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## **Preamble**

The purpose of this Church shall be to promote the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and the truth of the entire Word of God (the Bible) for spirit, soul and body; to provide a place of Christian worship, work and fellowship for those of like precious faith, regardless of social position or worldly possessions, where the Holy Spirit may be honored according to our distinctive Pentecostal testimony; to impart religious instruction to the young and old; to conduct regular gospel services; to accept tithes and offerings, bequests and contributions for the promotion of Christian work at home and abroad. We, whose names appear on the membership roster under the above date, do recognize ourselves as a local assembly and do affirm ourselves to be in cooperative fellowship with and a part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and adopt the following articles of church order as our CONSTITUTION and submit ourselves to be governed by them. (In this CONSTITUTION, the terms church, assembly and congregation are synonymous.)

## **CONSTITUTION**

### ***Article 1 Name***

The name of this Assembly shall be THE LEOMINSTER ASSEMBLY OF GOD, INC. in the COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

### ***Article 2 Prerogatives***

#### **Section 1**

This Assembly, a voluntary association, shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the Scriptures "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace... 'til we all come in the unity of faith and of knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:3,13).

#### **Section 2**

In connection therewith, or incidental thereto, this Assembly shall have the right to choose its own pastors and/or associate pastors, provided they are members of The General Council of the Assemblies of God or some affiliate organization endorsed by them, to purchase or acquire by gift or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes in accordance with its constitution and bylaws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

### ***Article 3 Affiliation***

While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, this Assembly shall voluntarily enter into full cooperation and fellowship with assemblies of like precious faith associated with the Southern New England District Council and The General Council of the Assemblies of God with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri; and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities of that affiliation.

### ***Article 4 Statement of Fundamental Truths***

This Assembly accepts the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God, the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopts the Statement of Fundamental Truths approved by The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **4. The Fall of Man**

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

### **5. The Salvation of Man**

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

- (a) Conditions to Salvation  
Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7)
- (b) The Evidences of Salvation  
The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12).

### **6. The Ordinances of the Church**

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

### **7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of the Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowing of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from

and subsequent to the experience of the new birth. (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9) With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

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

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

## **9. Sanctification**

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

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

## **10. The Church and Its Mission**

The church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22,23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23). Since God's purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshiped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, the priority reason-for-being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is:

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

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

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

## **11. The Ministry**

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

## **12. Divine Healing**

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

## **13. The Blessed Hope**

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

## **14. The Millennial Reign of Christ**

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

## **15. The Final Judgment**

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

## **16. The New Heavens and the New Earth**

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

### ***Article 5 Ordinances and Practices***

#### **Section 1 Ordinances**

- (a) The ordinance of Baptism by immersion in water (Matthew 28:19) shall be administered to all those who have repented of their sins and who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls, and who give clear evidence of their salvation (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12).
- (b) The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly as enjoined in the Scriptures (Luke 22:19,20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

#### **Section 2 Practices**

- (a) Dedication of children
- (b) Prayer for the sick

- (c) Prayer for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit
- (d) Christian marriage
- (e) Christian burial

### ***Article 6 Membership***

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

### ***Article 7 Officers***

#### **Section 1**

The officers of the Church shall be the Pastor, the Secretary, from five to seven Deacons, the Treasurer and such other officers as may be determined by this Church from time to time.

#### **Section 2**

The Board of this Church shall consist of the Pastor, the Secretary and from five to seven Deacons.

### ***Article 8 Meetings***

#### **Section 1 Organized Meetings**

All organized meetings for prayer, worship and Bible study of the members of this Church must have the authorization of the Board.

#### **Section 2 Weekly Meetings**

Regular meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under the direction of the Pastor and Board.

#### **Section 3 Annual Congregational Business Meeting**

The Annual Congregational Business Meeting shall be held in the month of April of each year on a suitable date, unless otherwise decided by the Board, at which time the election of officers shall take place and the reports of all offices shall be read. The time and place of the annual business meeting shall be announced in the public services on two consecutive Sundays prior to said congregational business meetings.

