

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF THE APPALACHIAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
(Revised May 2014)**

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

Whereas, the latter day outpouring of the Holy Spirit in New Testament fullness has resulted in the forming of Pentecostal assemblies, and

Whereas, these Pentecostal assemblies, realizing the necessity for unity of purpose, faith, and practice, have united themselves in a cooperative fellowship named *The General Council of the Assemblies of God*, and

Whereas, the General Council has created district councils through the agency of which it ordains ministers, administers discipline, exercises the oversight of local assemblies, and encourages the propagation of the Pentecostal testimony; therefore, be it

Resolved that we, exercising the privileges granted in Article X of the General Council Constitution, recognize ourselves as *The Appalachian District of The General Council of the Assemblies of God* and agree to be governed by the following Constitution and Bylaws:

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, and (3) to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.

That *The Appalachian District Council of 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, which enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs, adding a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God, and enabling 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.

Therefore, we recognize ourselves to be a cooperative fellowship of Pentecostal, Spirit-baptized saints from local Pentecostal assemblies of like precious faith in *The Appalachian District of the General Council of the Assemblies of God*, hereinafter called *District Council*, whose purpose is neither to usurp authority over the various local assemblies, nor to deprive them of their scriptural and local rights and privileges, but to recognize and promote scriptural methods and order for worship, unity, fellowship, work, and business for God so that results of our efforts may be conserved and assemblies established and developed along the line of our distinctive testimony; and to disapprove unscriptural methods, doctrines, and conduct, 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 4:13).

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the district is *The Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God*.

ARTICLE II. TERRITORY

This district shall include that part of West Virginia that lies west of Wetzel, Harrison, Upshur, Randolph, and Pocahontas counties, and that part of Virginia that lies west of Bath, Rockbridge, Bedford, and Pittsylvania counties.

ARTICLE III. NATURE

The Appalachian District Council is a cooperative fellowship based on mutual agreements voluntarily entered into by its members.

ARTICLE IV. PREROGATIVES

The prerogatives of the Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God shall be:

- a. To approve scriptural teachings, and practices, and to disapprove unscriptural teachings and practices. A list of disapproved doctrines and practices is set forth in Articles VI and X of the Bylaws.
- b. To encourage and promote the evangelization of its territory; and to encourage support of Appalachian and world missions.
- c. To establish, set in order, and encourage the development of the Assemblies of God within its territory.
- d. To supervise all the activities of the Assemblies of God in its territory in exercise of the rights conferred by Article X of the General Council Constitution.
- e. To examine, approve, and recommend to the General Council Credentials Committee ministerial applicants who have met the requirements of the District Constitution and Bylaws; and to administer discipline where

- needed.
- f. To have the right to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of such property as may be needed for the prosecution of its work.
 - g. To establish and maintain such departments and institutions as may be necessary for the propagation of the gospel and the work of this Pentecostal fellowship.
 - h. To arrange its own meetings, elect its own officers and committees, and govern itself in cooperation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

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, as 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 unexplained (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 Father which constitutes Him **the Father** and not the Son; 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 in 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 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 follows that the title Son of God describes His proper deity, and the title Son of Man, His proper humanity. Therefore, the title Son of God belongs to the **order of eternity**, and the title Son of Man to the **order of time** (Matthew 1:21-23; 2 John 3; 1 John 3:8; Hebrews 7:3; 1:1-13).

(h) Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ

Wherefore, it is a transgression of the doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title Son of God solely from the fact of the Incarnation, or because of His relation to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the

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

(i) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him. And having been made both Lord and Christ, He sent the Holy Ghost that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father, that God may be all in all (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 5:22,23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2:8,9; Revelation 7:9,10; 4:8-11).

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

- (a) His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31,35).
- (b) His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).
- (c) His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
- (d) His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3; 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 Ghost, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

(b) The Evidences of Salvation

The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all 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 comes!"

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 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Ghost come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 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 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 them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:4-10,28), but different in purpose and use.

9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Romans 12:1,2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord"

(Hebrews 12:14). By the power of the Holy 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 the general assembly and the church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22,23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

Since God’s purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshipped by man, to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world, 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).
- d. To be a people who demonstrate God’s love and compassion for all the world (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

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 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 threefold 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); (4) meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

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 earth for one thousand years (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27,30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:16). 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. Whoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

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

ARTICLE VI. RELATIONSHIPS

Section 1. To the General Council and Other District Councils

The Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God is an integral part of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a nonprofit religious corporation with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri; is subordinate and amenable to the said General Council as prescribed in its Constitution and Bylaws, and has a cooperative working relationship with other district councils in matters of mutual concern.

Section 2. To the Fellowship Sections

The Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God shall prosecute its activities through its district offices and fellowship sections.

Section 3. To the Local Assemblies

The relationship between the Appalachian District Council and its local assemblies shall be as set forth in Article X.

ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God

The membership of The Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God shall consist of all ordained, licensed, and certified ministers holding a current fellowship certificate and having their permanent residence within the boundaries of the district and churches affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God or the Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God. Exceptions to the residency requirements for credentialed ministers of the district shall be those specified by the bylaws of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Voting Constituency

The voting constituency at a Section Council or District Council shall be composed of all members of The Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God holding a current fellowship certificate who are present and registered and those delegates chosen by churches affiliated with The Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God who are present and registered. Each church having an active membership of 100 or more is entitled to two lay delegates and those whose active membership is less than 100, one delegate. Each delegate must have a statement in writing signed by the pastor or secretary of the church stating that he has been selected to serve as its delegate.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Section 1. District Council

Regular sessions of The Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God shall be held annually, pursuant to a call by the District Presbytery. Due notice shall be mailed to each member not later than one month prior to time of meeting.

Section 2. Special Sessions

Special sessions of The Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God shall be called by the District Presbytery if agreed to by a majority of its members.

Section 3. Procedure in Calling Special Sessions

Special sessions of The Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God shall be called by the District Presbytery when presented with a written statement signed by at least 20 percent of the ordained Assemblies of God ministers of the district setting forth the reasons for a special session.

Section 4. Section Councils

Section Councils shall be conducted prior to the annual District Council. Section officers shall be chosen, where possible, at the Section Council.

ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS

Section 1. Executive Officers

The executive officers shall consist of the district superintendent, the assistant district superintendent, and the district secretary-treasurer.

Section 2. Executive Presbytery

The district superintendent, assistant district superintendent, district secretary-treasurer, and the executive presbyters shall constitute an Executive Presbytery.

Section 3. District Presbytery

The District Presbytery shall consist of the district superintendent, assistant superintendent, secretary-treasurer, executive presbyters, and section presbyters. No member of the District Presbytery shall serve in more than one elected position.

Section 4. General Presbyters

The Appalachian District Council shall be represented on the General Council General Presbytery by three members: the district superintendent, assistant district superintendent, and district secretary-treasurer. They shall serve by virtue of their offices. The assistant superintendent shall serve so long as he is a pastor of a church located in the district. The General Presbytery is the official policy making body of the General Council when the General Council is not in session.

Section 5. Executive Presbyters

There shall be two or more executive presbyters who shall serve on the District Presbytery and the Executive Presbytery.

Section 6. Section Presbyters

Each section shall have the privilege of being represented on the District Presbytery by one presbyter. The section presbyter shall oversee the activities of the section as directed by the District Presbytery and shall serve as chairperson of the Section Administrative Committee.

In the event the section presbyter is not able to attend a meeting of the District Presbytery, the section shall be represented by the assistant presbyter. If ordained, the assistant presbyter shall be a full voting member of the presbytery in the absence of the presbyter; if licensed, the assistant presbyter shall audit the meeting in the absence of the presbyter.

Section 7. Section Administrative Committee

Each section shall have a Section Administrative Committee consisting of the presbyter, assistant presbyter, secretary, and any additional members that may be needed to serve the needs of the section. The Section Administrative Committee shall be under the oversight and direction of the District Presbytery and Executive Presbytery.

Section 8. Board of Trustees

The district superintendent, assistant district superintendent, and district secretary-treasurer shall constitute a Board of Trustees, performing such functions as are usual and customary for a Board of Trustees. They shall hold in trust all property of the district. Any action of the Board of Trustees must be authorized by the District Presbytery.

Section 9. Nominees for General Council Executive Presbyter

The Appalachian District Council shall nominate two ministers from its district, one of whom is not an elected full-time district official, to be presented to the General Council as nominees from its area to serve on the Executive Presbytery of the General Council.

Section 10. Terms of Office

The terms of office for the district superintendent and the district secretary-treasurer shall begin 60 days after election. All other terms of office shall begin on the first day of June after election. The District Presbytery is authorized to set an earlier date if needed. The terms of office for the district superintendent, the assistant district superintendent, and the district secretary-treasurer shall continue for five (5) years or until a successor qualifies. The terms of office for executive presbyters and section presbyters shall continue for two (2) years or until a successor qualifies. The terms of office for all other officers shall continue for one (1) year or until their successors qualify. The terms of office for district superintendent and district secretary-treasurer shall be staggered so that elections will take place on different years. The terms of office of the executive presbyters shall be staggered in the same manner. The terms of office for department leaders shall be those stated in the Bylaws articles for the departments.

