmented specifically by a complete written recital of all churches and denominations with which the candidate shall have been involved in ministry previously, whether with or without official ministerial credentials and including the name and address of the officer of the former church or denomination who has oversight of such ministerial documentation, which application shall be filed with the District Credentials Board through the office of the District Secretary.
 - c. Such candidate's application shall be accompanied by a written form of consent providing that such former church or other denomination is authorized to release all information contained in such documentation or otherwise available from such source, and particularly waiving all rights of privacy that might be involved, and releasing the custodian of such records from any liability on account of such records or release of information.
 - d. Such candidate shall be required to submit a recommendation from the body with which the minister was formerly affiliated. If such is not available, letters of recommendation should be sought from three reputable ordained ministers who are familiar with the applicant's ministry, two of whom shall be with the applicant's former credentialing body. In addition, the candidate shall submit a letter of recommendation from a neighboring Assemblies of God minister and/or the Sectional Presbyter for the applicant's area. The credentialing process shall not continue until all requirements of this clause shall have been wholly satisfied.
 - e. The District Secretary shall conduct a thorough investigation of the candidate's ministerial history and personal and moral character, which shall include confirmation of ministries with other churches and denominations. The District Secretary may inquire of other Assemblies of God ministers that might be acquainted with the candidate, particularly in communities where the candidate may have previously ministered.
 - f. The District Credentials Board may impose such requirements as may be deemed appropriate in each particular case, and is not obligated in any way to accept the candidate's previous ministerial status or relative classification of credential.
- H. Credentials and Certificates
- The General Council Credentials Committee is authorized to issue Ordination Certificates, Licenses to Preach, Specialized Ministries Licenses and Certificates of Ministry, together with the accompanying annual Fellowship card to all properly qualified and approved candidates.
- I. Renewal of Credentials and Certifications

1. All Ministerial Credentials and Certifications shall be renewed annually.
2. All applications for renewal of ministerial credentials or certifications to be issued through this District Council Shall be filed with the office of the District Secretary, on forms approved and provided by the General Council by December 31, annually.
3. The application for renewal of ministerial credentials or certification must be fully completed, particularly to confirm that the minister is willing to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of both the General Council and this District Council, and to further confirm that the minister still agrees with and subscribes to The General Council of the Assemblies of God Statement of Fundamental Truths.
4. All applications for renewal of ministerial credentials shall be accompanied by a renewal fee established by the District Presbytery.
5. Waiver of renewal fees shall be made for Senior Ministers as described following, and likewise waived for each minister who has been regular and faithful in payment of ministers' tithes and is current in same at the end of each December.

J. Termination of Ministerial Credentials

Authority of a credentialed minister to serve the Assemblies of God Fellowship in sacerdotal function shall cease upon termination of credentials. Ministerial credentials may be terminated in the following situations:

1. Termination on Initiative of the Minister

- a. Ministerial credentials registered with this District Council may be declared lapsed upon failure or neglect by the minister to renew the credential, and as hereinafter set forth, whereupon the minister's credential shall be reported as having lapsed, providing there is no cause for investigation of alleged reports or complaints of violations of Assemblies of God principles. Failure to complete the renewal application forms shall not be acceptable in situations where there is cause for investigation as hereinbefore stated.
- b. Ministerial credentials registered with this District Council may be declared terminated upon the resignation of the minister from the Assemblies of God Fellowship, initiated by a formal written resignation filed with the District Secretary, which resignation shall be approved providing there is no evidence for investigation of alleged reports or complaints of violations of Assemblies of God principles against the minister, whereupon the minister's credential shall be reported as having been terminated by resignation. The simple act of resignation shall not be acceptable in situations where there is cause for investigation as hereinbefore stated.
- c. Termination of credentials by lapse or resignation shall not be effective until confirmed in writing by the General Council Credentials Committee.

2. Termination of Credentials on Initiative of District Council

- a. Ministerial credentials registered with this District Council may be declared inactive, when a minister is inactive for a period of time, and as hereinafter set forth, and the minister shall be reported as having become inactive.
- b. Ministerial credentials registered with this District Council may be terminated for reason of their not having been renewed by the credentialing authority for causes not requiring disciplinary action in which case the minister's credential shall be reported as being not renewed.
- c. Ministerial credentials registered with this District Council shall be terminated in event the minister shall become credentialed with any other denomination or religious order granting ministerial credentials. An investigation shall be conducted to determine the proper category of termination, and he shall be reported accordingly.
- d. Ministerial credentials registered with this District Council may be terminated as a feature of discipline involving dismissal of the minister, and as hereinafter set forth.

3. Surrender of Terminated Credentials

In all cases of termination of credentials the minister shall surrender the actual physical ministerial credentials and current fellowship card to and upon request of the District Superintendent. Refusal to surrender the physical credentials and fellowship card shall be considered insubordination and may result in placing a charge against the minister.

K. Reinstatement of Lapsed Ministerial Credentials

Ministerial Credentials that are not renewed by the minister in timely fashion may be subject to lapse. Ministerial Credentials registered with this District Council are subject to the provisions of the General Council

Bylaws regarding lapsed credentials and such procedures and penalties as may apply because of such authority, and as such regulations may from time to time be amended. Reinstatement in this regard may be accomplished by filing the necessary documentation on forms approved by the General Council Credentials Committee provided by the District Secretary, and payment of any fees and penalties.

- L. Reinstatement of Ministerial Credentials that have been Terminated for Reasons Other Than Lapse
 1. Persons who have had their ministerial credentials terminated for reasons other than lapse, are subject to all provisions of the General Council Bylaws in regard to reinstatement, and such a person may not seek reinstatement through this District Council without first having conformed to such authority, and in no event may application for reinstatement be entertained by this District Council until the prescribed period of time for reinstatement fixed by the General Council Bylaws shall have expired.
 2. Application for reinstatement of ministerial credentials that have been terminated by action of this District Council or by resignation of the minister, rather than lapse, shall be made in writing on forms approved by the District Presbytery, filed with the District Secretary. The District Credentials Board may require special conditions for each particular application, as it deems appropriate, and reinstatements are further subject to specific regulation hereinafter following.
 3. Reinstatement of credentials terminated through another District Council shall be arranged through the District Officiary of such other District, unless it be by directive from the General Council Credentials Committee.
- M. Senior Ministers
 1. Status as Senior Ministers shall be recognized for credentialed ministers of this District Council that have attained the age of 65 years, whether or not they continue in full time ministry.
 - a. The term "Senior, active" shall apply to credentialed Senior Ministers who continue in active ministry for three-quarters to full time.
 - b. The term "Senior, semi-retired" shall apply to credentialed Senior Ministers who continue in active ministry for one-half time or less.
 - c. The term "Senior, retired" shall apply to credentialed Senior Ministers who have ceased to engage in regularly appointed ministry.
 2. Ministers of this District Council who have attained the age of 65 years may apply for Senior Minister status by requesting same in writing filed with the District Credentials Board, and such request shall be granted upon a showing that the requesting minister meets the criteria set forth above.
 3. Guidelines for Reporting Required of Senior Ministers whose credentials are registered with this District Council:
 - a. "Senior, Active Ministers" and "Senior, Semi-Retired Ministers" credentialed with this District Council shall file their annual reports and pay the standard tithes as required of other ministers of the same classification.
 - b. "Senior, Retired Ministers" credentialed with this District Council shall file an abbreviated annual report on forms approved by the District Presbytery and provided by the District Secretary, containing current address for mail and insurance and other purposes. Such minister shall be relieved of any financial responsibility to this District Council notwithstanding the minister may have income from ministry or other sources.
- N. Inactive Ministers
 1. Credentialed Ministers of this District Council who shall have withdrawn from active ministry or cease to be engaged in pastoral, evangelistic, or other full time ministry shall notify the District Secretary accordingly, and the District Credentials Board may consider them for transfer to the list of inactive ministers.
 2. Ordained and licensed ministers who shall have preached less than fifteen times in a period of one year, and Certified Ministers who shall have preached less than twelve times in a period of one year may be transferred to the list of inactive ministers by action of the District Credentials Board.
 3. The District Credentials Board may eliminate from the list of ministers those names of persons on the inactive list on determining that those persons have been inactive in the ministry for two full years, and those persons shall be reported as having been removed from ministry for inactivity.
 4. The District Credentials Board may consider that inactivity caused by ill health, advanced years, or unusual circumstances, are exceptions to the rules regarding inactivity of the minister.

