

**Constitution and By Laws  
For Penn Yan Assembly of God**

## Constitutional Declaration

**We Believe:**

That God's purpose concerning man finds fulfillment in a priority reason-for-being:

- 1) To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world,
- 2) To be a corporate body in which man may worship God ,
- 3) To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.

**Penn Yan Assembly of God exists to be a body of believers where God is worshipped; to be a source of equipping and empowering the saints to full maturity in Christ Jesus: and to be a lighthouse of evangelism effecting our community with the positive message of the Gospel.**

Therefore, we whose names appear on the assembly roster as of this date recognize ourselves as a self-governing assembly, first organized as such **May 27, 2001**, and do affirm ourselves to be in cooperative fellowship with the Council of the Assemblies of God with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, and an active member of the New York District of the Assemblies of God with headquarters in Liverpool, New York, and do hereby adopt the following articles of church order this **27th day of May in the year of our Lord 2001**, these to supplement the Articles of Incorporation and to supersede any and all other rules of church order;

### Constitution

#### Article I. Name

The name of this church shall be:

***Penn Yan Assembly Of God***

*Penn Yan, State of New York.*

#### Article II. Purpose

**Section 1.** To establish and maintain a place of worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit, and for the promotion of Christian fellowship and edification.

**Section 2.** To obey to our capacity the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20; Acts 1:8, 8:4)

### **Article III. Prerogatives**

**Section 1.** To govern itself in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and bylaws and with the New York District Assemblies of God Constitution and Bylaws and with the standards of the New Testament Scriptures, “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace... till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:3, 13)

**Section 2.** To have a membership which is determined by the assembly and to discipline its members according to the Scriptures.

**Section 3.** To choose of call its pastor, elect its officers and transact all other business pertaining to its life and conduct as a church.

**Section 4.** To establish and maintain such departments and institutions, such as Christian day schools, as may be deemed necessary for the propagation of the Gospel and for the work of the assembly.

**Section 5.** To purchase or acquire by gift, bequest, or otherwise either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell subject to the securing of a court order, convey, mortgage, lease (which is limited to five years by state statute), or otherwise dispose of any real estate or personal property as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes, all in accordance with its constitution and bylaws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

### **Article IV. Affiliation**

While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conducting of its own affairs, this assembly shall voluntarily enter into full cooperative fellowship with assemblies of like precious faith associated in the New York District, and with The General Council of the Assemblies of God with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri, and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation. In the event serious conditions should arise within the assembly affecting either its life or testimony, it shall be the privilege of the pastor, the council, or 20% of the voting membership to appeal to the officers of the New York District of the Assemblies of God for their counsel or help.

### **Article V. Statement of Fundamental Truths**

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same thing, 1 Corinthians 1:10; Acts 2:42). The phraseology employed in this statement is not inspired or

contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full-gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all Biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines.

## **1. The Scriptures Inspired**

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

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

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

### **The Adorable Godhead**

#### ***a. Terms Defined***

The terms “trinity” and “persons,” as related to the Godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from “gods many and lords many.” We therefore may speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is One Lord, and a Trinity or as one Being of three persons, and still be absolutely scriptural (examples, Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16, 17).

#### ***b. Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead.***

Christ taught a distinction of persons in the Godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, but that this distinction and relationship as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because it can not be explained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).

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

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

#### ***d. Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead***

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are never identical as to person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the Godhead; nor opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son, as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship, The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father, as to authority. The Holy Ghost is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation and authority. Hence no person is the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17-30, 32, 37; 8:17, 18).

#### ***e. The Title, Lord Jesus Christ***

The appellation, "Lord Jesus Christ," is a proper name. It is never applied in the New Testament either to the Father or to the Holy Ghost. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God (Romans 1:1-3, 7; 2 John 3).

#### ***f. The Lord Jesus Christ, God with us***

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

#### ***g. The Title, Son of God***

Since the name "Immanuel" embraces both God and man, in the one person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follow that the title "Son of God" describes His proper deity, and the title "Son of Man," His proper deity, and title "Son of God" belongs to the order of eternity, and the title "Son of Man" describes His proper deity, and the title "Son of Man," His proper humanity. Therefore the title "Son of God" belongs to the order of eternity; and the title "Son of Man" to the order of time (Matthew 1:21-23; 2 John 3; 1 John 3:8; Hebrew 7:3; 12:1-13).