ARTICLE X. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

Section 1. General Council Affiliated Assemblies

A General Council affiliated assembly is one that has applied for and received a Certificate of Affiliation from The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

- a. **Requirements for affiliation.** Churches desiring to be affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall meet the following requirements. They shall:
 - (1) Accept the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God.
 - (2) Adopt a standard of membership that may be determined either by the local assembly or by agreement with the District Council.
 - (3) Have a minimum active voting membership of 20 persons who shall accept responsibility to maintain scriptural order in the local body. In cases where there are fewer than 20 voting members an exception may be granted by the district, in compliance with General Presbytery policy and provided that the church has demonstrated the capacity for self-governance.
 - (4) Adopt articles of incorporation, a constitution or bylaws compatible with models recommended by the District Council, or district approved governance models that provide for adequate accountability, amenability, and safeguards so that a pastor and/or governing body cannot directly or indirectly exert dictatorial control over a church.
 - (5) Have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of the church called for in its constitution or bylaws.
 - (6) Make provision for a pastor who is a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council and District Council.
 - (7) Demonstrate a willingness to contribute to Assemblies of God missions.
- b. **Relationship to and support of the General Council and District Council.** A General Council affiliated assembly should cooperate in the work and support the programs of the General Council and District Council and may send delegates to the General and District Council meetings.
- c. **Right of self-government (sovereign rights).** Each General Council affiliated assembly has the right of self-government under Jesus Christ, its living Head, and shall have the power to choose or call its pastor, elect its official board, and transact all other business pertaining to its life as a local unit. It shall have the right to administer discipline to its members according to the Scriptures and its constitution or bylaws. It shall have the right to acquire and hold title to property, either through trustees or in its corporate name as a self-governing unit. The fact it is affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall in no way destroy its rights as above stated or interfere with its sovereignty. The governance model adopted by the local assembly shall conform to the guidelines of General Council Constitution Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (4).
- d. **Subordinate in matters of doctrine and conduct.** A General Council affiliated assembly shall recognize that the District Council or The General Council of the Assemblies of God has the right to approve scriptural doctrine and conduct and to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct and the authority to withdraw its Certificate of Affiliation if deemed necessary. (See Article VI of the General Council Bylaws.)
- e. **Right of appeal.** When in need of counsel or advice, the General Council affiliated assembly may appeal to the district officers for help. It may appeal from a decision by the district officers to the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God when there is a question whether or not the assembly has received proper help from the district. When exceptions are taken to the decisions of the Executive Presbytery, either by the General Council affiliated assembly or by the District Presbytery, appeal may be made to the General Presbytery.

Section 2. District Affiliated Assemblies

District affiliated assemblies are churches that have applied for and received a Certificate of Affiliation from the Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God.

- a. **Requirements for recognition.** Churches desiring to receive recognition by the Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God as a district affiliated assembly shall meet the following requirements. They shall:
 - (1) Accept the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God.
 - (2) Accept the standard of membership stated in the Bylaws for District Affiliated Assemblies approved by the District Presbytery.
 - (3) Have a minimum active voting membership of at least 12 persons who shall accept responsibility to maintain scriptural order in the local assembly.
 - (4) Agree to be governed by the bylaws adopted by the District Presbytery for district affiliated assemblies.
 - (5) Have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of the church called for in its bylaws.
 - (6) Make provision for a pastor in accordance with the Bylaws for District Affiliated Assemblies.
- b. **Relationship to and support of district.** Local district affiliated assemblies should support the programs of the General Council and District Council. They may send delegates to the District and Section Council meetings. These assemblies shall be encouraged to proceed to the status of General Council affiliated assembly.
- c. **Government.** Each district affiliated assembly shall be governed by the Bylaws for District Affiliated Assemblies approved by the District Presbytery. These bylaws can only be amended by a majority vote of the District Presbytery.
- d. **Subordinate in matters of doctrine and conduct.** The local district affiliated assembly shall recognize that the Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God or The General Council of the Assemblies of God has the right to approve scriptural doctrine and conduct and to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct and the authority to reclassify the church as a supervised assembly or withdraw its Certificate of Affiliation if deemed necessary.
- e. **Right of appeal.** When in need of counsel or advice, the district affiliated assembly may appeal to the section or district officers for help. It may appeal from a decision by the section or district officers to the Executive Presbytery when there is a question whether or not the assembly has received proper help from the section or district officers. When exceptions are taken to the decisions of the Executive Presbytery, either by the district council affiliated assembly or the section or district officers, appeal may be made to the District Presbytery. Procedures for these appeals shall be established by the District Presbytery.

Section 3. Supervised Assemblies

A supervised assembly may be a new church plant, a church restart, a church in process of revitalization, a preaching point, or other groups recognized by the Appalachian District Council that may not yet meet the qualifications for being recognized as a district affiliated assembly. It may be under the supervision of the district or a local church.

- a. **Requirements for recognition.** Churches or groups desiring to receive recognition by the Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God as a supervised assembly shall meet the following requirements. They shall:
 - (1) Accept the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God.
 - (2) Accept the standard of membership stated in the Bylaws for Supervised Assemblies approved by the District Presbytery.
 - (3) Agree to be governed by the Bylaws for Supervised Assemblies adopted by the District Presbytery or the policies of the local church that may be providing oversight.
 - (4) Have pastoral care and leadership as provided for by district policy.
- b. **Relationship to and support of district.** Supervised assemblies should support the programs of the General Council and the District Council. They may send delegates to the District and Section Council meetings. These assemblies shall have the privilege to proceed to the status of district affiliated assembly or General Council affiliated assembly providing that the requirements for recognition are met.
- c. **Government.** Each supervised assembly shall be governed by either the Bylaws for District Supervised Assemblies or policies adopted by a supervising church. Bylaws for Supervised Assemblies shall be approved by the District Presbytery and can only be amended by a majority vote of the District Presbytery. Policies adopted by a local supervising church shall be compatible with guidelines approved by the District Presbytery.
- d. **Subordinate in matters of doctrine and conduct.** The local district supervised assembly shall recognize that the Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God or the General Council of the Assemblies of God has the right to approve scriptural doctrine and conduct and to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct and the authority to take appropriate action or withdraw its Certificate of Affiliation if deemed necessary.
- e. **Right of appeal.** When in need of assistance or counsel, the district supervised assembly may appeal to the section or district officers for help. It may appeal from a decision by the section or district officers to the Section Administrative Committee. When exceptions are taken to the decisions of the Section Administrative Committee, either by the supervised assembly or the section or district officers, appeal may be made to the Executive Presbytery. Appeals of church supervised assemblies shall be according to the policy of the supervising church as approved by the District Presbytery.

Section 4. Cooperating Assemblies

Churches that are not affiliated with the Assemblies of God may be recognized as cooperating assemblies. These

churches shall subscribe to Article V, *Statement of Fundamental Truths*, of the General Council Constitution. A church seeking to enter into a cooperative status with the Appalachian District Council may be approved by the District Presbytery for a 4-year term, renewable by the request of the local church congregation and at the discretion of the District Presbytery. Cooperative status agreements shall comply with policies established by the District Presbytery and the General Council.

Section 5. Assemblies of God Total Giving Participation

All assemblies are expected to have an interest in and contribute regularly to the Assemblies of God Total Giving Plan.

ARTICLE XI. DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

In the event this District Council shall cease to function for the purposes herein set forth, then all property and all assets remaining after satisfying debts and obligations, shall revert to the parent body, THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, a Missouri not-for-profit corporation, with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri. The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall have full authority to sell such property and to use the proceeds derived there from for the extension of the work of the Assemblies of God.

In the event of cessation of this District Council, its Board of Trustees shall transfer all properties and any remaining assets, in accordance with the foregoing provisions, within one year after the date of such cessation. If such transfer is not made within the time prescribed above or if the aforesaid General Council shall be unable or unwilling to accept the aforesaid transfer, then disposition thereof shall be made by the court of the county in which the District Council headquarters office is located, provided that in such case proceeds of the dissolution shall be distributed to organizations having purposes nearest the purposes of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any regular meeting of the District Council provided the proposed amendments have been submitted in writing at least 30 days in advance to the District Presbytery. Before the District Presbytery may submit proposed amendments for consideration by a session of the District Council, it shall provide written notice of the proposed amendments by regular mail to each member of the District Council not later than 15 days prior to said session.