5. The District Credentials Board shall consider other dimensions of ministry that may be undertaken by a credentialed minister, as exceptions to such rules regarding inactivity of the minister, particularly where such ministry is involved in the administrative work of this District Council or the General Council, education, ministry of music, ministry to youth, ministry in Christian education, and other worthy occupations that help directly in advancing the purposes and mission of this District Council and propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
6. The District Credentials Board shall consider other features relating to the ministry of a credentialed minister of this District Council, particularly considering those ministers that are sixty years of age and have had fifteen years or more of approved ministry with the Assemblies of God, and those ministers that have had twenty-five years of ministry with the Assemblies of God regardless of respective age, as exceptions to such rules regarding inactivity of the minister.
7. Senior Ministers returning to active ministry may request that their names be restored to the list of active ministers, upon application to and order of the District Credentials Board.

O. Ministerial Relations

1. Amenability

All certified, licensed, specialized licensed and ordained ministers with this District Council shall be amenable to the District Presbytery on all matters of doctrine and conduct. All local church credential holders shall be amenable to their local church under guidelines established by the General Presbytery and this District Council in matters of doctrine and conduct.

2. Perceived Conflict of Pastoral Ministry

This District Council is opposed to any credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God serving in a ministerial capacity as a senior pastor or staff member of any Assemblies of God church in this District moving from one church to another church in the same general area without that minister having first obtained the approval of the Sectional Leadership Committee after that committee has consulted with the churches involved. Unless such approval is obtained, it is the policy of this District Council to impose discipline on such ministers who continue their efforts to establish a pastoral or staff ministry in that area where they have formerly ministered in an Assemblies of God church, including discipline in which their respective ministerial credentials may be revoked.

3. Notice of Current Address

- a. Ministers whose credentials are registered with this District Council shall provide a current notice of all home and business addresses to the District Secretary, providing both listed and unlisted residence and business telephone numbers, including residence and business addresses and telephone numbers that might be outside the geographical boundaries of this District Council.
- b. All credentialed ministers of the Assemblies of God who maintain a personal place of residence or continuing ministry within the geographical boundaries of this District Council shall provide a current notice of address to the District Secretary, listing all such residence and ministry addresses, and telephone numbers. Continuing ministry refers to programs in which the minister takes an active part as a preacher, teacher or administrator, of a religious program having a business address located within the area served by this District Council, or where the minister serves on the board of directors of a religious nonprofit corporation. Simple disclosure to District Council of such information shall not be deemed to be endorsement or control of such activities.
- c. Simple reference to the book of Official List of Ministers of the Assemblies of God will not be deemed to be in compliance with these requirements.

4. Transfer of Credentials

a. Ministers Moving Into This District

A Credentialed Assemblies of God minister moving to reside within the geographical boundaries of this District Council is required to request a certificate of transfer from the District in which his ministerial credentials are most recently registered. The minister shall be required to affiliate with this District Council unless an exception is provided for as follows:

- 1) Ministers moving to serve at general headquarters;
- 2) Those who have attained the age of 60 and are no longer engaged in active ministry and those who have attained the age of 65 and are not pastoring a church;

- 3) Those who are in the Armed Forces currently on active duty;
 - 4) Those who are serving on the staffs of schools affiliated with the General Council and District Council or nonaffiliated schools acceptable to the General Council and the District Council in which the school is located;
 - 5) Those who are appointed U.S. Missionaries or World Missionaries who are on furlough or on temporary assignment in the United States and reside in a District other than their home District;
 - 6) Ministers having membership in one District and a mailing address only in another District;
 - 7) Students in schools outside their home Districts;
 - 8) Those who are serving in a non-Assemblies of God institution providing:
 - a) They have a regular scope of ministry which reaches beyond District boundaries;
 - b) Both Districts agree to the exception;
 - c) The institution is acceptable to both Districts.
- b. Transfers from Assemblies of God World Fellowship
- A minister holding ordination (or equivalent) with a member group of the Assemblies of God World Fellowship, may transfer his or her ordination to The General Council of the Assemblies of God if the following criteria are met:
- 1) A letter of recommendation from the executive committee of the national church or equivalent letter of recommendation.
 - 2) Acceptable equivalency between our governing bodies.
 - 3) A course on history and polity of U.S. church.
 - 4) Application completed in the same form as U.S. applicants in the language of the applicant, if possible, at the discretion of the General Secretary.
- c. Ministers Moving out of this District
- Upon moving out of this District to permanently reside elsewhere, the minister whose ministerial credentials are registered with this District Council is expected to immediately file a notice of change of address with the District Secretary, and to obtain and file a transfer form which must be expeditiously filed with the District Secretary. Unless there be some applicable exception, the letter of transfer shall issue from the office of the District Secretary within sixty days.
- d. Interim Responsibilities
- Until transfer procedure between Districts is completed, the minister shall remain a member of this District, and shall be expected to fulfill all responsibilities associated therewith.
5. Notice of Pastoral Resignation
- A minister intending to leave the pastorate of any local church in this District Council is expected to give timely notice to both the local church administration and the District Superintendent of such intention so that the District Superintendent may cooperate with that local church in making adequate provisions for pastoral care.
6. Non-Ministerial Service on Church Boards
- In order to provide for the development of lay people to the fullest extent possible, the District Council discourages all ministers from serving on governing boards of local assemblies except in cases where they serve in executive capacities as pastors. Exceptions may be provided by the Executive Presbytery.
7. Programs in Calendar Conflict
- Pastors and credentialed ministers in administrative capacities with the local church should refrain from planning or promoting special meetings or programs that conflict with scheduled District Council or sectional programs, particularly during times announced for District Council Conventions.
8. Ministry in Churches of other Denominations
- a. A credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God desiring to serve in a ministerial position in a church or religious program which is not affiliated with this Fellowship, including Institutional Chaplaincy, is required to obtain the consent of the District Superintendent of the District where that church or program is located before accepting such position.
 - b. In all situations where a credentialed minister whose credentials are registered with this District Council proposes to take a ministerial position with a non-Assemblies of God church or program that is located within or outside this District, that minister shall obtain written clearance through the

- office of the District Superintendent, prior to making arrangements.
- c. In all situations where a credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God from another District proposes to take a ministerial position with a non-Assemblies of God church or program that is located in this District, that minister shall obtain written clearance through the office of the District Superintendent of this District, prior to making arrangements.
 - d. The minister shall present a letter of request addressed to the District Superintendent from the official ruling body of the local church or religious organization, asking that this District Council consent to or acquiesce in that minister's taking a ministerial part in such church or religious organization. Such letter of request shall also particularly state that the official ruling body is aware of the doctrinal position of the Assemblies of God, and that said minister shall not be expected to compromise the doctrinal position of the Assemblies of God. Such consent or acquiescence granted in the foregoing premises may for cause be withdrawn or vacated by the District Presbytery.
 - e. Such credentialed minister shall not accept ministry with such church or religious program without having first obtained written approval of the District Superintendent. Such approval should be based on a recommendation of the Sectional Presbyter in consultation with the Sectional Leadership Committee and pastors of churches in the immediate area of such church or religious organization.
 - f. It is expected of credentialed Assemblies of God ministers that they cooperate and participate in programs and fellowship of the General Council and this District Council, and such ministers serving in ministerial capacity with non-Assemblies of God churches or organizations are still encouraged to continue to take part in such fellowship. In this regard, such ministers are invited to prayerfully consider all ministry as an opportunity to make a positive investment in the Kingdom of God, to seek fellowship of other Assemblies of God ministers and avail themselves of the counsel of the District Superintendent.
 - g. Such credentialed ministers of the Assemblies of God shall not be in attendance or ministry at a church or religious organization that has been disapproved by the General Council or this District Council, or whose pastoral or ministerial leadership is a person that has been dismissed for cause from this Fellowship. Furthermore, such credentialed minister shall not continue in such attendance or ministry with any church or organization where to do so would tend to nullify or set at naught the solemn verdict of the brethren in this regard.
 - h. A credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God intending to be in regular attendance in a non-Assemblies of God church should contact the District Superintendent for counsel regarding the effect of that action on Assemblies of God churches in the immediate area.
9. Ministerial Courtesy
- a. This District Council disapproves of all discourteous conduct, and all ministers are advised against interfering with pastors in charge of the local Assemblies of God church or program, whether it be by going in upon their work without consent or by communications that might adversely affect the work of the pastor.
 - b. All correspondence which concerns the local Assemblies of God church as a whole shall be addressed to the one in charge, and not to individual members. Where there is no pastor, letters concerning the work should be addressed to the church board.
 - c. It is considered improper and unethical for ministers or missionaries to solicit funds within the local church, by letter or otherwise, for anything or any reason whatsoever without proper authority by the pastor or where there is no pastor, the official board.
10. Discipline of Ministers
- a. Ministers whose credentials are registered with the District Council are subject to discipline by the Executive Presbytery when charged with unscriptural conduct or doctrines, or the violation of Assemblies of God principles or policies.
 - b. The discipline of ministers shall be in accordance with General Council Bylaws, Article X. DISCIPLINE, Sections 1-7.
 - c. It shall require a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting to dismiss any minister member from fellowship in this District Council.
 - d. All ministers should honor the final rulings of the General Council authorities in matters of discipline taken against a minister. All who hold ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God shall refrain