#### ***h. Transgression Of the Doctrine of Christ***

Wherefore, it is a transgression of the doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title "Son of God" solely from the fact of the Incarnation, of because of His relation to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh ( 2 John 9; John 1:1,2,14,18,29,49; 1John 2:22.23; 4:1-5; Hebrews 12:2).

#### ***i. Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord***

The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right

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

#### ***j. Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son***

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

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

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

- a. **His virgin birth (Mathew 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35).**
- b. **His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26;] 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 (Mathew 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 Ghost, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes and 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 Ghost**

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; 1 Corinthians 1:11-31). 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; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), and 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 Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost**

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

## **9. Sanctification**

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

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

## **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 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; 14:12).**

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

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

1. Evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20)
2. Worship of God (John 4:23, 24)
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 of the earth for one thousand years (Zechariah 14: 5; Matthew 24:7,30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20: 1-6). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37:21, 22; Zephaniah 3: 19, 20; Romans 11:26, 27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-8; Micah 4:3, 4).

## **15. The Final Judgment**

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

## **16. The New Heaven and The New Earth**

According to God's Promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness will dwell and reign forever (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21-22).

## **Article VI. Ordinances**

The ordinances of the church are:



- 1) Baptism by immersion in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38).
- 2) The Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-25).

The anointing of the sick with oil for healing and the consecration of children, although not ordinances, are practices that have scriptural sanction, and shall be observed at stated times and whenever requested (James 5:14; Matthew 19:13-15).

## **Article VII. Church Government**

### **Section 1. The Senior Pastor**

The senior pastor, under Jesus Christ, is recognized as the shepherd of the church. The pastor is responsible to the church being served and, conforming to Scriptural order and abiding by the Constitution and Bylaws of the local Assembly, shall be respected in the office of pastor.

### **Section 2. Elders and Committees**

Elders and other church committees are chosen to serve the church in conformity to the simple New Testament order, and are directly responsible to both the pastor and church for their actions and conduct. These should be individuals baptized in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4 or earnestly seeking the experience. It is recommended that no credential holder, except the senior pastor, be eligible for office of elder.

### **Section 3. Officers**

The officers of the church shall be the pastor and three elders (or multiples thereof), two of which will serve as secretary and treasurer. The secretary and treasurer shall be elected in the manner prescribed by the bylaws, Article III, Section 3. These officers shall constitute the church council. The elders serve with the qualifications for deacons in 1 Timothy 3:8-13; Acts 6:3.

No Person in the church shall be considered eligible for nomination as an officer of the church who has not been a member in good standing of the church for at least one year.

## **Article VIII. Membership**

**Section 1.** Individuals shall be eligible to membership in this assembly who give evidence of a personal living faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who voluntarily subscribe to its Statement of Fundamental Truths, and agree to be governed by its constitution and bylaws as herein set forth.

**Section 2.** There shall be a junior membership as provided under Article 1. Section 2 of the Bylaws, and an inactive membership as provided under Article 1, Section 6 (d) of the Bylaws. There is no voting privilege for junior or inactive members.

## **Article IX. Meetings**

**Section 1.** 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 the elders.

**Section 2.** There shall be an annual business meeting of the assembly at which time the reports of all officers shall be read and the election of officers shall take place. This meeting shall be held the First Monday, in the month of February, due notice being given on the two Sundays prior to the date of meeting.

**Section 3.** Special business meetings of the assembly may be called when necessary by the pastor or by a majority of the elders after proper notice has been given by the pastor or by the secretary of the assembly.

**Section 4.** Right of Initiative Special business meetings may also be called by petition, having been signed by not less than 20%, but in no case less than five qualified voters, of the voting membership of the assembly, the petition to be placed in the hands of the pastor or elders secretary and announcement made on the two Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.

**Section 5.** Quorum. No record of any regular or special business meeting of the assembly shall be made unless one-third of more voting members shall be present to constitute a quorum.

**Section 6.** The elders shall meet at least quarterly for the transaction of the routine business of the assembly. A majority of the elders must be present to constitute a quorum. No meeting of the elders may be held without the presence or permission of the pastor.

## **Article X. Finances**

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

## **Article XI. Property**

**Section 1.** All property, real estate or equipment, shall be taken, held, purchased, sold, transferred or conveyed in the name of the assembly in accordance with New York State law.