Amendments to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds vote of all members present and voting.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. PARLIAMENTARY ORDER

In order to expedite the work of the District Council and to avoid confusion in its deliberations, the business of the district shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers

- a. **District officers.** The officers of The Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God shall be elected at its regular meetings in the manner provided in these Bylaws. They shall be chosen from the ordained ministers of the District Council that have been members of the District for at least one year and shall be persons of mature experience and ability, whose life and ministry are above question. Section Presbyters shall be chosen from the ordained ministers who are pastors or have served as pastors who now reside in the section. These qualities alone shall determine their eligibility.
- b. **Section officers and department/ministry representatives.** The assistant presbyter, secretary, and any other officers of the section that serve on the Section Administrative Committee shall be chosen in the manner provided in these Bylaws. They shall be chosen from the ordained and licensed ministers of the section that have been members of the District Council for at least one year and shall be persons of mature experience and ability, whose life and ministry are above question. District department officers and other section officers shall be chosen in the manner provided in the Bylaws articles relating to these offices.

Section 2. Nominations and Elections

- a. **District superintendent, assistant district superintendent, and executive presbyters.** All candidates for the offices of district superintendent, assistant district superintendent, and executive presbyter shall be nominated by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote shall be necessary to constitute an election. In the event two-thirds of the votes cast are received by a qualified candidate on the nominating ballot, an election shall be declared. If no election has been declared after the third elective ballot, the three candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated except as provided in Section 2, c, when nominations have been reopened.
- b. **District secretary-treasurer.** The district secretary-treasurer shall be elected in the following manner: The District Presbytery, serving as a nominating committee, shall be entrusted with the responsibility of making careful investigation concerning the qualifications and general fitness of candidates for this office and shall select by secret ballot two or more names to be presented to the District Council in session for election. There shall be no further nominations from the District Council floor. A two-thirds vote shall be necessary to constitute an election.
- c. **General Council general presbyters.** The district shall be represented in the General Presbytery, the official policy making body of the General Council when it is not in session, by three members: the district superintendent, assistant district superintendent, and district secretary-treasurer. They shall serve by virtue of their offices. The assistant superintendent shall serve so long as he is a pastor of a church located in the district. If the assistant superintendent is not a pastor of a church located in the district, the third member shall be elected from the district presbyters by a two-thirds vote at the annual District Council. They shall take office immediately upon election by the district council.
- d. **Section presbyter and section officers.**
 - (1) **Section presbyters.** Section presbyters shall be elected at the Section Council prior to the annual District Council. All candidates for the office of section presbyter shall be nominated by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote shall be necessary to constitute an election. In the event two-thirds of the votes cast are received by a qualified candidate on the nominating ballot, an election shall be declared. If no election has been declared after the second elective ballot, the two candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated.
 - (2) **Section officers.** The assistant presbyter and secretary of each section shall be elected at the section council prior to the annual District Council by the credentialed ministers and church delegates who are members of the section. The District Presbytery shall submit one or more names to be placed in nomination for each of these offices. Nominations may also be received from the floor. A majority vote of all votes cast shall be necessary to constitute an election.
 - (3) **Section committees and district department/ministry representatives.** The presbyter, assistant presbyter and secretary, by majority vote, shall add other members to the Section Administrative Committee as needed and assign portfolios according to the gifts and interests of the members. Appointed members of the committee shall be full voting members of the committee. The office of missions director shall be assigned as a portfolio to a qualified member of the committee who shall work closely with the district missions director. District department/ministry representatives shall be chosen by the committee in consultation with the district department/ministry director. The section presbyter and section committee are encouraged to give input to the district director who shall present a name or names to each section committee for ratification.

- e. **Deadlock and Reopening Nominations.** If during the election process in any district or section council an election appears to be deadlocked, or for any other reason, nominations may be reopened by majority vote for any office for which nominations are permitted from the floor. The motion to reopen nominations must receive a second, is not debatable, and can only be amended as to the time it is to be effective. The names presently included on the ballot will remain in consideration and any additional nominees shall be added by a nominating ballot. If nominations are reopened, there will be no further elimination of names from the ballot based on the number of ballots or votes.

Section 3. Vacancies

- a. **District officers.** In the event of a vacancy occurring in any district office through death or other cause, the District Presbytery shall fill the office by appointment until the next meeting of the District Council, with the exception that, in the event of death or incapacity of the district superintendent, or if the office is vacant for any other reason, the assistant district superintendent shall succeed to the office of district superintendent until the next meeting of the District Council. In the event the offices of district superintendent and assistant district superintendent both become vacant, the succession to the office of district superintendent shall be as follows: first, the district secretary-treasurer, and second, an executive presbyter chosen by the District Presbytery. In the event that prior to or during a District Council in session a resignation is announced that will not be effective until a future date, the Council shall select a successor to fill the office in the usual manner as if the office were vacant or due for election. The successor will take office at the effective date of the resignation. Vacancies created at a District Council in session by elections to another office shall be filled by election of the Council according to the provision of the District Bylaws for that office except when referred to the District Presbytery by a two-thirds vote of the Council, in which case the office will be filled by a two-thirds vote of the District Presbytery.
- b. **Secretary-treasurer.** In the event of a vacancy of the office of district secretary-treasurer, the District Presbytery may, at its discretion, call for an audit of the district financial records.

ARTICLE III. DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section 1. Superintendent

- a. The district superintendent shall preside at all sessions of the District Council and of the District Presbytery and the Executive Presbytery.
- b. He shall be head of the district office and supervise the work of that office during the interim between sessions of the District Council.
- c. He shall act as president of the Council in all legal matters.
- d. He shall receive all communications directed to the District Presbytery.
- e. He shall preside at all meetings of the Credentials Committee.
- f. He shall be superintendent of all the work in the district and devote his entire time to the work of the district in holding meetings and conventions, setting assemblies in order, and giving such other help as may be needed.
- g. He shall investigate charges of violation of ministerial courtesy, indiscretions in personal conduct, the holding and teaching of false doctrine, and administer discipline under the direction of the District Presbytery.
- h. He shall perform any other function usual and customary for the presiding officer or such as may be directed by the District Presbytery or District Council.
- i. He shall conduct a staff meeting with all district office personnel immediately after District Council and conduct one such meeting each month thereafter.
- j. He shall be empowered to appoint to his staff any personnel he may deem necessary for the performance of his duties, subject to the approval of the District Presbytery.
- k. He shall be an ex officio member of all committees.
- l. He shall carry the portfolio of Benevolence Director.

Section 2. Assistant Superintendent

- a. The assistant superintendent shall assist the district superintendent.
- b. He shall perform all the duties of the superintendent in the event of his absence or incapacity.
- c. He shall succeed to the office of superintendent if that office becomes vacant; his term of office shall continue until the next regular session of the District Council or until a special session can be called, if the District Presbytery should deem such a session necessary.
- d. He shall serve as a member of the District Presbytery and the Credentials Committee and shall act as vice-president of the Council.
- e. He shall perform such other functions as may be directed by the Council or its District Presbytery.

Section 3. Secretary-Treasurer

- a. **Duties of office of secretary**
 - (1) The secretary shall make and keep true records of the proceedings of the District Council and shall publish the same as approved and directed by the Council or Presbytery.
 - (2) He shall act as secretary of the meetings of the District Presbytery and of the Credentials Committee, and the minutes of these meetings shall be submitted to the District Presbytery within 30 days.
 - (3) He shall be the custodian of the official seal of the district and shall keep a record of all ministers and assemblies in the district fellowship.
 - (4) He shall be authorized to sign all official and legal documents and to perform such other functions as are customary or as may be directed by the district.

- (5) He shall send a copy of the new district yearbook to each minister and church of the Appalachian District Council as a courtesy service. If extra copies are desired, the recipient of such copies shall be billed for same at the current price. Copies of each new book will be mailed to Assemblies of God district headquarters and to our Assemblies of God Bible schools and colleges that request them.

b. Duties of office of treasurer

- (1) The treasurer shall be authorized to sign checks disbursing district funds. He shall post bond in the amount of five thousand dollars; the premium of such bond shall be paid by the district.
- (2) He shall give reports of the district finances as requested by the District Presbytery.
- (3) He shall perform such other functions as are customary to this office under the supervision of the district superintendent or as may be directed by the District Council, the District Presbytery, or the District Executive Presbytery.

Section 4. General Presbyter

The general presbyters shall represent the Appalachian District in the General Presbytery and shall give a report to the District Presbytery following meetings of the General Presbytery.

Section 5. Executive Presbyter

The executive presbyters shall serve as members of the District Presbytery and Executive Presbytery and shall perform other such duties as directed by the District Council or District Presbytery.