from taking any attitude toward offenders that would tend to nullify or set at naught the solemn verdicts of the brethren entrusted with this responsibility. In event of violation of this agreement, the violator shall be subject to reprimand or such other discipline as shall be agreed upon by the District Presbytery.

11. Rehabilitation of Disciplined Ministers

The District Presbytery is authorized to design and implement procedures for the rehabilitation of disciplined ministers in all categories of credentials, whether ordained, licensed or certified minister, as provided in the General Council Bylaws, Article X. DISCIPLINE, Sections 8-12.

12. Right of Appeal

- a. If a disciplined minister desires to appeal from a disciplinary decision that has been rendered, his request shall be filed by him with the office of the general superintendent within 30 days of his notification. A copy of his appeal must be sent to the superintendent of the minister's home District, and copies filed with other Districts involved.
- b. All remedies available to the minister for trial by jury shall be in accordance with the General Council Bylaws, Article X.

ARTICLE EIGHT – THE LOCAL CHURCH

Section One: The Sovereignty of the Local Church

This District Council accepts it as doctrinal that the local church is recognized as being ordained by God, under the headship of Jesus Christ. It is fundamental with our fellowship that groups of believers associating themselves in local bodies for maintenance of scriptural order, and having a standard of membership in keeping with the scriptural principles and established policies of the Assemblies of God, should be considered as eligible for affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, as a sovereign local Assemblies of God Church.

Section Two: The Sovereign Assemblies of God Church

- A. A General Council affiliated church is one that has applied for and received a Certificate of Affiliation from The General Council of the Assemblies of God, commonly and herein referred to as a sovereign church.
- B. The sovereign local Assemblies of God church within this District Council shall have the right of self-government under our Lord Jesus Christ, the right to choose or call its Pastor, and, by action of its membership or Church Board as in its own Bylaws provided, to elect its officers and directors, administer discipline to its members, and transact all other business pertaining to its life and ministry as a local church, including the right to own and dispose of its property.
- C. The sovereign local Assemblies of God church shall be separately incorporated, with its own Federal Employers Identification number and, for Federal Tax Exemption under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3), may use and be reported under the group exemption granted by the federal government to The General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- D. It is the responsibility of the District Presbytery of this District Council to determine when a local church has reached a state of growth, stability, and maturity qualifying it for affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God as a sovereign local church.

Section Three: General Council Affiliation

- A. The General Council has established standards for affiliation of the sovereign Assemblies of God local church, which are endorsed and adopted by this District Council as standards for local sovereign churches within the territory of this District Council, by virtue of which each sovereign church and each church that seeks to become sovereign must abide by the following requirements:
 1. The sovereign church must accept and endorse the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God Fellowship, as such are set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of both The General Council of the Assemblies of God and this District Council, which Tenets of Faith are commonly known as The General Council of the Assemblies of God Statement of Truths.
 2. The sovereign church must adopt a standard of membership which is compatible with the standards and policies of this District Council.
 3. The sovereign church must have and maintain an active voting membership of at least twenty persons, at

- least eighteen years of age or older, each of whom shall accept their fair share of responsibility for the maintenance of scriptural order in the local church body.
4. The sovereign church must have a Constitution and Bylaws in form compatible with those recommended by this District Council.
 5. The sovereign church must have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of that local church as called for in its Constitution and Bylaws, and must be regular and sound in its fiscal responsibilities as supported by financial statements for the two previous years.
 6. The sovereign church must have a senior pastor who is a credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God in good standing whose credentials are registered with this District Council.
 7. The sovereign church must have at least three functioning church departments, one of which shall be a Christian Education Department.
 8. It is recommended that the sovereign church shall have words in its official or corporate name that identifies with the Assemblies of God, and it is recommended that such churches use the Assemblies of God emblem.
- B. The fact that a local Assemblies of God church is affiliated with the General Council shall in nowise destroy its rights above stated or interfere with its sovereignty as set forth in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws.

Section Four: Responsibilities of the Sovereign Affiliation

- A. By entering into voluntary cooperative fellowship with The General Council of the Assemblies of God each sovereign local church within this District Council has agreed to abide by and be in cooperation with the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, as such is now or may from time to time be amended, hereinafter for simplicity occasionally referred to as "General Council Bylaws", for establishment of standards of doctrine and conduct and related regulation as a sovereign local church. In the event of conflict, inconsistency or incompatibility of the local sovereign church's Constitution and Bylaws with the letter or interpretation of the General Council Bylaws, the General Council Bylaws shall prevail.
- B. By entering into voluntary cooperative fellowship and affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, as a sovereign Assemblies of God church it becomes a member of this District Council, and so assumes the responsibilities of and is entitled to the benefits attendant upon such membership including the right to be represented through its duly appointed delegates at the General Council and the District Council membership meetings, through its delegates who have been selected by the membership of such church or its Church Board. Each such member church agrees to abide by provisions of this Constitution and Bylaws and to comply with and conform to the policies and standards established by this District Council.

Section Five: District Council Assistance

- A. The District Council is available to assist the sovereign local churches in need. If at any time the business of the sovereign church cannot be adequately undertaken and performed by its administrators through the Church Board, or when a proper Church Board is not available or functioning, the District Council should provide assistance, whereby the Executive Presbytery shall temporarily serve as the Church Board, to so serve until such time as the Executive Presbytery and the membership of that church agree the membership should again resume full administrative control of its affairs. In this regard, neither the District Council nor the Executive Presbytery of the District Council assumes any personal or corporate financial responsibility or legal liability for debt or other obligations of the church in taking such action as may be necessary in these premises.
- B. It is required that the sovereign local church have at least twenty active members at least eighteen years of age. If the active membership of the sovereign local Assemblies of God church falls below twenty in number, it shall seek the assistance of the District Council for help in maintaining the minimal requirement for General Council affiliation. If the minimal number of twenty active members is not sustained, that church shall automatically revert to the status of a District Council affiliated church. That church shall remain in a District Council affiliated status until it again meets the standard for affiliation as a General Council affiliated church, having demonstrated its ability to assume full responsibility for restoration to that status as a viable sovereign church. Unless otherwise arranged, there shall be no financial liability or other affirmative obligation assumed by the District Council in these premises.
- C. The sovereign local church may revert to District Council affiliation whereupon, the church corporation is

deemed to have surrendered its sovereignty, its Constitution and Bylaws is suspended or set aside, its property is taken in the name of the District Council, the District Superintendent becomes the president of the church corporation under authority of the Division of District Churches and District Missions which becomes the Church Board for all business purposes, and the District Executive Officers become the statutory officers of the corporation under regulation of the District Council Constitution and Bylaws.

Section Six: Pulpit Ministry

- A. In view of the affiliation of the sovereign Assemblies of God church with the General Council and this District Council, and in the interest of maintaining general unity and harmony, the Senior Pastor of such sovereign church must have and maintain current proper ministerial credentials issued by the Assemblies of God.
- B. It is recommended that the sovereign Assemblies of God church adopt provisions that Associate or Assistant Pastors and other personnel of the Ministerial Staff of the sovereign church should have and maintain current proper ministerial credentials issued by the Assemblies of God, as a condition of continued association with that church.