#### **Section 4 Special Business Meetings**

Special business meetings of the Assembly may be called when necessary after verbal announcements and a written notice is posted two consecutive Sundays prior to said congregational business meeting by the Pastor or the Secretary of the Assembly, provided the meeting has been agreed upon by the Pastor or by the majority of the Board. Special meetings may also be called by petition having been signed by not less than one fourth of the voting membership of the Assembly, the petition to be placed in the hands of the Pastor or the Secretary and announcement made on two Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.

## **Section 5 Quorum**

No record of any special or regular business meeting of the Assembly shall be made unless at least one third of the voting members are present to constitute a quorum.

## **Section 6 Board Meetings**

The Church Board shall meet at least once per quarter for the transaction of routine business of the Assembly, the time and place to be announced by the Pastor.

## **Article 9 Finances**

All funds for the maintenance of the Assembly shall be provided by the voluntary contributions of the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the Church. Offerings shall be accepted by the Assembly at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the Pastor and the Board and shall be administered by the Treasurer under their direction (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 16:1,2).

## **Article 10 Property**

### **Section 1**

All property of the Assembly shall be deeded to the Assembly and held in its name. No property of the Assembly shall be sold, leased, or mortgaged or otherwise disposed of without the same having first been recommended by at least a two-thirds vote of the voting membership of the Church who are in attendance at a regular meeting or a special meeting of the Assembly which has been called for the consideration of the proposal. The Pastor and the Secretary shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized and recommended by a vote of the Assembly. Such certification shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

### **Section 2**

In the event the church membership is ever divided because of doctrinal differences, the entire real and mortgaged properties, including all assets in whole and audited liabilities, shall revert to the church members holding to the Tenets of Faith as stated in the CONSTITUTION.

In the event that the membership herein mentioned ceases to function as a church body, all liabilities, assets and properties real or mortgaged shall revert to the Southern New England District of the Assemblies of God, a Corporation, which shall then have full-authority to use or liquidate in part or in whole at its sole discretion in the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ.

## **Article 11 Amendments**

This CONSTITUTION may be amended or changed by a two-thirds vote of the voting membership of the Assembly who are in attendance at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, providing due notice of such change that is proposed shall be made at all the services on at least two Sundays preceding the time of the meetings. It shall be understood that this does not apply to Article 4 Statement of Fundamental Truths which stands regardless of majority.

## **BYLAWS**

### ***Article 1 Duties of Officers***

#### **Section 1 The Pastor**

The Pastor shall be considered as the spiritual overseer of the Assembly and shall direct all of its activities. He shall be the president of the corporation and shall act as chairman of all business meetings of the Assembly and of the Board. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees or departments. He shall provide for all the services of the Assembly and shall arrange for all special meetings. No congregational or board meetings shall be held in his absence without his written authorization. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the Assembly without his approval. No offerings shall be initiated without prior approval of the Pastor or Board. The Pastor shall have the oversight of all visitation work and may appoint others to assist him in this and any other activity of the church.

#### **Section 2 The Church Board**

The Board is elected to serve the Church. All matters of church government shall be carried on by the Board. They shall assist in the administration of the Lord's Supper and any other services at the direction of the Pastor. It shall be the duty of the Board to see that the Pastor and any other employees of the church are properly remunerated, taking into consideration the cost of living and the Assembly's financial ability. The Board may be convened at any time by the Pastor for the transaction of church business. A majority of the Board shall have the right to ask the Pastor to convene a Board meeting. A majority of the membership of the Board shall constitute a quorum providing that all members have been duly notified of the meeting.

#### **Section 3 The Secretary**

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Church Board and of the annual Congregational Business Meeting and any special business meetings of the Assembly.

The Secretary's duties shall be executed under the guidance of the Pastor and subject to the authority of the Church Board.

#### **Section 4 The Treasurer**

All offerings of the Assembly shall be counted by two members, one of whom shall be Treasurer, if present.

The Treasurer or designated person or persons is to deposit all funds in the Church bank account. Disbursements of funds are to be made by check as authorized by the Pastor and the Board.

All duties of the Treasurer shall be executed under the guidance of the Pastor and subject to the authority of the Church Board.

The treasurer, by reason of not being a board member, shall, after giving the monthly financial report, leave the board meetings.