Section 6. Executive Presbytery

- a. The Executive Presbytery shall be authorized to execute district policy established by the District Council in session and interpreted by the District Presbytery. It shall be empowered to make decisions on matters of business between meetings of the District Presbytery in accordance with the District Constitution and Bylaws. The Executive Presbytery shall be amenable to the District Presbytery.
- b. The secretary shall present in writing the minutes of the Executive Presbytery meetings to the District Presbytery.

Section 7. District Presbytery

- a. **District Presbytery.** The District Presbytery shall have the general oversight of the activities of the district during the interim of the council sessions. It shall be authorized to act for the district in all emergency matters that affect its interest and to execute its decisions. It shall arrange for its meetings, and a report of its decisions which directly affect the welfare of the district shall be rendered at the District Council sessions. The decisions of the District Presbytery shall be final unless reversed by the District Council in session. A majority present at any meeting of the District Presbytery shall constitute a quorum. Members of the District Presbytery, or any committee designated by the District Presbytery or Executive Presbytery, may participate and act at any meeting through the use of a conference telephone or other communications device by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can communicate simultaneously with each other. Participation in such meeting shall constitute attendance and presence in person at the meeting of the member or members so participating. Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the District Presbytery or any committee designated by the District Presbytery or Executive Presbytery may be taken without a meeting provided that a majority of the members consent thereto in writing or by electronic transmission. Any such action shall only be effective upon a vote either in writing or by electronic transmission of a majority of the District Presbytery.
- b. **Section presbyter.** The section presbyter shall be head of all section functions and chairman of the fellowship meetings in his section. A pastor or assembly desiring advice, counsel, or guidance shall appeal to the section presbyter who will investigate and bring about an adjustment. If the section presbyter is unable to satisfactorily settle a matter, it shall be referred to the district superintendent and the District Presbytery for final disposition.

Section 8. Section Administrative Committee

The Section Administrative Committee, under the leadership of the presbyter, shall work to advance the mission and vision of the district in its local section under the general oversight and direction of the District Presbytery. The presbyter shall be the chairperson of the committee. Duties of the committee shall be as follows:

- a. The committee shall work with the presbyter in the formation and promotion of the section program and ministries.
- b. It shall have oversight of district supervised and district affiliated churches as directed by the District Presbytery.
- c. The committee shall serve as the Section Credentials Committee. Applicants for Certified and Licensed ministry credentials shall be interviewed by the committee in the section in which he or she resides. The committee shall forward its recommendations to the District Credentials Committee. In the event that the applicant is denied credentials, he shall have the right to appeal to the District Presbytery.
- d. The committee shall assist the presbyter, when called upon, in the investigation of offenses and in the execution of disciplinary action. The district superintendent shall be informed of any ongoing investigation or pending action. The committee shall make recommendations to the District Presbytery and proceed as directed by the District Presbytery.
- e. The committee shall be the Section Home Missions Committee. It shall evaluate and give consideration to the need and location of new works in the section. Under the direction of the District Presbytery, it shall oversee the planting and development of new churches in the section.
- f. The section missions director shall work under the oversight of the district missions director to promote and coordinate both world and home missions within the section.

ARTICLE IV. SECTIONS OF THE APPALACHIAN DISTRICT

Section One shall consist of: Dickenson County, Lee County, Russell County, Scott County, Washington County, Wise County, and Smyth County, in Virginia.

Section Two shall consist of: Buchanan County and Tazewell County, in Virginia, and McDowell County and Mercer County, in West Virginia.

Section Three shall consist of: Carroll County, Floyd County, Franklin County, Henry County, and Patrick County, in Virginia.

Section Four shall consist of: Allegheny County, Botetourt County, Bland County, Craig County, Giles County, Montgomery County, Pulaski County, Roanoke County, and Wythe County, in Virginia. The Galax Assembly and Grayson County shall also be in Section Four.

Section Five shall consist of: Braxton County, Fayette County, Greenbrier County, Monroe County, Nicholas County, Raleigh County, Summers County, Webster County, in West Virginia. The Sylvester Assembly shall also be in Section Five.

Section Six shall consist of: Boone County, Logan County, Mingo County, and Wyoming County, in West Virginia.

Section Seven shall consist of: Cabell County, Clay County, Kanawha County, Lincoln County, Putnam County, Wayne County, in West Virginia. The Cannelton Assembly shall also be in Section Seven.

Section Eight shall consist of: Mason County, Jackson County, Roane County, Calhoun County, Gilmer County, Lewis County, Doddridge County, Ritchie County, Tyler County, Pleasants County, Wood County, and Wirt County, in West Virginia.

ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees

Standing committees shall be elected or appointed as necessity may indicate. When appointed, they shall be appointed by the district superintendent in cooperation with the District Presbytery, and the term of office shall continue from the date of appointment to the adjournment of the next annual session of the District Council.

Section 2. Credentials Committee

The Credentials Committee shall consist of the District Presbytery. The committee shall develop policy and procedures for the examination of those seeking ministerial recognition or advancement, working in cooperation with the guidelines established and provided by the General Council Credentials Committee. The committee shall provide for an ordination and dedication service at the annual District Council for all accepted candidates for ordination.

Section 3. Finance Committee

There shall be a District Finance Committee consisting of no less than seven members, including: the district superintendent, secretary-treasurer, and no more than three members of the District Presbytery. The members shall be appointed by the district superintendent and ratified by the District Presbytery. The committee shall review all salaries, budgets, indebtedness, and other matters relating to the finances of the district and make recommendations to the District Presbytery.

Section 4. Education Committee

There shall be an Education Committee composed of the district superintendent, assistant superintendent, and secretary-treasurer for the purpose of promoting a yearly minister's institute or Bible conference and to prescribe a definite course of study for our ministers, especially those seeking promotion.

Section 5. Scholarship Committee of Education

There shall be a Scholarship Committee of Education comprised of the district superintendent (who shall serve as chairman), assistant superintendent, district secretary-treasurer, along with the two elected executive-presbyters-at-large, all section presbyters, and the district Youth and Christian Education director. The committee shall award scholarships in keeping with the guidelines of the respective scholarship funds established and administered by the Appalachian District. The committee shall also encourage and promote the establishment of scholarship funds.

Section 6. Commission on Vision and Strategic Planning

The Commission on Vision and Strategic Planning shall be appointed by the district superintendent in conjunction with the District Presbytery. The commission shall develop, recommend, and monitor a shared vision and an ongoing planning process for the district and its ministries. The commission will report to the District Presbytery and the District Council in session.

Section 7. Special Committees

Special committees may be created at the District Council in session or by the District Presbytery between sessions as may be required.

ARTICLE VI. THE MINISTRY

Section 1. The Ministry Described

Christ's gifts to the Church include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (Ephesians 4:11), exhorters, administrators, leaders, and helpers (Romans 12:7,8). We understand God's call to these ministry gifts is totally within His sovereign discretion without regard to gender, race, disability, or national origin.

- a. **Classifications.** Three classifications of ministry are recognized and transferable among all Assemblies of God districts: the ordained minister, the licensed minister, and the certified minister.
- b. **Authorization.** All ordained, licensed, and certified ministers holding current ministerial credentials are authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church, and those holding a local church credential as provided below.

- c. **Local church credential.** 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 church) and shall be limited to 2 years, 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.
- d. No other classification of ministry shall be recognized other than those described in this section.

Section 2. Credentialing and Discipline

The credentialing and discipline of ministers shall be that as provided for in Articles VII and X of the bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 3. Credentialing Procedures

The procedures of the credentialing process shall be adopted by the District Presbytery in accordance with the guidelines of the General Council bylaws governing the same. A handbook containing these procedures shall be made available from the district office to interested applicants.

Section 4. Financial Support

- a. **District.** The financial obligations of credentialed ministers to the District Council shall be those set forth in Article VII of the district bylaws.
- b. **General Council.** The financial obligations of credentialed ministers to the General Council shall be those set forth in Article VII of the General Council bylaws.
- c. **Senior-retired ministers.** Ministers classified as senior-retired, those 65 years of age and older and not engaged in a regular appointed ministry, shall be exempt from the financial support obligations of the District Council.

Section 5. Credential Renewals

All fellowship certificates are valid only until December 31 of each year and must be renewed annually. The renewing of credentials is the responsibility of the individual minister. Ministers who do not receive an annual renewal form by December 1 should notify the district office. Ministers who have not renewed their fellowship certificate postmarked on or before December 31 shall be considered delinquent, and shall be required to pay a late fee determined by the General Council up until January 15. Ministers whose renewals are not postmarked by January 15 shall be recorded as lapsed and must make application for reinstatement and pay the appropriate fees determined by the General Council.

Section 6. Change of Address

It is expected of all ministers that they keep the district office informed of their current mailing address. When a change of address is made, the office should be notified of the change as soon as possible.