Section Seven: Sovereign Church - District Cooperation

- A. It is expected that each sovereign Assemblies of God church within this District Council shall file two copies of its Constitution and Bylaws with the District Secretary, and shall likewise file two copies each of all amended Constitution and Bylaws within ninety days of amendment.
- B. It is expected that the local sovereign Assemblies of God church within this District shall cooperate in the programs of the District, and each local church is expected and encouraged to develop and promote good stewardship within the local assembly and in support of the General Council and this District Council, including participation in the Church Ministries Fund, U.S. and World Missions, Bethany University, and other projects in which this District is engaged.

Section Eight: Right of Appeal of the Sovereign Local Church

- A. When in need of counsel and advice in administrative or other matters, the local sovereign church may appeal to the District Officiary.
- B. When there is a question concerning the appropriate response or lack of attention to requests by the local sovereign church for District Officiary assistance, that local church may appeal to the General Council Executive Presbytery.
- C. When exceptions are taken by the local sovereign church to the decision of the General Council Executive Presbytery, that sovereign church may appeal to the General Presbytery of the General Council.

Section Nine: Preservation of Affiliation

In the event the termination of affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God is under consideration by an affiliated assembly, the pastor and/or the board shall invite the District officary to participate in a specially called business meeting for the express purpose of giving the District officary the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation. Final disposition of the matter may then proceed in accordance with the constitution and bylaws of the local church.

Section Ten: District Council Churches

- A. Affiliation with the District Council
 - District sponsored local churches shall be recognized as District Council affiliated churches, under supervision of the Division of District Churches and District Missions in accordance with the District Council Bylaws. District Council affiliated programs may include U.S. Missions projects, pioneer churches, established church organizations entering into our fellowship from other affiliation or independent status, former sovereign Assemblies of God churches that have surrendered their sovereignty temporarily or otherwise that seek District Council assistance.
- B. Establishment of New Churches
 - 1. The District Council shall support and encourage the establishment of new churches and the development of a church planting program under the direction of the Church Planting Team.
 - 2. Prior to commencement of a new program in this District to be identified as an Assemblies of God church,

including the establishment of satellite churches of an established sovereign church, the individual credentialed minister or group of persons desiring to establish such church or the sponsoring local sovereign church must first inform the Church Planting Team of this District Council of their intentions and submit their plans for approval. Such plans should be submitted in writing, identifying the proposed location of the church and demographics relating to need and potential for success of the program.

3. Approval for all new churches including the establishment of satellite churches of an established sovereign church is the responsibility of the District Presbytery upon the recommendation of the Church Planting Team.
4. If approval is denied for the church plant, the applicant may appeal the decision. The District Superintendent shall appoint a Mediation Committee consisting of the Executive Presbyter, the Sectional Presbyter, a member of the Church Planting Team, and two nearby pastors to consider the appeal.
5. The Mediation Committee shall provide a written report of its recommendation to the District Presbytery, with copies to the respective principal parties.
6. The determinations of the District Presbytery may be appealed to the General Council Executive Presbyter. The determination of the General Council Executive Presbytery shall be final and binding on all parties.

C. Independent or Other Churches seeking Affiliation

Independent churches or established congregations that have been affiliated with other denominations may make application for recognition by and affiliation with this District Council. Such applications shall be considered for approval in the same manner and applying the same criteria as that of new church programs seeking approval. Additionally, the following requirements shall be applied:

1. The applicant church must accept and endorse the Tenets of Faith of the Assemblies of God Fellowship, as such are set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of both The General Council of the Assemblies of God and this District Council, which Tenets of Faith are commonly known as The General Council of the Assemblies of God Statement of Fundamental Truths.
2. The applicant church must adopt a standard of membership which is compatible with the standards and policies of this District Council.
3. The applicant church must have a pastor who is a credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God in good standing whose credentials are registered with this District Council.
4. If the applicant church is incorporated and seeks General Council affiliation, it must have special resolutions of both its Church Board and its membership, in accord with its Constitution and Bylaws, approving the affiliation, and upon such affiliation being granted, the Articles of Incorporation shall be amended, its Constitution and Bylaws shall be amended to conform to the format recommended by this District Council after which a letter of affiliation is issued by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.
5. If the applicant church is incorporated, and seeks District Council affiliation it must have special resolutions of both its Church Board and its membership, in accord with its Constitution and Bylaws, approving the affiliation, and upon such affiliation being granted, the Articles of Incorporation shall be amended, that church corporation shall be deemed to have surrendered its independence, its Constitution and Bylaws is suspended or set aside, its property is taken in the name of District Council, the District Superintendent becomes the senior pastor of the church under authority of the Division of District Churches and District Missions which becomes the Church Board for all business purposes, under regulation of the District Council Constitution and Bylaws.
6. This District Council requires that churches entering into this Fellowship shall have words in their official or corporate name that identify with the Assemblies of God, and recommend that such churches use the Assemblies of God emblem.

D. New Church Programs Resulting from a Division

1. Disputes between factions within the local church should be resolved by mediation. Negotiations in this regard may be entertained by the Executive Presbytery sitting as a Mediation Board.
2. Groups within the local church or identified with factions of that church, upon refusing mediation of their disputes, or rejecting the recommendations of the Executive Presbytery, jeopardize their status of affiliation with the Assemblies of God.
3. When efforts to maintain unity and harmony in an assembly have failed, and a division results in a new congregation being formed, the District should exercise strong and wise leadership in ascertaining the

facts and seek to preserve Assemblies of God adherents for the Fellowship. Within the bounds of ethical principles, sound doctrine, and District policy, this District should seek to retain any meritorious group within the Assemblies of God.

4. Circumstances of the occasion would determine whether the minister should be disciplined or denied ministry in either the original church or the dissident group, or even residency in the area where the division occurred. If a minister is guilty of wrong conduct and wrong attitudes resulting in a split, the District Presbytery shall deal appropriately with the minister as provided in Article X, Section 3., of the General Council Bylaws. In situations where there has been a division within the church, the Executive Presbytery may determine that under unique circumstances this rule may be waived, subject to approval of the District Presbytery.
- E. Establishing Sovereignty of the Local District Affiliated Church
- District affiliated local churches may become affiliated with the General Council as sovereign operations, upon approval by the District Presbytery and issuance of a Certificate of Affiliation by the General Council. Procedure and policy for establishing General Council affiliation status is the province of the District Presbytery, and this District Council has adopted standards in this regard, as follows:
1. The local applicant church shall submit to the District Presbytery a written application for sovereignty on approved forms provided by the District Secretary, after having shown that it has met the requirements for affiliation as a sovereign Assemblies of God church in this District, including the following:
 - a. The applicant church must accept and endorse the Tenets of Faith of the Assemblies of God Fellowship, as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of both The General Council of the Assemblies of God and this District Council, which Tenets of Faith are commonly known as The General Council of the Assemblies of God Statement of Fundamental Truths.
 - b. The applicant church must adopt a standard of membership which is compatible with the standards and policies of this District Council.
 - c. The applicant church must have and maintain an active voting membership of at least twenty persons, at least eighteen years of age, each of whom shall accept their fair share of responsibility for the maintenance of scriptural order in the local church body.
 - d. The applicant church must have a Constitution and Bylaws in form compatible with that design recommended by this District Council.
 - e. The applicant church must have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of that local church as called for in its Constitution and Bylaws, and must be regular and sound in its fiscal responsibilities.
 - f. The applicant church must have a senior pastor who is a credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God in good standing whose credentials are registered with this District Council.
 - g. The applicant church must have at least three functioning church departments, one of which shall be a Christian Education Department.
 - h. This District Council requires that such churches shall have words in their official or corporate name that identify with the Assemblies of God, and recommend that such churches use the Assemblies of God emblem.
 2. There shall be a business meeting of the congregation of the local church presided over by a constitutional officer or designee of this District Council, at which time the local church shall be set in order.
 3. It is the policy in this District Council that the sovereign local church shall be formally incorporated, and shall not conduct its business as an unincorporated association. Upon approval for sovereignty by the District Presbytery, if the local applicant church is not already legally incorporated as a California or Nevada Nonprofit Religious Corporation, it shall be formally incorporated, and shall as appropriate acquire tax exempt status from state administrative agencies and from the Internal Revenue Service under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), and shall undertake whatever other detail tasks as might be related to the incorporation effort. The Director of the Division of District Churches and District Missions generally makes arrangements for formal incorporation, but the local church shall pay all the related legal fees, costs and expenses incurred.
 4. Upon notification received by the Director of the Division of District Churches and District Missions that the incorporation and tax exempt qualification is completed, the District Secretary shall transmit the

documentation relating to approval for sovereignty for further action by the General Secretary of the General Council. Sovereign status as a General Council affiliated assembly is regarded as complete upon receipt by the local church of an official Certificate of Affiliation issued by the General Secretary.