## **Article 2 Elections, Vacancies & Qualifications**

### **Section 1 The Pastor - Appointment and Call**

- (a) Nominations for Pastor shall be submitted to the congregation by the Church Board. Recommendations may be made to the church board by any member of the Assembly.
- (b) The Pastor shall be called as a result of a two-thirds vote, by secret ballot, of the voting members present at a duly-called meeting convened for that purpose. The pastor shall be elected to serve for one or more years or for an indefinite period of time as may be determined at the time of election.
- (c) When the pastorate becomes vacant, the Church Board shall have the authority to appoint an Interim Pastor, who shall be empowered to act in full legal capacity as the Pastor, until such time as a new pastor has been duly installed.
- (d) In the absence of a pastor, the Church Board shall have the authority to conduct the business of the church, arranging for pulpit supply as they deem appropriate.

### **Section 2 The Deacons**

From five to seven Deacons of the Church Board shall be elected from the voting membership of the Assembly. They shall be nominated by the nominating committee, and shall serve for a term of two years. Four deacons shall be elected on an even year and three on an odd year, their terms shall be running concurrently.

### **Section 3 The Secretary and Treasurer**

The Secretary shall be appointed for one year by the Pastor and the Church Board and ratified at the annual business meeting by the voting membership.

The Treasurer shall be appointed for one year by the Pastor and the Church Board and ratified at the annual business meeting by the voting membership.

### **Section 4 Voting**

All voting for elective officers shall be by secret ballot, thus permitting a conscientious vote of the individual's convictions to be expressed.

All elective officers of the Assembly, with the exception of the Pastor, shall be elected by a majority of votes cast. If a nominee is not elected on the second ballot, the name receiving the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated on each successive ballot.

There shall be no more than three electoral ballots. All votes are determined by votes cast. Abstentions shall not be counted as votes cast. Blank ballots shall not be counted as votes cast.

When the congregation is voting, a definite line of demarcation (voting bar) shall be made between those who are entitled to vote and those who are not so entitled.

Absentee Ballots must be signed and may be submitted by a member who is unable to be at meetings by circumstances beyond control, i.e., sickness, work, out of town, and will only count on first ballot.

## **Section 5 Term of Office**

Those elected shall assume office 30 days after election.

## **Section 6 Vacancies**

### **(a) The Pastor**

The Pastor may be removed in keeping with provisions of the District Constitution of the Assemblies of God by the following procedure:

Assemblies seeking help of the District Executive in solving difficulties between the Pastor and the Assembly, which do not involve his credentials but only his position as Pastor, must give benefit evidence that every scriptural effort has been made to effect a solution by a meeting of a local Church Board, duly convened by the Pastor. In the event of a reconciliation not being effected at the local level, either the Pastor or the Church Board shall have the right to appeal to the District Executives for counsel. The refusal of the Pastor to call a meeting of the Church Board, when requested by the majority of the Board, shall constitute the Board's right to go to the District Executives, thereby giving the said Executives the authority to use its good offices to effect a mutual settlement.

Assemblies or individuals making charges to the District Executives against a minister, in matters involving his right to hold Assemblies of God credentials, his morality, his integrity, or doctrinal soundness, must make the charge or charges in writing, properly signed, and be willing to appear in person to give testimony confirming the charges.

The minister so charged shall be notified of the specific charge or charges by registered letter and the name of the complainants made known to him at least ten days before being called to appear before the District Executives. When formal charges have been made against a minister, his pastoral responsibilities shall be suspended immediately upon his receipt of the registered letter notifying him of the charges. Provisions for a pulpit supply shall be made by the District Executives or their representative. The minister shall have the right, however, to retain the use of the parsonage and receive his salary until the charges are formally disposed of.

Such hearing shall take place within thirty (30) days of the formal charges being made or the entire proceeding shall be dropped.

Should a Pastor, so formally charged, fail or refuse to appear as ordered for the hearing, his action shall be construed as an admission of guilt, permitting the District Executives at their discretion to proceed on that assumption.