**Section 2.** No real estate of the assembly shall be purchased, sold, leased, mortgaged or otherwise alienated, without the same having been authorized by a majority vote of the membership present at a regular business meeting or special business present at a regular business meeting or special business meeting of the assembly which has been duly called for the consideration of the proposal.

**Section 3.** The Pastor and the elder's secretary of the assembly shall certify in such purchase, conveyance, lease, or mortgage that the same has been duly authorized by the vote of the membership. Such certificates shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

**Section 4.** In the event that the assembly herein mentioned ceases to function as a church body, then the said property, real estate or equipment, shall become the property of the New York District of the Assemblies of God, a religious not-for-profit corporation. The latter shall have full authority to use or dispose of the property at its discretion in the furtherance of the gospel of Christ.

## **Article XII. Amendments**

Amendments to this constitution may be made by a two thirds vote of the membership of the assembly who are in attendance at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided that due notice of such proposed change shall have been made at all services on at least two Sundays preceding the time for such meeting. The counsel of the district officers shall be sought.

# *Bylaws*

## **Article I. Membership**

**Section 1.** Standard of Membership. The standard of membership of this agent shall be:

- a. Evidence of a genuine experience of regeneration(John1:12,13; 1 Peter 1:18-25)
- b. Evidence of a consistent Christian life(Romans 6:4;13:13,14;Eph.4:17-32; 5:1,2,15:1 John1:6,7)
- c. Baptism in water by immersion (Matthew 28:19,20; Romans 6:3-12)
- d. Full subscription to the Statement of Fundamental Truths as set in the constitution
- e. Willingness to tithe regularly to support of the Assembly according to the scriptural pattern.
- f. Applicants for membership win be required to complete a membership course.
- g. Persons maybe received into membership by means of transfer from other AG congregations. They shall subscribe to the standards of membership set forth above.
- h. Divorce and Remarriage and Same Sex:
  - 1) Those persons who became entangled in their marriage relations and do not see how these matters can be adjusted shall be eligible church membership and their marriage complications left in the hands of the Lord. (1 Corinthians 7:17, 20, 24)
  - 2) In no case shall persons be accepted into membership who are known to be living in a common-law state of matrimony.

- 3) In no case shall persons be accepted into membership who are known to be living in a same sex (homosexual)lifestyle.(Romans1:26,28)

### **Section 2. Junior Membership**

Those 9-17 years shall be eligible for membership if meeting above qualifications.

### **Section 3. Pastor and Spouse**

By virtue of office, the pastor shall be considered an active voting member during his tenure. His spouse shall be as well, meeting the qualifications in section 1.

### **Section 4. Voting Privilege**

All active members 18 years of age and up constitute the voting membership of the assembly.

### **Section 5. Reception of Members.**

- a. Persons desiring to become members of the assembly shall make the fact known to the pastor, who shall examine the applicant according to the standard of membership.
- b. The pastor shall present to the elders the names of those who apply for membership, with his/her recommendation. After due consideration, the names of those whom the elders approves for membership shall be publicly welcomed into the fellowship at an appropriate service and their names shall be inscribed in the assembly roster book.

### **Section 6. Discipline and Revision of Roster**

- a. Unscriptural conduct of doctrinal departure from the Statement of Fundamental Truths held by this assembly shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member. Such discipline shall be prayerfully administered according to the Scriptures (Matthew 18:15-17, 35; Romans 16:17, 18; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:11-15)
- b. Any member of the assembly who shall willingly absent himself/herself from the regular services for a period of three consecutive months, who ceases tithing to the local assembly, or who shall be under charges, shall be temporarily suspended from the voting membership pending investigation and final decision in the case. Any change of status in regard to a person's membership shall be valid only after the church elders take action to suspend or remove their membership.
- c. If at the time of disqualification of membership the person so disqualified is elder, secretary, treasurer or other church officer of this assembly, the office shall be declared vacant.
- d. The elders shall be authorized to examine the membership roll of the assembly annually. At the discretion of the elder, any member who cannot attend services regularly, or who for some other reason does not qualify as an active member in good standing, may be placed on an inactive list. The elder may remove from the list the names of those who have withdrawn from the fellowship, or who have become inconsistent with the standards and teachings of the assembly. Any member so removed shall have the right to meet with the church elders to appeal the decision and the actions of the church elders after which a majority vote of the elders by secret ballot shall be considered final.

## **Article II. Duties of officers**

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

The assembly finds its headship under the Lord Jesus Christ, in its pastor. The pastor should be honored in the sacred office as the spiritual overseer of the assembly, and shall be general supervisor of all its assembly, and shall be general supervisor of all its activities.