5. When the District Council affiliated local church becomes sovereign, where real and personal property are held by District for that church, it is generally the policy of this District Council to convey and/or sell to the sovereign church corporation the land and improvements acquired and developed through the mutual endeavor of the congregation and other programs within the District Division of District Churches and District Missions. However, it is generally required that there be specific conditions of such conveyance, providing as follows:
 - a. It is required that there be specific conditions contained in legal documents stating that the property of the sovereign church corporation is irrevocably dedicated to religious purposes and no part of the net income or assets of the corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer or member thereof or to the benefit of any private person, and in event that church shall cease to exist and upon the dissolution or winding up of that corporation, after paying or otherwise adequately securing or providing for the debts and obligations of that corporation, the remaining assets shall be distributed to this District Council; and,
 - b. Further providing the condition that all equity in the property by this District Council or any of its departments or ministries shall be wholly recovered, and in this regard:
 - 1) The newly sovereign church shall cause to be duly executed proper forms of promissory notes and trust deeds securing purchase price, each having priority subordinate only to prior encumbrances of record at the time of conveyance, and as follows.
 - 2) The primary promissory note and trust deed shall be a demand note containing a conditional acceleration clause, plainly stating that in event such church shall cease to be affiliated with the General Council or this District Council, then at the demand of the holder thereof the whole amount of balance due on same shall become immediately due and payable. The principal amount of such demand note shall be for the full reasonable fair market value of the property including improvements, at the time of conveyance, less any prior encumbrances due to third parties, with interest at the rate of ten percent per annum compounded annually from the date of execution of such promissory note. In no event shall the amount charged for interest in this regard exceed the maximum rate allowed by law. The fair market value shall be established in the amount of the insured value of the building and contents established by the District's insurance broker based on 100% replacement cost plus the current year's fair market value of the land established by the county tax assessor.

Section Eleven: Satellite Churches

In addition to General Council affiliated and District Council affiliated churches, the District Council may also list in the District Directory a third category of churches: Satellite Churches. Satellite churches shall be sponsored and supervised by the sovereign church, and may not be existing General Council affiliated or District Council affiliated churches.

A satellite location sponsored by a sovereign church may be listed in the District Directory as being a satellite church, under supervision of the sovereign sponsoring church, according to the following provisions: The sovereign church assumes all oversight of the satellite church; the pastor and board of the sovereign church are the legal pastor and board of the satellite church unless a satellite church is an existing District Affiliated church; the sovereign church is the owner of the satellite church's property; and the sovereign church is responsible to provide administration and oversight to the satellite church's finances, ministries, personnel, and activities. In this respect, the satellite church is considered a department of the sovereign church and is not under the direct oversight of the District Council and shall not have privileges accorded to a District Council affiliated church or right to appoint a delegate to the District Council. The sovereign church is encouraged to notify the District Council in order to have the work listed in the District Directory as a satellite church.

ARTICLE NINE - ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS (MINISTRIES)

Section One: Affiliated Organizations (Ministries)

A. Criteria for Affiliated Organization Status

1. By special resolution passed by a two-thirds vote of the District Presbytery, this District Council may accept into affiliation other corporations which are formed and operated for charitable, educational or religious purposes, the missions of which are similar to the purposes and missions of this corporation. It is required that as conditions of affiliation those affiliated organizations meet the following criteria:
 - a. That such affiliated organizations be formally incorporated under the laws of the State of California or the State of Nevada, as appropriate, or that they be lawfully created under laws of another state of the United States and have a current certificate of authority to do business in the State of California or the State of Nevada, and that their corporateness and authority to do business be continued and maintained current and in good standing. Upon such corporation becoming defunct or decertified the affiliation automatically and immediately ceases.
 - b. That the affiliated corporation must have similarity in purpose to the purposes and mission of this District Council and provide that its membership be in good standing with the churches of the Assemblies of God.
 - c. That the board of directors of each affiliated corporation have a continuing responsibility to maintain the continuing approval of the District Presbytery of this District Council.
 - d. That the officers and directors of each affiliated corporation shall be responsible to annually furnish to the District Presbytery a certified audit or such other properly prepared financial report as may be deemed adequate by special resolution of the District Presbytery, to assure that no embarrassment or liability will accrue to this District Council by virtue of the affiliation. This District Council assumes no liability or continuing responsibility for operation of any affiliated corporations by virtue of affiliation in these premises.
 - e. That there be an added condition in the written confirmation of affiliation, providing that such affiliated organization shall give this District Council at least ninety days advance notice prior to dissolution of the corporation.
 - f. This District Council assumes no liability or continuing responsibility for the operations, financial or otherwise, of any of its affiliated organizations.

B. Bethany University

1. Bethany University of the Assemblies of God is an affiliated organization, recognized by this District Council as its official institution of higher learning. Bethany University is not a division or department of this corporation.
2. Bethany University of the Assemblies of God is separately incorporated as a California Nonprofit Religious Corporation. The activities and affairs of the university are conducted and all corporate powers are exercised by or under direction of the Board of Trustees of the university. The Board of Trustees of Bethany University manages all of the activities of that corporation.
3. The business and other affairs of Bethany University are conducted pursuant to authority of its own membership and its own separate Constitution and Bylaws.
4. The officers and Trustees of Bethany University provide a certified audit to its constituency at annual intervals, confirming that their business is conducted separate and apart. This District Council assumes no liability or continuing responsibility for operation of the university or any of its departments by virtue of affiliation in these premises.

Section Two: Approved Organizations (Ministries)

A. Approved organizations are ministries that are directed by Assemblies of God ministers, churches or organizations. The leadership of such ministries approved by the Division of District Churches and District Missions shall be credentialed Assemblies of God ministers or members of an Assemblies of God church. These ministries fill a specific purpose in targeting separate people groups within this District or which meet other special needs within this District. Such ministries are to be recommended by the Division of District Churches and District Missions for approval by the District Presbytery.

B. Criteria for Approved Organization Status

1. Subscribe to the tenets of faith and the policies of the Assemblies of God.
2. Submit ministry and financial statements to the Division of District Churches and District Missions.
3. Be subject to an annual review for continued "approved" ministry status by the Division of District

Churches and District Missions.

4. Any person wishing to raise personal support must first receive approval by the Division of District Churches and District Missions.
5. This District Council assumes no liability or continuing responsibility for the operations, financial or otherwise, of any of its approved organizations.

Section Three: Recognized Organizations (Ministries)

- A. Recognized Ministries are incorporated ministries which seek validation by the Northern California and Nevada District Council. They may include certain para-church ministries not directly connected with the Assemblies of God. Such ministries are to be recommended by the Division of District Churches and District Missions for approval by the District Presbytery. A list of recognized ministries should be maintained by the District Secretary-Treasurer's office.
- B. Criteria for Recognized Organization Status
 1. Submit a statement of faith.
 2. Submit a financial statement.
 3. Present a ministry and ministry focus to the Division of District Churches and District Missions for review.
 4. Be subject to an annual ministry and financial review for renewal of "recognized" status by the Division of District Churches and District Missions.
 5. This District Council assumes no liability or continuing responsibility for the operations, financial or otherwise, of any of its recognized organizations.