(b) Other officers

Any officer may be removed by two thirds of the membership of the Church Board at any regular or special Board meeting or by two thirds of the voting members who are present at any regular or special congregational meeting. Grounds for such action shall be:

1. Unscriptural conduct
2. Doctrinal departure from the Tenets of Faith
3. Incompetency in office
4. For any good and sufficient cause

Any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing of his case before the Assembly if they so desire. The Board is empowered to fill by appointment any vacancy until the next annual election of officers.

The term of officers would be limited to six (6) consecutive years after which a mandatory one (1) year leave of absence would be required before being eligible to be elected for another term of office.

## **Section 7 Qualifications of Officers**

(a) The Pastor

The Pastor of this church must hold valid credentials with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, Springfield, Missouri.

(b) The Church Board

A person's life and character must pass certain criteria before he can qualify to serve. The Scriptures dictate the qualifications. A Board member:

1. Must be chosen from "among you" (Acts 6:3), a lay member of the local congregation for at least one year
2. Must be an individual of good reputation, "men of honest report" (Acts 6:3)
3. Is in a spiritual ministry, "full of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 6:3) according to (Acts 2:4) and continuing to be "full" (Ephesians 5:18)
4. Is required to make decisions in practical and temporal matters as well as giving support to the Pastor in spiritual matters, so sound direction and wise counsel needs "wisdom" (Acts 6:3)
5. Must be willing to be involved in the work of God through the Church; he is to "serve" (Acts 6:2)
6. Is to be "grave" (1 Timothy 3:8), i.e., steadfast and serious
7. Is not to be "doubletongued" (1 Timothy 3:8), i.e., a person of their word, dependable

8. Is “not given to much wine” (1 Timothy 3:8), i.e., temperate and does not depend on physical stimulants
9. Is "not greedy of filthy lucre" (1 Timothy 3:8), i.e., a faithful steward with his tithe, generous and not motivated by money
10. Is proper in his doctrine, “holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience” (1 Timothy 3:9), fully subscribing to the Tenets of Faith of the Assemblies of God
11. Is a mature believer, “and let these also first be proved” (1 Timothy 3:10)
12. Is the husband of “one wife” (1 Timothy 3:12)
13. Leads his home in Christ, “ruling their children and houses well” (1 Timothy 3:12)
14. His wife must be an example of the Christian life, “grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things” (1 Timothy 3:11).

At the discretion of the local congregation, a female, meeting stated qualifications, may be elected to serve as a Board member.

(c) The Treasurer and other Officers

The Treasurer and all elected Church Officers shall be marked by spiritual maturity, proven leadership ability, faithfulness in all things and a life that is exemplary of our standards of membership.

An individual will not qualify for being elected to the office of Treasurer, Board Secretary, or Deacon if this person has a close relative already serving in one of these positions. Examples of close relatives would include: brother, sister, father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife or in-laws.

### **Section 8 Nominating Committee**

A nominating committee shall be appointed by the Pastor and the Church Board at least six weeks prior to the Annual Congregational Business Meeting. The number of members of the nominating committee, their qualifications and duties shall be as follows:

(a) Six Members

Pastor as chairman, one Board member and four from the congregation which are members of the Church.

(b) Qualifications

Fully qualified scripturally as stated in the CONSTITUTION, Article 4 and BYLAWS, Article 4, Section 1.

(c) Duties

They are to receive, select and submit nominations for such vacancies as may exist because a term of office will expire. They are to submit at least two qualified persons for each vacancy. The Committee's nominations are to be posted the Sunday prior to the Annual Business Meeting.

## ***Article 3 Departments***

### **Section 1 Departments**

The departments of this church shall consist of Christian Education, Women's Ministries, Men's Ministries, Youth Ministries and such other departments as may be created under the provisions of this article. All departments shall be responsible to the Pastor and the Church Board and shall present annual reports to the Annual Congregational Business Meeting.

### **Section 2 Christian Education**

The Christian Education Department shall consist of officers and leaders appointed by the Pastor and ratified by the Church Board.

### **Section 3 Women's Ministries**

The officers or leaders of this department shall be appointed by the Pastor and ratified by the Church Board. This group shall constitute the Women's Ministries Council.