The pastor shall;

- a. Be the president of the corporation.
- b. Be the chairman of all the business meetings of the assembly and of the council.
- c. Be an ex officio member of all committees and departments.
- d. Provide for all services of the assembly and shall arrange for all special meetings, giving due regard to the assembly. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the assembly without pastoral approval.

### **Section 2. The Elders**

- a. The Elders shall:
  - 1) Serve in and advisory capacity to the pastor in all matters pertaining to the assembly in its spiritual life and all other church activities. They shall be filled with the Holy Spirit and are the servants of the entire church body. They are for counsel and mutual assistance to the pastor in the administration of the business and work of the assembly.
  - 2) Be responsible for the maintenance and cleanliness of the church property.
  - 3) Act in the examination of applicants for membership and also in the administration of the discipline of the assembly.
- b. The elders, by virtue of their office, are empowered to act in behalf of the assembly in all matters involving the sale or transfer of church property.
- c. In the event the assembly is temporarily without a pastor, the church elders shall be empowered to provide for its own chairman from its membership in order to transact business for the assembly.
- d. Since the New Testament restricts divorced and remarried believers from the offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon (Titus 1:5-9, 1 Timothy 3:12) this standard shall be upheld except when the divorce occurred prior to conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17) All other opportunities for Christian service for which these believers may be qualified be made available to them.

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

The secretary shall:

- a. Keep the minutes of the official meetings of the council and of the annual and special business meetings of the assembly.

- b. Keep a record of the membership in the assembly roster book, and perform any other clerical work necessary to proper discharge of duties.
- c. Deposit all legal documents in a fire proof place as authorized by the church elders.

**Section 4.** The Treasurer.

All offerings shall be counted by two authorized persons who shall convey the same to the treasurer. The treasurer, or other authorized person, shall deposit all funds in a bank authorized by the assembly, in the assembly's name.

The treasurer shall:

- a. Oversee payment of the bills by check upon the authorization of the pastor and elders.
- b. Keep an itemized account of receipts and disbursements
- c. Make a report at the regular business meetings of the assembly of the elders.

### **Article III. Elections and Vacancies**

**Section 1.** The pastor shall be called for an indefinite period, unless otherwise stipulated by the assembly at the time of election. The elders acting in capacity of a pulpit committee after prayerful inquiry, and with judicious counsel, full consideration being given to the leading of the Holy Spirit, shall select an available, scripturally qualified minister who is a credential holder of the Assemblies of God who is in good standing, as nominee to the office of pastor, and present the name of the vote of the assembly without undue delay.

The counsel of the district superintendent and the sectional presbyter shall be sought.

**Section 2.** Elders shall be chosen from the active membership of the assembly, and shall be elected by a majority vote at the annual business meeting. Their term of office shall be for three years, One-Third being elected each year.

Those elected shall assume their offices upon election. Those elected to the office of elder, shall serve no more than two complete consecutive terms. They shall be required to take a one year sabbatical before being eligible to serve another term.

**Section 3.** The secretary shall be chosen by the elders, from its own membership. The treasurer shall be chosen by the elders, from its own membership or from within the church membership. Selection occurs at the first monthly elder meeting following the annual business meeting. Their terms of office shall be for one year and assumed at the time of their election.

Those elected to the office of secretary and treasurer shall serve no more than six consecutive years. They shall be required to take a one-year sabbatical before being eligible to serve another term.

**Section 4.** Nominating Committee

There shall be a nominating committee comprised of five persons including the pastor by virtue

of his office, two elders (who are not up for re-election), and two members of the congregation who are not elders.

Such appointment shall be made by the pastor and the elders not less than 90 days prior to the annual business meeting. The term of service for the nominating committee shall conclude with the adjournment of the annual business meeting. No nominations shall be made from the floor.

#### **Section 5. Absentee Ballot**

When a voting member cannot attend the business meeting because they must work, are out of town, or are too ill to attend, they may submit an absentee ballot. The absentee ballot shall not be counted in any subsequent balloting after the initial vote takes place. The member shall indicate their vote on a ballot enclosed in a sealed envelope. The envelope shall bear the signature and printed name of the member and the reason the meeting can not be attended.

#### **Section 6. Secret Ballots**

- a. All election shall be by secret ballot.
- b. Voting on other matters may be by open ballot, however, a single objection to open voting must result in the casting of a secret ballot.