ARTICLE TEN – BENEFITS AND BENEVOLENCES

This District Council has established common benefits and benevolences for the ministers holding current credentials registered with this District Council, and otherwise, including the following:

Section One: Common Benefits

- A. Insurance:
 1. This District Council shall cooperate in life insurance programs provided through the General Council, including life insurance and other casualty or indemnity programs.
 2. Such insurance programs so provided shall be made generally available to all ministers in good standing whose credentials are registered with this District Council, subject to such exceptions or restrictions as are generally applied by the carrier or carriers of such programs.
- B. Complimentary Benefits
 - The NorCal/Nevada District Yearbook
 - District Presbytery authorized publications
 - The Ministers Group Life Insurance Basic Benefit
 - Complimentary registration at Ministers Retreat

Section Two: The Ministers' Benevolence Fund

- A. This District Council has established and shall maintain a Ministers' Benevolence Fund for the benefit of ministers in good standing whose credentials are registered with this District Council, the benefits and participation in which shall be made generally available to all ministers in the District that shall qualify. The Executive Presbytery shall establish common rules and regulations and will make the information available and will administrate the program under the supervision of the District Secretary.
- B. As conditions of qualification to participate in the Ministers' Benevolence Fund program, it is required as follows:
 1. That the minister at the date of recruitment to the program shall not yet have attained the fifty-fifth birthday. The credentialed minister is the qualifying participant.
 2. As to such benefits of the program that may be made available to the spouse of the qualifying participant, that spouse at the date of recruitment to the program shall not yet have attained the fifty-fifth birthday.
 3. As to such benefits of the program that may be made available to the dependents other than spouse of the qualifying participant, such dependent may be either naturally born to or adopted by the minister,

shall not have attained the twenty-first birthday as of the date of recruitment to the program. Once enrolled in the plan such dependents may continue in the program until they attain the age of twenty-one years. In order to continue in the program past the twenty-first birthday, the youth dependent must qualify under some other criteria attendant to the program.

4. Participants in the program shall pay an entrance fee, to be established from time to time by special resolution of the District Presbytery, which entrance fee shall be standard and common to all applicants.
5. Continued participation and membership in the plan is subject to the express condition that the participant shall pay the assessment made from time to time upon occasion of the death of another member of the plan.
 - a. Such assessments shall be made in amounts and at times and within the time frames required by special resolution of the District Presbytery.
 - b. Assessments and related conditions shall be common to all participants.
 - c. Assessments payable may vary according to the age of the participant.
 - d. Assessments payable may vary according to the length of time the participant has been in the program.
 - e. Assessments shall be paid within 90 days from the date of notice of assessment.
 - f. Failure to make timely payment of assessment shall result in forfeiture of benefits and termination of the participant's participation in the program.
 - g. Terminated participation in the program may be reinstated if application for reinstatement is received by the District Secretary within nine months of the date of original notice of assessment.
 - h. Reinstatement of participation in the program is conditioned upon the participant making payment in full of all assessments due and unpaid as of the time of reinstatement from the date of first enrollment.
 - i. Reinstatement of participation in the program is conditioned upon the participant re-entering the program having only such benefits as would be available to a newly entering participant as of that date of reinstatement.
6. Upon the death of a qualifying participant, the surviving spouse may continue in the plan, with full right to designate and change designation of beneficiary, for so long as that surviving spouse remains unmarried. At such time as that surviving spouse does remarry, unless qualifying otherwise, the surviving spouse shall no longer qualify and shall be terminated from the program. Until such remarriage that surviving spouse is deemed to be a qualifying participant for purpose of qualifying dependents to continue in the program. Upon death or remarriage of that qualifying participant, the rights of the dependent shall also cease.
- C. The participant in the program shall designate a beneficiary to be paid benefits under the plan upon the death of the participant.
- D. Upon the death of a participant in the plan, the designated beneficiary shall receive payment of the benefits.
- E. The benefits payable under the program shall be fixed by special resolution of the District Presbytery, with parameters common to all participants.
 1. Such benefits so payable may vary in range according to the length of time the participant has been in the program.
 2. Such benefits so payable may vary in range according to the age of the participant at time of recruitment to the program.
- F. Benefits payable under the program shall be paid through the office of the District Treasurer, upon notice of death of the participant. Notice of death shall be confirmed by presentation of an original certified copy of a death certificate.

Section Three: Institutions Benefits

The District Council may establish and maintain homes for children, for the superannuated, for retired ministers and missionaries. Such benefits as are made available to ministers of this District and their families shall be made available without prejudice.

ARTICLE ELEVEN – FINANCES

Section One: Contributions of Ministers

- A. It is essential that the ministers holding credentials and registered with this District Council shall support its various ministries, divisions, departments, programs, and mission.
- B. The means by which each minister shall support this District Council shall be by voluntary contributions of offerings, by payment of tithes or a portion of tithes, and by payment of minimum amounts to be from their tithes and as a tithe which payment is for clarity hereinafter referred to as the Minister's Tithe.
- C. The payment of the Minister's Tithe to this District Council and as herein provided shall be a condition of continuing recognition of ministerial status of the minister. Unless there be an applicable exception, failure of payment of those minimum amounts hereinafter set forth to the General Council and this District Council, the minister's ministerial credentials are subject to termination, and may not be reinstated except upon satisfaction of the conditions set forth in General Council Bylaws and the policies of this District Council.
- D. The District Presbytery by its special resolution at annual intervals, prior to each District Council Convention, shall establish the minimum amount to be contributed by each credentialed minister toward the Minister's Tithe, according to the classification of ministerial credential such minister holds.
- E. The established amount to be so contributed as Minister's Tithe shall be according to the scale established common to all classifications of ministerial credential, particularly applicable to the following classification of credentials:

Credential Type	Minimum Amt per Month
** Active Ordained Ministers.....	a minimum of \$220 per month
** Active Licensed Ministers.....	a minimum of \$220 per month
* Active Certified Ministers.....	a minimum of \$118 per month
** Senior, Active Credential Holders.....	a minimum of \$220 per month
** Senior, Semi-Retired Credential Holders.....	a minimum of \$220 per month
Senior, Retired Credential Holders.....	Voluntary Contribution
* All Inactive Credential Holders	a minimum of \$56 per month
* Nationally Appointed US Missionaries, World Missionaries, residing in the U.S. or on the field per family, and District approved Chi Alpha Directors	a minimum of \$82 per month
Chaplains Nationally Endorsed.....	a minimum of 10% of their tithe
* Student, full-time	a minimum of \$77 per month
*# Spouse as second credential holder.....	a minimum of \$33
** This tithe rate includes \$7 for home missions pastors' health insurance, \$5 for Leadership Development and Pastoral Care, \$10 for Bethany University, and \$25 for debt reduction on the Resource Center.	
* This tithe rate includes the \$7 for home missions pastors' health insurance.	
# This tithe rate is revised every 3 years (Resolution #8, 1996 D.C.). Next revision is 2010.	

- F. Schedule review and adjustments. All dollar amounts in the schedule above shall be increased or decreased annually as deemed necessary by applying the increase or decrease in the California cost of living index to the fixed amounts rounding off to the nearest dollar as determined by the Executive Presbytery and approved by the District Presbytery. All amounts established by the District Presbytery to be by ministers so contributed for Minister's Tithe, shall be presented to the membership at the District Council Convention, as a resolution pursuant to these Bylaws Article Fourteen, and must be ratified by majority vote of the voting constituency in such sessions. Minister's Tithes so established shall be published in the District Yearbook.
- G. The District Presbytery is authorized to establish criteria for and make adjustments to the established amount of the contribution of Minister's Tithe on written request of the credentialed minister, considering hardship and personal catastrophe of the individual minister or his family, which criteria shall be applied uniformly to all ministers applying for dispensation or adjustment in this regard. All such adjustments granted shall be reviewed annually and shall expire at the time of the annual review or at such earlier time as the circumstances may require.
- H. The District Presbytery is authorized to establish criteria for and make adjustments to the established amount

of contribution of Minister's Tithe on written request of the local church, considering hardship to the local church or program and its impact on the fiscal condition of such church or program, which criteria shall be applied uniformly to all ministers and churches applying for adjustment in this regard. Written requests for adjustment in this regard from U.S. Missions churches shall be first approved by the District Churches and District Missions Board and ratified by the Executive Presbytery. Such written requests from sovereign churches may be presented directly to the Executive Presbytery. All such adjustments granted shall be reviewed annually and shall expire at the time of the annual review or at such earlier time as the circumstances may require.

- I. In addition to the Minister's Tithe contribution to the District, the minister is required to cooperate in support of the General Council, in the minimum annual amount set forth in General Council Bylaws, as a condition of annual renewal of ministerial credentials.