Section 7. Ministers Leaving Pastorates

All pastors are directed to notify the presbyter of their section as far in advance as possible when they are planning to resign their pastorates, and the section presbyter in turn is to notify the district superintendent. It is further advised that in leaving a pastorate, a non-Council minister shall not be recommended to the church, nor shall a novice or layman be left in charge of an assembly except upon the approval of the district superintendent.

Section 8. Ministerial Restrictions and Courtesy

- a. **Local churches.** No credentialed minister shall hold the office of deacon, trustee, or equivalent position in the local church where he attends and is not a pastor. Any minister attending a church of which he is not pastor shall be expected to observe in spirit and in practice the principles of ministerial courtesy as outlined in Bylaws Article VIII.
- b. **Accepting tithes.** All ministers are discouraged from accepting tithes from assemblies or members of assemblies where they have formerly ministered.
- c. **Ministry in a non-Assemblies of God church.** (See General Council Bylaws Article IX, Section 9 for General Council policy.) The Appalachian District Council also recommends that a minister show courtesy to local Assemblies of God churches by contacting the pastors in the area before engaging in ministry in a non-Assemblies of God church. If such ministry is hurtful to an Assemblies of God church or creates divisions in our fellowship, the minister should courteously refrain from such ministry.
- d. **Ministry by non-Assemblies of God ministers.** All pastors and assemblies shall be expected to refrain from engaging any minister not endorsed by the General or District Council until they have communicated with the district office.
- e. **Preference.** Assemblies of God evangelists, particularly those of the Appalachian District, shall be given preference by our District Council pastors over non-Assemblies of God evangelists.
- f. **Cooperation.** Assemblies of God evangelists and ministers coming into a place of ministry where there is already a General or District Council minister or ministry present should seek to cooperate with the same.
- g. **District meetings.** The District Council disapproves of any assembly or pastor conducting special meetings during the annual District Council or other district meetings.

ARTICLE VII. FINANCES

Section 1. Receipts

a. **Ministers**

- (1) All ordained ministers, licensed ministers, and certified ministers are required to send monthly not less than 80% of their tithes on all income, both from the work of the Lord and secular income, to the District

Council office. Compliance with this requirement shall be a prerequisite for renewal of credentials of all active ministers. Senior-retired ministers who are no longer in active ministry shall not be required to support the District Council with their tithes.

- (2) Each credentialed minister shall recognize their monthly financial obligation to the General Council and contribute from their tithes or as an offering the current amount set forth in the General Council Bylaws. Compliance with this requirement shall be a prerequisite for renewal of credentials of all active ministers.
 - (3) Should a minister have no income for a respective month, he shall indicate so by marking "no income" on his/her report. The response shall then be placed in the respective minister's file and be counted as a monthly report.
 - (4) Ministers who are members of the Appalachian District who fail to support the district for a period of three months in a calendar year shall receive a letter from the district office to encourage their faithfulness and may be requested to meet with the District Presbytery, who shall take appropriate action.
- b. **Assemblies**
- (1) Each church shall be encouraged to contribute monthly two percent of their tithes and offerings to the Administration Fund.
 - (2) Any assembly visited by a district officer should receive an offering to cover all of his expenses incurred by that visit. These offerings in turn shall be sent in to the district office Administration Fund.
 - (3) It is recommended that each assembly send with their Annual Church Ministries Report (ACMR) an offering as recommended by the General Council.
- c. **Department funds.** All department funds, excluding the Youth Camp, shall be handled by the district treasurer and shall be channeled into proper accounts.
- d. **Presbyters.** When a section presbyter is called upon to conduct section business, an offering should be received by the church he is visiting to cover his travel expenses. This offering should be sent to the district treasurer, who will then reimburse the presbyter for his mileage according to the district policy.
- e. **Fellowship meeting offerings.** The evening offering of the fellowship meetings shall be used for Appalachian Missions.
- f. **Minister's Benefit Association**
- (1) The District Council office shall forward quarterly to the Minister's Benefit Association in Springfield, Missouri, 10% of the tithes of each ordained, licensed, and certified minister who voluntarily has chosen to participate in the district's retirement program with Minister's Benefit Association. In choosing to voluntarily become a participant with the district's retirement program, the respective ordained, licensed, and certified minister who is pastoring or is engaged in full-time ministry, shall support the district with 95% of their tithes on all income, both from the work of the Lord and secular income, excluding the required financial obligation to the General Council. The District Council will forward to Minister's Benefit Association in Springfield, Missouri, 10% of the tithes of each ordained, licensed and certified minister enrolling into the program, which shall be credited to his account thereat. Newly ordained, licensed, and certified ministers deciding to voluntarily enter into the district's retirement program with Minister's Benefit Association, must do so within 60 days of being issued their credential. There shall also be an open enrollment during the month of December, to begin January 1 of each calendar year. It is also recommended that each ordained, licensed, and certified minister give diligent effort toward a personal regular savings investment in Minister's Benefit Association toward retirement.
 - (2) This same program shall be included for all full-time district officials.
- g. **Audits.** The finances of the district shall be audited at least every three years by a certified public accountant. The audit report shall be available upon request by credentialed ministers and affiliated churches of the Appalachian District Council.
- h. **District accounting records.** The date for annual closing of District Council books shall be December 31.

Section 2. Disbursements

- a. **Officers' salaries and expenses**
- (1) The salary of all full-time district officers and travel expenses incidental to the work of their offices shall be established by the District Presbytery.
 - (2) A percentage amount agreed upon by the District Presbytery shall be paid from the District Treasury each month into the Minister's Benefit Association or a retirement program of their choice.
- b. **Other disbursements.** All monies received by the district office shall be disbursed as designated.

Section 3. Insurance

Ministers group life insurance, group health insurance, and supplemental health programs shall be available to credentialed ministers as provided by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 4. Missions Fund

- a. The District Presbytery shall designate one Sunday each year as Appalachian Missions Sunday and each church shall be requested to receive an offering for Appalachian Missions.
- b. Each church shall be requested to send one offering each month to the district office to be used in promotion of this program, or to include this in their budget.

ARTICLE VIII. CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Section 1. Christian Marriage

Marriage was established by God in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:18, 21-25) and confirmed by Jesus Christ to be a permanent relationship between a man and a woman (Matthew 19:4-6). Because marriage is not only a commitment to a spouse, but also to God (Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:9; Ephesians 5:31), a believer should marry only another believer (2 Corinthians 6:14). Christian marriage is a reflection of the love, purity, and permanence between Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:23-33).

Even though some marriages may fall short of the biblical ideal (see General Council Bylaw Article IX, Section 5), husbands and wives who devote themselves to God (Hebrews 10:25) can realize the strength and blessings of God in their relationship.

Section 2. Children

Children “are a heritage from the Lord”; therefore, rearing them is to be treated as a sacred trust. God’s strength and wisdom are available on a daily basis in order to bring up children to love and obey God (Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4).

ARTICLE IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED

(See General Council Bylaws Article IX, Paragraph B.)

In accord with its constitutional prerogatives, The General Council of the Assemblies of God has declared itself pertaining to disapproval of certain matters as follows:

Section 1. Unconditional Eternal Security

In view of the biblical teaching that the security of the believer depends on a living relationship with Christ (John 15:6); in view of the Bible’s call to a life of holiness (1 Peter 1:16; Hebrews 12:14); in view of the clear teaching that a man may have his part taken out of the Book of Life (Revelation 22:19); and in view of the fact that one who believes for a while can fall away (Luke 8:13); The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the unconditional security position which holds that it is impossible for a person once saved to be lost.

Section 2. Legalism

- a. **Matters of conscience.** The Assemblies of God strongly affirms that the Scriptures teach a life of “holiness without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). However, since sincere commitment to holy living sometimes results in sharp differences of opinion among believers on debatable matters of personal conscience, the Assemblies of God disapproves the practice of pressing these debatable matters of personal conscience upon others (Romans 14:1-4).
- b. **Adding conditions to salvation.** The Assemblies of God strongly affirms that salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8,9). Therefore, the Assemblies of God disapproves any teaching or practice that seems to add conditions to salvation (Galatians 3:1-5).