#### **Section 7. Vacancies**

##### **a. The Pastor**

- 1) If the senior pastor asks for a vote of confidence, a majority vote shall be required. Voting shall be by secret ballot.
- 2) In the event a pastor has serious charges proffered against him/her, power is vested in the elders to ask for the resignation of the pastor. If such request is refused, the pastorate shall not be considered vacant until the matter has been decided by secret ballot vote of the members present at a business meeting having been called for that purpose, notice of such meeting having been given of the two Sundays prior. The request of the elders for the pastor's resignation shall be required to receive a two-thirds vote in favor of sustaining the request of the Elder. Such meeting shall be presided over by a district officer.
- 3) When a vacancy in the pastorate shall occur, pulpit supply shall be arranged for by the elders until a pastor shall be chosen as prescribed in Section 1. In the case of a pastor's removal from office, a report of such action shall be made to the district superintendent.

##### **b. Other Officers**

- 1) When a vacancy occurs in the elders the pastor and remaining elders shall fill the vacancy by appointment until the next annual business meeting. The office of the term-expired shall then be filled for the remainder of its term.
- 2) Any church elder office may be declared vacant by a majority of the church elders present and voting at a duly called church elder meeting. Grounds for such action shall be:
  - i) Unscriptural conduct

- ii) Doctrinal departure from the Statement of Fundamental Truths
  - iii) Incompetency in office
  - iv) Insubordination
- 3) Any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing of the case before the church elders if so desired. The majority decision of the elders present and voting by secret ballot shall be considered final for removal of said elder.

**Section 8. District Intervention.**

a. Circumstances requiring Intervention.

While the right of a local assembly to self-government is a basic General Council principle, it is also recognized that this assembly has a responsibility to the District Council and the General Council, and both have a responsibility to the assembly. Some of the circumstances that require intervention by the district officary are as follows:

- 1) Division resulting in disruption.
- 2) Assumption of dictatorial authority by the pastor or board.
- 3) Prolonged absence of pastoral leadership.
- 4) Deviation or departure from Assemblies of God principles and practices.
- 5) Attempt to disaffiliate from Assemblies of God fellowship.

b. Intervention procedure. The district has the right to meet with the board of the congregation, or the district officary may be extended an invitation in the following ways:

- 1) By the request of the pastor.
- 2) By action of the board.
- 3) By petition of the congregation according to the bylaw provision.

## **Article IV. Departments**

**Section 1. Christian Education.** This assembly shall provide a Christian education ministry through the Sunday school and such other ministries as may be deemed needful. The purpose of the Sunday school is to provide this assembly with a teaching ministry of the Word on the level of understanding of every individual to reach, teach, win, mature, and train the individual to Christ and for Christian service.

**Section 2. Youth.** The Youth Department shall be recognized as an important part of the church's ministry. The purpose of this department shall be to promote worship, fellowship, discipleship, and evangelism in our youth. The youth leader shall be chosen by and amenable to the senior pastor. The guidelines and policies shall be the recommended standards of the district and national Youth Departments.

**Section 3. Women's Ministries.** Provision shall be made for the establishing of a Women's Ministries Department in cooperation with the district and national programs. The Women's Ministries shall meet at stated times for the purpose of fostering closer fellowship, engaging in prayer, and to assist in a practical way the work of the local church, the district, and the nations.

**Section 4. Men's Ministries.** Provision shall be made for the establishment of a Men's



Ministries Department in cooperation with the national and district programs. The Men's Ministries shall meet at stated times for the purpose of fostering closer fellowship, engaging in prayer, and to assist in a practical way the work of the local church, the district, and the nations.

## **Article V. Finances**

**Section 1.** The elders shall determine all salaries and shall have general oversight in all financial matters in every department of the assembly. All records shall be subject to an audit, and each department shall submit monthly reports.

**Section 2.** The pastor shall be given regular and adequate financial support, the amount and manner of which shall be determined by the elders.

**Section 3.** The executive committee of each department is responsible for its own financial affairs. No department shall obligate itself to any indebtedness without the elder's approval. The elders shall provide for the auditing of each department's books annually, or at the termination of a department treasurer.

**Section 4.** This assembly shall provide a regular monthly missions offering for Missions Advance New York and World Ministries as the finances are available.

**Section 5.** This assembly shall share in the expense of the New York District of the Assemblies of God by contributing to the district in accordance with the current Assembly offering.