Section Two: Support Provided by the Local Church

- A. It is essential that the local churches within this Fellowship, whether sovereign General Council churches or District Council affiliated churches, shall support this District Council and its various ministries, divisions, departments, programs, and mission.
- B. The official plan of stewardship is based on the scriptural principle of tithing and is recommended for all affiliated assemblies as a basic plan by which each assembly will share proportionately in providing funds for world outreach purposes. These shall include the administrative support of the District and General Councils, U.S. and World Missions, the District U.S. Missions Revolving Loan Fund, Bethany University, and such other institutions and projects as may be approved by the District Presbytery. The plan provides that the tithe of the General Fund income be set aside for world outreach purposes of which five percent should be allocated for the Church Ministries Fund and the other five percent be allocated for missions and ministries as provided in the following paragraphs:

- C. Church Ministries Fund

The Church Ministries Fund shall be used solely to support the operations and ministries of the Church Ministries Division. It is recommended that each Assembly support the Church Ministries Division by contributing a percentage of its tithe or by contributing a pledged amount to the Church Ministries Fund. The Executive Presbytery may assess a small percentage of the Church Ministries Fund to reimburse the General Administration Budget for support services rendered.

- D. Missions and Ministries

Missions and ministries projects and activities include all approved projects and activities other than the District general administrative and departmental operating expenses. Funds allocated by the local assembly for missions and ministries are available to the assembly for distribution to desired missionary or ministry accounts. When disbursing these funds, care should be exercised by the assembly treasurer to see that specific instructions accompany the check to insure that funds are properly credited in keeping with the desires of the assembly.

Section Three: Forwarding Funds

Ministers' tithes and offerings, contributions from individuals, offerings from local assemblies, and all other funds intended for the work and ministries of the District shall be forwarded to the District Treasurer's Office for official receipting.

Section Four. Deposit and Disbursement of Funds

- A. The District Presbytery is empowered to adopt and establish rules and regulation for conduct of all business of this corporation, particularly to fix fiscal policies for this corporation.
- B. Initial Deposits to Primary Accounts
 1. All funds of this District Council and its divisions, departments and programs shall be initially deposited in primary accounts established with federally insured financial institutions approved by the District Presbytery, which accounts must be established in the official corporate name of this District Council and with designation of its Federal Employer Identification Number, in which accounts all signatories must be first approved by special resolution of the District Presbytery. All such accounts must be accessible by the District Treasurer, and he must be signatory to all such accounts.

2. Such primary accounts shall be restricted for purposes of disbursements. Only the persons who are designated by the District Presbytery may be signatory to any such accounts. Approved persons in this regard shall include each person serving on the District Executive Committee.
 3. The District Executive Committee of this District Council may by its special resolution establish the position of Controller, having such authority and responsibility as shall be fixed in such special resolution and may authorize the controller to be a signatory of such primary accounts. The Controller shall be adequately bonded.
 4. All disbursements by draft or check or other means from such accounts for amounts less than \$10,000 shall require only one signature of the Controller or any one member of the District Executive Committee. All other drafts or checks or withdrawal orders shall require at least two signatures, at least one of which must be a member of the District Executive Committee.
- C. Secondary and Operating Accounts
- Funds of this District Council and its divisions, departments, and programs may be deposited in secondary general accounts or restricted divisional or departmental accounts established with federally insured financial institutions approved by the District Presbytery, which accounts must be established in the official corporate name of this District Council and with designation of its Federal Employer Identification Number, and may show that each such account is a divisional or departmental account, a trust account for a section or region or otherwise, or other special designation for such an account, in which accounts all signatories must be first approved by special resolution of the District Presbytery. All such accounts must be accessible by the District Treasurer, and he must be signatory to all such accounts.
1. The District Executive Committee of this District Council may by its special resolution authorize the controller to be a signatory for such secondary accounts.
 2. All disbursements by draft or check or other means from such secondary accounts for amounts less than \$10,000 shall require only one signature or the controller or any one member of the District Executive Committee. All other drafts or checks or withdrawal orders from such secondary accounts shall require at least two signatures, at least one of which must be a member of the District Executive Committee.
- D. Designated Funds and Trust Accounts
- All designated funds of this District Council and its divisions, departments, and programs, shall be deposited in a single separate account with a federally insured financial institution, and all funds held on conditions of trust shall be deposited in appropriate separate federally insured Trust Accounts or accounts affiliated with the Assemblies of God, subject to disbursement by the District Treasurer, on approval of the Executive Committee. The persons serving on the District Executive Committee and the Controller of the District Council shall be signatory to such accounts, the accounting for which shall be the primary responsibility of the District Secretary-Treasurer. In the event that it becomes impractical or impossible for the corporation to devote the property to the specific purpose for which it was contributed, or that the directors or members of the corporation in good faith expressly conclude and record in writing that the stated purpose for which the property was contributed is no longer in accord with the policies or best interests of the corporation, the directors or members of the corporation may, in good faith, approve or ratify the use of the property for the general purposes of the corporation rather than for the specific purpose for which it was contributed. (CA Corp Code 9143)
- E. The District Presbytery shall have authority to make or authorize issuance of drafts and checks and other disbursements of funds of this District Council in any amount as necessary to maintain the proper administration of business of this District Council.
- F. The District Presbytery shall have authority to fix and pay all salaries and wages of District Council administrative staff, officials, and employees, including related benefits and earned vacations, in amounts and at times as it deems appropriate and as shall be in keeping with Biblical stewardship and the law.
- G. Offerings and receipts of money generated in sectional meetings or meetings sponsored by the section shall be initially deposited in a District Council account as authorized by special resolution of the District Presbytery established in the particular section or by ledger account identified for that section, to be first applied to finance all expenditures relating to the meeting or program in which the funds were generated, and then to cover expense of operation of the Sectional Administrative Committee, then to be applied and paid toward programs approved for World Ministries Credit with General Council or as authorized by special resolution of the District Presbytery.

- H. The District Presbytery is authorized to arrange travel expenses to enable the executive officers and General Presbyters to attend General Presbytery meetings and the General Council sessions. It is further authorized to provide for reimbursements for mileage and incidental expenses for the executive officers, presbyters, and others employed on District work assignments.

Section Five: Audits

A. Regular Audits

1. The financial records of this District Council shall be audited by a certified public accountant at the close of every fiscal year evenly divisible by three, with the accountant's report to be submitted at a date just prior to District Council Convention. The auditor shall provide a certificate of audit, in duplicate, with one copy to be retained by the District Treasurer and the other to be placed and retained in the book of records of this District Council. On the other two years a financial review by a certified public accountant shall be substituted for the full audit.
2. The year following a full financial audit, the District shall employ a law firm to perform a legal audit, investigating whether the District is in compliance with all relevant laws and with standard practices.
3. The year following a legal audit, the District shall employ a law firm to perform a liability audit, investigating whether the District has sufficient coverage and whether any District policies or practices expose the District to needless risk.

B. Special Audits

In event of a change of Treasurer, the District Presbytery may choose to request a full financial audit.

ARTICLE TWELVE – ENDORSED PUBLICATIONS

Section One: General Council Publications

- A. The General Council of the Assemblies of God publishes and distributes its authorized publications through the Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, Missouri, and materials published or distributed under the name Gospel Publishing House are authorized and endorsed publications of this District Council.
- B. The General Council of the Assemblies of God prepares and distributes various materials of a confidential nature, including such things as the Official List of Ministers and Missionaries of the Assemblies of God, and Ministerial List Changes from time to time. These items are not for general dissemination or presentation to the media. Furthermore, such official and confidential publications that might not be so sensitive, such as the Church Directory of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, are yet deemed to be restricted for distribution, so that commercial sources might not use them to solicit funds or other things from our constituency.

Section Two: District Council Publications

- A. This District Council shall publish and distribute materials for use among its credentialed ministers, ministries and member churches.
- B. This District Council shall prepare, publish and distribute without charge to the ministers whose credentials are registered with this District Council the annual Yearbook of the Northern California & Nevada District Council, as soon as possible after close of the annual District Council Convention, containing current information on addresses and telephone numbers of ministers and member churches in this District, the current form of Constitution and Bylaws and the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and minutes and resolutions of the District Council Convention.
- C. The District Presbytery shall be empowered to provide for suitable resources, publications and other means of information distribution that contribute to the effectiveness of ministers, ministries, and churches of this District Council.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN - ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section One: Commencement of Business

In keeping with our purpose and mission, honoring the source, foundation and cornerstone of all our reason and authority for conduct of the Business of this District Council, at any District Council Convention or special

meeting of the membership of this District Council, all meetings of boards or subordinate committees, the chair shall determine a quorum and call the meeting to order, and the first order of business shall be prayer to call upon our Lord, seeking His divine attendance, blessing and influence upon all such business, deliberations and resulting elections or legislation.