Section 3. Eschatological Errors

- a. **The restitution of all things.** The Assemblies of God understands the teaching of Acts 3:21 to limit the restoration to that of which the prophets have spoken, thus denying the universal redemption theory. We are opposed to all forms of universalism (Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:10).
- b. **Setting a date for the Lord’s return.** It is unwise to teach that the Lord will come at some specified time, thereby setting a date for His appearing (Mark 13:32,33; Luke 12:37-40; 1 Thessalonians 5:2). It is also unwise to give out from the platform, or publish, visions of numbers and dates fixing the time of the second coming of the Lord.
- c. **Post-Tribulation rapture.** The General Council of the Assemblies of God has declared itself in the Statement of Fundamental Truths that it holds to the belief in the imminent coming of the Lord as the blessed hope of the Church; and since the teaching that the Church must go through the Tribulation tends to bring confusion and division among the saints, it is recommended that all our ministers teach the imminent coming of Christ, warning all to be prepared for that coming, which may occur at any time, and not lull their minds into complacency by any teaching that would cause them to feel that specific Tribulation events must occur before the rapture of the saints.
- d. **Amillennialism.** The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the amillennial teaching and its attendant erroneous philosophy which denies the fact of a literal 1,000-year reign of Christ on the earth, and substitutes for it the theory that this Christian or Church dispensation is the spiritual Millennium of which, its proponents say, the Bible writers prophesied.
- e. **Credentials jeopardized if made an issue.** We recommend that those ministers who embrace any of the foregoing eschatological errors refrain from preaching or teaching them. Should they persist in emphasizing these doctrines to the point of making them an issue, their standing in the Fellowship will be seriously affected (Luke 21:34-36; 1 Thessalonians 5:9, 10; 2 Thessalonians 1:4-10; Revelation 3:10,19,20).

Section 4. Membership in Secret Orders

Ours is a last-day message in preparation for the coming of the Lord (Matthew 24:14), leaving us no alternative but wholehearted devotion to the cause of spreading the gospel (Luke 9:62); and it is well known that the various secret orders require much valuable time and interest, thus diverting the servant of the Lord out of the way (Ephesians 5:16).

The nature of such organizations demands secrecy (John 18:20; Acts 26:26) reinforced by religious oaths (Matthew 5:34) and strong attachment by binding obligations to persons who are, for the most part, unregenerated (2 Corinthians 6:14). The spirit, philosophy, and general influence of such secret orders aim at the improvement of the natural man

only (1 Corinthians 2:14; Colossians 2:8), thus wrongly channeling by incorrect interpretation important spiritual truths (2 Peter 3:16).

Confidence in these secret orders and their teachings has always tended toward the embracing of a false hope of salvation through good works and improved moral service (Ephesians 2:8,9).

In consideration of the foregoing, all ministers affiliated with the Assemblies of God should refrain from identifying themselves with any of the secret orders that the General Council recognizes as essentially of the world and worldly; and the General Council advises any who may have identified themselves with such orders to sever their connections therewith (2 Corinthians 6:17). Furthermore, Assemblies of God ministers are requested to use their good influence among our lay members to dissuade them from such fraternal affiliations (1 Tim. 4:12; 2 Tim. 2:24-26).

Section 5. Divorce and Remarriage

a. Membership

(1) **Marriage entanglements before conversion.** There are now among Christian people those who became entangled in their marriage relations in their former lives of sin and who do not see how these matters can be adjusted. We recommend that these people be received into the membership of local assemblies and that their marriage complications be left in the hands of the Lord (1 Corinthians 7:17,20,24).

(2) **Common-law marriages.** We recommend that in no case shall persons be accepted into membership who are known to be living in a common-law state of matrimony.

b. **Remarriage.** Low standards on marriage and divorce are very hurtful to individuals, to the family, and to the cause of Christ. Therefore, we discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching. We positively disapprove of Christians getting divorces for any cause except fornication and adultery (Matthew 19:9). Where these exceptional circumstances exist or when a Christian has been divorced by an unbeliever, we recommend that the question of remarriage be resolved by the believer in the light of God's Word (1 Corinthians 7:15,27,28).

c. Local church leadership

(1) **Standard for offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon.** Since the New Testament restricts divorced and remarried believers from the church offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon, we recommend that this standard be upheld by all our assemblies (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:12), except when the divorce occurred prior to conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17), or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9) or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15).

(2) **Prerogatives of local assemblies.** It is understood that recommendations are not binding, but local assemblies shall maintain the prerogative of setting their own standards (in accord with provisions of Article XI of the General Council Constitution).

d. Performing marriage ceremonies

(1) **Ministerial guidelines.** We discourage any Assemblies of God minister from performing a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former spouse is still living, unless the case is included in the exceptional circumstances described in District Bylaws, Article X, Section 5, Paragraph b.

(2) **Violation of conscience not required.** We realize that the remarriage of such persons included in the exceptive circumstances in District Bylaws, Article X, Section 5, Paragraph b, could violate the conscience of a minister, and if this should be the case, the minister should not be expected to perform such ceremonies.

(3) **Same-sex ceremonies.** No minister shall perform any type of marriage, cohabitation, or covenant ceremony for persons who are of the same sex. Such a ceremony would endorse homosexuality, which is a sin and strictly forbidden in God's Word (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26,27; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Timothy 1:9-11). Any minister of our Fellowship who performs a ceremony for these types of disapproved relations, unless innocently deceived into doing so, shall be dismissed from the Fellowship.

(4) **Counsel.** An Assemblies of God minister is urged to counsel applicants for marriage ceremonies with scriptural guidelines for Christian marriage prior to performing the ceremony. A minister may not perform ceremonies for persons who, in the minister's opinion, approach marriage without proper forethought, wisdom, and sobriety.

e. **Ministerial credentials.** We disapprove of any married minister of the Assemblies of God holding credentials if either minister or spouse has a former spouse living, unless the divorce occurred prior to conversion or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9) or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15). (See also General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 2, Paragraphs j and k.)

Section 6. Worldliness

In view of the alarming erosion of national moral standards, we reaffirm our intention of holding up Bible standards against all forms of worldliness. We urge all believers to "love not the world, neither the things that are in the world...For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 John 2:15,16).

In its teaching regarding worldliness, the Scripture warns against participation in activity that defiles the body, or corrupts the mind and spirit; the inordinate love of or preoccupation with pleasures, position, or possessions, which lead to their misuse; manifestation of extreme behavior, unbecoming speech, or inappropriate appearance; any fascination or association which lessens one's affection for spiritual things (Luke 21:34,35; Romans 8:5-8; 12:1,2; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 2:8-10; 4:12; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12).

Section 7. Abuses of Stewardship

a. Tithing

- (1) According to the Scriptures, tithes should be used for the support of the active ministry and for the propagation of the gospel and work of the Lord and not be given to charity or used for other purposes. In tithing, the ministers ought to be examples.
- (2) We recognize the duty of tithing and urge all our people to pay tithes to God. It is recommended that arrangements satisfactory to the pastor and the church be made by all pastors and churches, so that the pastor may receive regular and adequate support. We disapprove, however, of the teaching that all tithes necessarily should belong to the pastor for his or her support.

b. Solicitation of funds

- (1) It is considered improper and unethical for ministers or missionaries to solicit funds, by letter or otherwise, for anything or any reason whatsoever without proper authorization.
- (2) The purpose of this section is not to hinder or discourage legitimate projects but to protect the Fellowship from those who employ methods not in harmony with Assemblies of God principles or policies. Leaders in local projects shall have unquestioned freedom in local churches or communities. Projects of general interest to the district must have authorization of the district officers. Projects or institutions of national scope that plan to solicit funds from Assemblies of God churches must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Promotion of all projects of a missions character must have the authorization of the District Presbytery.
- (3) The obtaining and use of mailing lists for promotional purposes not having proper authorization or which are not in keeping with policies of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be considered improper and unethical, whether it be under the name of a prayer chain beyond a local scope, chain letters, or appeals to the constituency for the support of ventures of strictly local or personal character. All offenders guilty of the practices expressed in the foregoing paragraphs shall be subject to discipline.

- c. Private ownership of religious institutions.** The General Council of the Assemblies of God approves the holding of title to all church buildings, schools, or other institutions that are supported by funds solicited for the work of God by properly constituted corporations. It disapproves the holding of title to such properties by the ministers of the Assemblies of God, through private ownership, corporation of sole, or closed corporations. In the event a local congregation is not incorporated or set in order by the District Council, title should be vested in properly qualified trustees. Where private ownership exists, a properly incorporated body shall be formed and title to the property shall be transferred to the corporation. A disregard of this principle and recommendation shall seriously affect the relation of the Assemblies of God members involved in such ownership.

Section 8. Violations of Ministerial Courtesy

All discourteous conduct is disapproved, and all ministers are advised against interfering with pastors in charge of assemblies, whether it be by going in upon their work without consent or by such correspondence with members of the assembly as will hurt the influence of the leader. All correspondence which concerns the whole assembly shall be addressed to the one in charge and not to individual members. Where there is no pastor, letters concerning the work shall be addressed to the officers of the assembly. Any minister who so offends shall be subject to discipline.

Section 9. Ministry in a Non-Assemblies of God Church

Ministers shall not be limited or restrained from entering open doors to preach this Pentecostal message, so long as they retain Assemblies of God doctrine, standards of holiness, proper attitudes, and proper ministerial conduct without compromise.

Inasmuch as unity is a vital principle for growth and spiritual development of the Assemblies of God Fellowship, it is essential that we recognize our relationship to each other and that we practice Christian cooperation in all our pastoral, evangelistic, missionary, and local church work.