### **Section 4 Youth Ministries**

The officers or leaders of this department shall be appointed by the Pastor and ratified by the Church Board. This group shall constitute the Youth Ministries Council.

### **Section 5 Other Departments**

The Church Board shall have the authority to institute such other departments as may be necessary from time to time.

## ***Article 4 Membership***

### **Section 1 The Standard of Membership**

- (a) Evidence of a genuine experience in regeneration—new birth (John 1:12,13; 1 Peter 1:18-25)
- (b) Evidence of a consistent Christian life (Romans 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13,14; Ephesians 4:17-32; 5:1,2,15; 1 John 1:6,7)
- (c) To fully subscribe to the Tenets of Faith as set forth in this CONSTITUTION and the rules of order adopted by this Assembly
- (d) Willingness to contribute regularly through tithes and offerings for the support of the Assembly according to his or her ability

### **Section 2 Membership Roll**

Membership in this Church shall be classified as follows:

- (a) Active Membership  
All those who meet the scriptural standards for membership whose names appeared on the original membership roll of the Assembly at the time the Assembly was first organized, together with those whose names shall be added from time to time, who regularly attend the Assembly and take part in the services, and are living consistent Christian lives and are in agreement with our Pentecostal testimony

(b) Non-voting Membership

Associate Membership: Young people ages 12 - 17 who have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior shall be granted non-voting membership status upon completion of the current process of membership. Should the young person complete all necessary steps, upon turning 18, he/she may be received into adult membership.

(c) Voting Membership

All active members, as defined in Article 4, Section 2(a) and who are 18 years of age or older, shall constitute the voting membership of the Assembly.

(d) Inactive Membership

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

(e) Waiver of Legal Action Rights

Notwithstanding the provisions herein before contained, certificates of membership in the Church shall be issued upon the condition that suspension of the member and withdrawal of membership certificate in the manner herein provided shall not give the suspended member cause for legal action against the Pastor or any member taking part in the suspension proceedings; and the acceptance of a certificate of membership or fellowship in this local Church shall be evidence of a waiver by the member of all rights of action, causes of action and all claims and demands against this local Church or any member or officer or the General Council of the Assemblies of God suspension proceedings and withdrawal of the certificate of membership or fellowship in this local Church under the foregoing provision.

### **Section 3 Reception of Members**

- (a) Persons desiring to become active members of the Assembly shall make the fact known to the Pastor, who shall counsel the applicant according to the standard for membership.
- (b) The Pastor shall present the names of those who apply for membership and who have completed a membership course with his recommendation to the Church Board who shall act upon said recommendation and render a final decision. All persons who have been approved by the Board shall be publicly welcomed into the local Fellowship at an appropriate service.

## **Section 4 Discipline of Members and Revision of Roster**

- (a) Any member of the Assembly who shall willfully absent himself from the regular services for a period of three consecutive months, or who shall be under charges, shall be temporarily suspended from active voting membership pending investigation and final decision.
- (b) Unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the Tenets of Faith held by this Assembly shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member (Matthew 18:15-18; Romans 16:17-18; 1 Corinthians 5:11; Galatians 1:8,9; Titus 3:1-15).
- (c) The Pastor and the Church Board shall be authorized to revise the membership roll of the Assembly annually or whenever necessary and to remove from the list of active members all names of those who may have become deceased during the year, together with the names of those who may have withdrawn from the Fellowship, or whose lives may have become inconsistent with the standards and teachings of the Assembly.
- (d) If a name is removed, the one whose name is removed shall be notified of the action of the Pastor and Church Board through the Secretary.

## **Article 5 Order of Business**

Business meetings shall be governed by the accepted rules of parliamentary procedure and shall be conducted in the Spirit of Christ and in brotherly counsel. The regular order of business for the Annual Congregational Business Meeting shall consist of the following:

Devotional  
Reading of the previous minutes by the Secretary  
Financial report by the Treasurer  
Report of all departments  
Unfinished business  
Election of officers  
New business  
Adjournment

## **Article 6 Amendments**

These BYLAWS may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the Assembly by a majority vote of the voting membership present, providing the proposed amendment has been announced publicly on the two Sundays prior to the date of the meeting by the Pastor or the Secretary.