Section Two: Regular Order of Business

At the annual District Council Convention the Chairman shall present an agenda which includes the following items:

- A. Announcement and Confirmation of Committee Appointments
- B. Report of the District Superintendent
- C. Report of the Assistant District Superintendent
- D. Report of the Secretary/ Treasurer
- E. Report of Committees
- F. Report of the Roster Committee
- G. Unfinished Business
- H. Election of Officers.
- I. New Business
- J. Final Reports of the Resolutions Committee
- K. Adjournment

ARTICLE FOURTEEN – RESOLUTIONS

Section One: Presentation of Resolution

- A. Any member of this District Council shall have the privilege of presenting a proposed resolution to the Resolutions Committee for consideration by the voting constituency at District Council Convention.
- B. Proposed resolutions shall be in written form, filed with the District Secretary with sufficient time allowed so that such shall be in the hands of the Resolutions Committee at least ninety days prior to the District Council Convention. The Resolutions Committee shall provide the District Secretary with copies of the approved proposed resolutions at least twenty days before the meeting, and the District Secretary shall be responsible for distribution of copies thereof to the membership of District Council at least fifteen days prior to the District Council Convention. All proposed resolutions that are to be entertained by the membership at any special meeting shall be set forth in writing as part of the notice of time and place of such meeting.
- C. Criteria to be used by the Resolutions Committee in determining the propriety of proposed resolutions shall include determinations of whether or not the proposed resolution is in conflict with the statutes and other laws of the State of California or the State of Nevada, whether the proposed resolution is compatible with the Constitution and Bylaws or other directives of the General Council, whether the proposed resolution is incompatible with the Constitution and Bylaws and policies of this District Council, and whether such proposals are for other reasons unacceptable.
- D. Notwithstanding the foregoing rules, Emergency Resolutions may be presented in writing to be considered by the Resolutions Committee for presentation to and at the pleasure of the voting constituency by its simple majority vote.

Section Two: Author Subscription

The author of any resolution submitted for adoption by the membership at any District Council Convention shall personally sign the resolution and is expected to open discussion of same on the convention floor.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN – EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS: NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

There may be Educational departments or programs established within or under supervision of this District Council, by special resolutions of and under direct administration or supervision of the District Presbyters or their designees, having name or names assigned to such departments or programs, and officers and subordinate administrators for the conduct of their respective business, as the District Presbyters shall authorize by such

special resolutions, for the operation of pre-school, grammar school and high school, college or other educational programs; and, there shall be a policy of nondiscrimination within these departments, admitting students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the schools. This organization shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship or loan programs, or athletic and other school-administered programs.

ARTICLE SIXTEEN – RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

It is the policy and standard of this District Council to avoid conflicts involving lawyers, courts and judges, and to resolve disputes in the way provided by the Scriptures, and in the manner following:

Section One: Disputes between Individuals, and Local Churches

- A. Grievances or disputes between individuals within our Assemblies of God fellowship, or involving a member or attendee of a local church, should be first negotiated between the disputants in good faith and Christian deportment. For failure of satisfactory negotiation between them, the matter should be then submitted to the Pastor of that local assembly for mediation. Domestic relations problems or other disputes within a family, if they cannot be resolved by pastoral mediation, should not be further entertained in the ecclesiastical forum, but might be referred to a qualified Christian Counselor. Disputes that cannot be resolved by Pastoral mediation should be referred for further mediation by the Sectional Presbyter for the section in which the dispute arises, for mediation or decision. If the Sectional Presbyter is unable to mediate a satisfactory disposition, the disputants or either or any of them may make written request for further mediation of their disputes by the District Superintendent of this District Council or the District Superintendent's designee. Copies of such written request shall be provided to such Sectional Presbyter and each of the other disputants, and such written request shall contain a succinct and brief recital of the nature of the dispute and the extent and nature of any ensuing harm. Should the District Superintendent or the District Superintendent's designee be unable to resolve the matter by such mediation, either or any of the disputants may request binding arbitration. The formal written request for binding arbitration shall be addressed to the District Superintendent in care of the District Council office, and if the District Superintendent approves the request, he shall refer the matter to the District Council Executive Committee for arbitration. Such arbitration shall be conducted by a panel of spiritually qualified persons chosen by the Executive Committee of the District Council to serve as the Arbitration Panel. The written request for arbitration of the dispute should contain a succinct but brief recital of the nature of the dispute and the extent and nature of any ensuing harm, and at the election of the District Superintendent copies may be sent to the Sectional Presbyter and each of the other parties.
- B. In event the matter is taken to arbitration, the Panel of Arbitrators shall fix such reasonable rules and regulations, and a convenient time and place, for the conduct of arbitration of the dispute, as the Arbitration Panel deems just and proper for the parties to present their respective positions before the Panel, so that good manners, propriety and prudence be preserved. In no event will either party be allowed to have an attorney represent the individuals in the matter or speak on the individual's behalf, though each party should be allowed to have the assistance of a minister or layperson from a local Assemblies of God church in this District to assist in presentation of respective positions. In matters resolved by the Sectional Presbyter or District Superintendent or the Arbitration Panel without further action, same shall be treated as privileged, and any record of mediation or arbitration proceedings shall be sealed and not available to any third party or otherwise except upon written mutual consent of the disputants. There shall be no other remedy between the parties beyond those herein provided, and by presenting their matter to the Arbitration Panel for consideration the individuals involved shall be deemed to have made an election and agreement for binding arbitration and to abide by the provisions of this paragraph. It is intended that these provisions will resolve misunderstandings and help to quiet personal grievances, so to promote peace and harmony within the churches in this District Council. It is not contemplated that these procedures apply to legitimate claims for physical injuries or physical damage to real or personal property, or in lieu of civil remedies arising out of accidents.
- C. There shall be no legal liability of any kind by any party or faction against the District Council or any of its

officers or agents, nor against the Arbitration Panel or any of its members, arising from mediation or arbitration of such disputes. By having elected to join in the arbitration each party shall be deemed to have waived any legal claims in these premises.

Section Two: Disputes Involving a Church or Church Board

- A. Disputes involving individuals or factions within or against a local church or the entire membership of a church, or the church corporation or its officers, shall be resolved by binding arbitration.
- B. The forum for arbitration of disputes concerned in this Section is the District Council; and, the arbitration panel shall be comprised of three persons, who shall be appointed by the District Superintendent from among the District Presbytery.
- C. The arbitration panel shall set a time and place for hearing of the dispute between the parties, with proper notice and opportunity for each to be heard and present their respective positions, and shall fix reasonable guidelines, rules and regulations, and a convenient time and place, for presentations by the parties, as the panel deems just, proper and fair. The arbitration panel may require each faction to present written recitals outlining their grievances, which writings should be addressed only to the arbitration panel, and shall not be provided for opponents or third parties to see, unless the arbitration panel requires as part of its guidelines that copies be so provided. In no event shall the writings or any written or other decision be published by the parties or the arbitration panel.
- D. In no event shall any party to the arbitration be allowed to be represented by an attorney or to have any lawyer speak on their behalf, though each party should be allowed to have a credentialed Assemblies of God minister or layperson from an Assemblies of God church in the District to aid in preparation and presentation of respective positions.
- E. The determination and award, or other disposition made by the panel of arbitrators, shall be final and conclusive, and binding upon the parties, from which there shall be no appeal.
- F. There shall be no legal liability of any kind against the District Council or any of its officers or agents, nor against the Arbitration Panel or any of its members, arising from mediation or arbitration of such disputes.

Section Three: Disputes between Persons or Factions and the District Council

Disputes and grievances by the individual minister members of this District Council or any member church or other person within the District Council against or adversely affecting the District Council shall be resolved by binding arbitration, by submitting same to the General Secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, Springfield, Missouri, for resolution according to such rules and regulations as are set, and in accordance with the Bylaws of the General Council, as such Bylaws are now or from time to time may be amended. The determination made by the General Secretary or designees shall be final and binding between the parties, from which there shall be no appeal.

ARTICLE SEVENTEEN – AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Amendments to these Bylaws may be made at any regular or special meeting of the District Council membership, only by vote of the active and registered voting members, provided the full text of same shall have been submitted in advance of the meeting for review by the District Presbytery, in accordance with procedures set forth in the Bylaws, with affirmative vote of two-thirds majority.