We recommend therefore that our ministers confer with District Council officials before engaging in ministry in any church group or organization not affiliated with the Assemblies of God so as to ascertain whether such ministry might result in confusion or misunderstandings. If the minister does not have district approval, he shall be expected to refrain from conducting services for the church. Ministers who violate this principle shall be subject to discipline.

Section 10. Improper Attitude Toward Those Removed from the Fellowship

In order to render effective decisions made in the interest of proper discipline and for the protection of our assemblies, all who hold credentials, and local churches holding certificates of affiliation, shall refrain from taking an attitude toward offenders that would tend to nullify or set at naught the solemn verdict of those entrusted with this responsibility. Those who fail to support said verdict shall be subject to reprimand or, if persisted in, appropriate discipline.

Section 11. Interdenominational or Ecumenical Relationships

The General Council of the Assemblies of God encourages ministers or churches to fellowship with other Christians of like precious faith who hold to the inspiration of Scripture, the deity of Christ, the universality of sin, the substitutionary Atonement, the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and His second coming.

The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall not belong to any interdenominational or ecumenical organization that denies the evangelical beliefs stated in the above paragraph, and urges its ministers and churches to avoid entanglement with such interdenominational or ecumenical organizations except as opportunity may arise to support biblical values in the culture or provide opportunity to bear witness to our evangelical and Pentecostal faith and experience.

Section 12. Divine Healing and Professional Medicine

The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of any credentialed minister counseling a believer to exclude medical advice and/or treatment when seeking prayer for physical healing. Assemblies of God ministers shall not represent medical advice and/or treatment as a lack of faith in God's healing power.

Section 13. Accountability in Educational Attribution

- a. **Attribution.** In order to maintain our testimony of quality and integrity in educational credentials before the Church and the world, and to minimize the possibility of our ministers and churches being victimized by, or supporting, or perpetrating frauds in education or credentialing, we maintain certain standards for the attribution of degrees, certifications, and titles.
 - (1) **Attribution by ministers.** Our ministers shall refrain from listing, promoting, or attributing to themselves or others any degrees or titles conferred by institutions or organizations having, at the time of conferral, a formal accreditation status less than that of our appropriately corresponding Assemblies of God institutions (whether our institute, regional university, or seminary levels).
 - (2) **Attribution by the General and District Councils.** No media, ministry, department, arm, or employee of the General Council or District Council shall list, attribute, or promote for any person, any degree or title conferred by an institution or organization having, at the time of conferral, a formal accreditation status less than that of our appropriately corresponding Assemblies of God institutions (whether our institute, regional university, or seminary levels).
 - (3) **Attribution by local churches.** We strongly encourage our ministers, boards, and churches to take great care to ensure that all ministers and church employees have actually earned the legitimately accredited education, training, and certification, as defined above, which they claim by their titles or degrees (such as counselor, therapist, doctor, etc.).
 - (4) **Attribution accepted.** All previously earned or conferred degrees prior to August 2007, from any institution whatsoever, shall be fully accepted and grandfathered in.
- b. **Intentional failure to comply.** Intentional refusal to comply with this ethical standard for educational credentials constitutes perpetrating a fraud upon the church and the world, personally and in the good name of the Assemblies of God, and the General Council disapproves of such practices.

ARTICLE X. YOUTH & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

This District Council reaffirms the General Council agreements pertaining to the work of the youth and Sunday school in its various stipulations and recommendations. The Department of Youth and Christian Education shall be considered as part of the District Council organization and, therefore, under the general supervision of the District Presbytery.

Section 1. Name

The name of this department shall be the Department of Youth and Christian Education of the Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be:

- a. To promote the spiritual life and development of the youth of our assemblies.
- b. To organize and encourage an active youth group in each local assembly for the purpose of worship, fellowship, training, and service, in harmony with the national youth program and the constitutional principles of the Appalachian District Council and the local assembly.
- c. To correlate the youth program on the local, section, and district levels.
- d. To give due recognition to the source from which the church draws the larger percentage of its members.
- e. To evangelize, as well as to educate and indoctrinate, all age groups and to stress Christian service through the Sunday school by developing and suggesting methods of reaching the lost in obedience to the commission in Matthew 28:16-20 and Mark 16:15-18.
- f. To stimulate a vision for home and world missions.
- g. To promote greater efficiency and numbered growth among the already established Sunday schools.
- h. To provide a constant reminder to our district ministers of their responsibilities to the Sunday schools.
- i. To coordinate national, district, section, and local efforts for Sunday school efficiency, growth, and development.
- j. To encourage every Sunday school to attain to the National Sunday School Standard.
- k. To provide assistance to the local schools when requested.
- l. To promote worthy methods of Sunday school work in harmony with our General Council Sunday School Department and to cooperate with pastors in fostering the development of Sunday schools of the local assemblies.
- m. To create an instrument which shall define authority for action, instruction as to procedure, and regulation of the District Youth and Christian Education Department and its officers.

Section 3. Membership

- a. Membership in the local youth organization shall be restricted to Christian young people who are in fellowship with the teachings of the Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God and living consistent Christian lives.
- b. Membership in the Sunday schools shall be extended to all people, regardless of their age, who will attend and wish to be a part of a church that teaches the Word of God.

Section 4. Relationships

- a. This organization is a cooperative fellowship based upon mutual agreement voluntarily entered into by its membership.
- b. The Youth and Christian Education Department of the Appalachian District shall be considered a vital part of the district and subservient thereto in all matters affecting the general district fellowship.
- c. The district superintendent shall be the general overseer of this department and an ex officio member of all committees.
- d. In all matters of controversy, the decision of the District Presbytery shall be regarded as final.

Section 5. Officers

- a. **Executive officers.** The officers of this organization shall consist of a director, assistant director, and secretary-treasurer.
- b. **Assistant director and secretary-treasurer.** These offices shall be elected at the annual District Council. Their term of office shall be for two years, with the respective elections being staggered, one being elected each year. They shall assume office on June 1 following their election.
- c. **Section coaches/representatives.** A coach shall be chosen for each section to represent the Youth Department and shall be called the section Youth Department coach. A representative shall also be chosen from each section to represent the Christian Education Department and shall be called the section Christian Education representative.
- d. **Executive Committee.** The executive officers together with the district superintendent shall constitute the Executive Committee.
- e. **Qualifications.** The officers of this department shall be Spirit-filled individuals who are living truly consistent Christian lives and are of such maturity as to be trustworthy and competent.
 - (1) **Director.** This officer shall be an ordained minister. He shall be in good standing with the district, having been a member of the district for at least one year. The director may be retained as long as his services are desired. He should be a person with manifested leadership ability.
 - (2) **Assistant director.** This officer shall be an ordained or licensed minister. He must be in good standing with the district, having been a member of the district for at least one year.
 - (3) **Secretary-treasurer.** This officer must be a credentialed minister. He must be in good standing with the district, having been a member of the district for at least one year.
 - (4) **Section coaches/representatives.** These individuals shall be credentialed ministers who are in good standing with the District Council who have a manifest burden and leadership qualities.
- f. **Elections and terms of office**
 - (1) **Officers**
 - (a) **Director.** This officer shall be elected at the annual District Council. His term of office shall be for three years, beginning 60 days after election.
 - (b) **Assistant director.** This officer shall be elected at the annual District Council. His term of office shall be for two years after election, beginning June 1.
 - (c) **Secretary-treasurer.** This officer shall be elected at the annual District Council. His term of office shall be for two years after election, beginning June 1.
 - (d) **Section coaches/representatives.** The section Youth Department coaches and the section Christian Education representatives shall be appointed annually by the District Presbytery. The procedure of the appointment will be a recommendation from the Executive Committee of the District Youth and Christian Education Department to the District Presbytery for their consideration and appointment.
 - (2) **Nominations and Voting**
 - (a) The District Presbytery shall present a list of three nominees for the offices of director and assistant director of the Youth and Christian Education Department, with the understanding that nominations can be made from the floor. They shall be elected by secret ballot by a two-thirds vote. If, after the second ballot, no candidate receives a two-thirds vote, the two highest candidates shall be voted upon until one is elected.
 - (b) The District Presbytery shall present a list of three nominees for the office of secretary-treasurer, with the understanding that nominations can be made from the floor. He shall be elected by secret ballot by a two-thirds vote. If, after the second ballot, no candidate receives a two-thirds vote, the two highest candidates shall be voted upon until one is elected.
- g. **Duties**
 - (1) **Director**
 - (a) He shall preside at all District Youth and Christian Education functions and shall have the oversight of all committees of this department.
 - (b) He shall make a report of the department and its activities to the District Presbytery, as requested.
 - (c) He shall appoint such committees as may be needed.
 - (d) *Conventions.* He shall invite the convention speakers and arrange for their transportation, as well as housing and meals. He shall promote these functions throughout the district.
 - (e) *Bible Quiz.* He shall promote the Bible Quiz program to the best advantage of the district and see that section and district finals are held at the proper time.
 - (f) *Youth Camps.* He shall invite and arrange for the transportation of the speakers and promote youth and kids' camps by way of posters and letters. He shall arrange for food, recreation, service, snack

- bar, and shall see that all bills are paid by the treasurer of his department.
- (g) He shall organize and promote local youth groups. He shall set those groups in order.
 - (h) All commitments relating to the above activities under items (a) through (g) shall be made in consultation with the Executive Committee of the department.
 - (i) He shall encourage each church to conduct a teacher training class annually, presided over and arranged by the pastor.
 - (j) He shall keep a file on each Sunday school in order to be familiar with the needs of the school and to offer helpful suggestions.
 - (k) He shall seek to promote Sunday school mindedness and to increase Sunday school efficiency in every way possible in keeping with the district policy.
 - (l) He shall assist in the establishment and organization of new Sunday schools.
 - (m) He shall encourage children's services, Vacation Bible Schools, and all other Sunday school activities where his assistance may be desired.
 - (n) He may conduct Sunday school promotional campaigns, teacher training classes, and lectures on the best Sunday school methods and procedures.
- (2) **Assistant director.** The assistant director shall assist the director, and in his absence shall perform his duties.
 - (3) **Secretary-treasurer.** He shall keep records of all business proceedings of the department. He shall give periodical reports at such times as the executives shall demand. He shall take care of all Youth and Kids' Camp funds.
 - (4) **Section coaches/representatives.** The section Youth Department coaches and the Section Christian Education representatives shall promote and supervise the activities in their respective sections under the direction of the district director and in cooperation with the section presbyter. They shall promote and direct regular rallies in their areas and shall keep an up-to-date record of the local youth officers, Sunday school officers, and pastors in the area, and shall notify the district director of the changes. They shall make a report of the youth and Sunday school activities in their area as may be requested by the district director.
 - (5) **Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee shall be authorized to act for the department in all matters that affect its interest.
- h. **Vacancies**
- (1) An office may be declared vacant by an act of a two-thirds vote of the Executive Presbytery. Grounds for such action shall be:
 - (a) Unscriptural conduct.
 - (b) Radical departure from the tenets of faith.
 - (c) Incompetence in office.
 - (d) Permanent removal from the district.
 - (2) In the event of a vacancy in the offices of director, assistant director, or secretary-treasurer, the District Presbytery shall appoint the successor in office to fill the unexpired term. Vacancies in other offices shall be filled by the department's Executive Committee.

Section 6. Meetings

- a. Meetings shall consist of youth and Sunday school conventions, youth camps, conferences, rallies, and other such meetings as may be deemed advisable. The time and place of district meetings are to be decided upon by the Executive Committee.
- b. *Rallies.* The youth of each section shall hold youth rallies under the direction of the section coach and in cooperation with the section presbyter.
- c. Regular section seminars shall be provided for the training of Sunday school workers, under the direction of the section representative.
- d. A Speed-the-Light Tour shall be conducted when deemed advisable by the Executive Committee.

Section 7. Local Organizations

- a. **Youth groups.** The local youth group shall elect their officers and adopt their Constitution and Bylaws with the full approval of their pastor. They shall conduct their own services and promote their own youth activities, providing these do not conflict with or detract from the regular services and activities of the church.
- b. **Sunday schools.** Local Sunday schools shall be organized as provided for in the church constitution and bylaws.
- c. **New youth groups.** When a local group of youth desire membership in the youth organization of the Appalachian District, they shall contact the district director who will mail them necessary supplies for organization, and will arrange with the pastor and youth officers to set the group in order. The district director may request the assistant director or section representative to organize the group for him if he is unable to be present.
- d. **Relationship.** All local youth groups and Sunday schools shall be considered as departments of the local church under the supervision of the pastor, whose counsel, advice, and direction shall be respected in all activities. The pastor shall be an ex officio member of all committees and must be honored as a guide in all matters of service and fellowship.
- e. **Goal Standard.** The Goal Standard, recommended by our National Sunday School Department, shall be the guiding standard for each local Sunday school.

Section 8. Finances

- a. **Director's support.** He shall receive support from the district treasury, in accordance with the policy formulated by the District Presbytery.
- b. **General Finance**
 - (1) The work of the District Youth and Christian Education Department shall be financed from the offerings taken at rallies and conventions, as well as offerings from local youth groups and Sunday school tithes to the district.
 - (2) Each youth group is requested to contribute a monthly offering for the support of the Youth Department in the district. Each Sunday school is expected to tithe on their income for the support of the department.
 - (3) When a District Youth and Christian Education Department officer visits a local youth group or Sunday school, an offering should be taken to defray his expenses.
 - (4) Rally offerings shall be retained by the section Youth Department coach to be used for the promotion of the youth work within the section. The coach shall be asked to give a financial report at the Section Council. All of the section Christian Education seminar offerings shall be retained by the section Christian Education representative for the support of the Christian Education seminars in the section. The representative shall be asked to give a financial report at the Section Council.
 - (5) All funds shall be disbursed through the office of the district secretary-treasurer, except as mentioned for Youth and Kids' Camps.
- c. **Home Frontier.** Home Frontier, which is the home missions project of the Youth Department, shall be supported by offerings sent in by local youth groups for that purpose.

Section 9. Voting Constituency

The voting constituency shall consist of all ministers and registered delegates of the Appalachian District Council, together with the local youth group president or an elected delegate from each organized youth group, and the Sunday school superintendent or an elected delegate from the Sunday school department of the local church.

ARTICLE XI. WOMEN'S MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Name

This organization shall be known as the Women's Ministries Department of the Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of Women's Ministries is to carry out the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ by ministering to women and equipping them to minister to others.

The purpose of Women's Ministries is to blend together the talents and abilities of all women in the church to minister as unto Christ in prayer, practical ministry, spiritual growth, evangelistic outreach, and missionary partnership.

Section 3. Membership

All members of the Women's Ministries in any local Assembly of God are members of the District Women's Ministries, as well as all women ministers, ministers' wives, and widows of deceased ministers.

Section 4. Officers

- a. **Executive officers.** The officers shall be the director, assistant director, secretary, leadership training coordinator, along with the district superintendent. These officers shall make up the department's executive committee.
- b. **Section representatives.** Section representatives shall be chosen from the women ministers, ministers' wives, ministers' widows, or laywomen who may be interested and have a burden for the Women's Ministries work.
- c. **Qualifications for officers, section representatives, and leadership training coordinator.**
 - (1) They shall be women with a manifest quality of ability and shall be chosen from the women ministers, ministers' wives, ministers' widows, or laywomen who may be interested and have a burden for the Women's Ministries work.
 - (2) They shall have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.
 - (3) They shall be in agreement with the purpose of Women's Ministries.
- d. **Election and terms of office**
 - (1) The District Presbytery shall present a list of three nominees for the offices of director, assistant director, and secretary, with the understanding that nominations can be made from the floor. She shall be elected by secret ballot by a two-thirds vote. If no election has been reached after the second elective ballot, only the two nominees having the highest number of votes shall be further considered and all other names shall be eliminated.
 - (2) The section Women's Ministries representatives shall be appointed annually by the District Presbytery. The procedure of the appointment will be a recommendation from the Women's Ministries Executive Committee to the District Presbytery for their consideration and appointment. It is understood that should a laywoman be considered, she must have the endorsement of her pastor. The term of office shall be for one year, beginning June 1.
 - (3) Terms of office for the district Women's Ministries director, Women's Ministries assistant director, and the Women's Ministries secretary, shall be for two years, beginning June 1.
 - (4) The leadership training coordinator shall be appointed by the District Presbytery for a term of one year, beginning June 1.

e. **Duties**

- (1) **Director.** The director shall preside at all district and Executive Committee meetings of the Women's Ministries. She shall appoint committees as needed and shall be an ex officio member of all committees. She shall supervise and promote the work of the Women's Ministries throughout the district. She shall edit a Women's Ministries report for *The Appalachian Messenger*.
- (2) **Assistant director.** The assistant director shall assist the director and in her absence shall perform her duties.
- (3) **Secretary.** The secretary shall make a true record of the district and Executive Committee meetings of Women's Ministries. She shall receive and transfer to the district secretary-treasurer such funds as may be committed to her on special events, such as the Fall Festival, the Coin Collection at the District Council, etc.
- (4) **Section representatives.** The section representatives shall plan and preside at section rallies and stimulate interest in Women's Ministries in their respective sections under the supervision and direction of the district director in cooperation with the section presbyter.
- (5) **Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee shall be authorized to act for Women's Ministries in all matters that affect its interest.
- (6) **Leadership training coordinator.** The duties shall be the oversight and training for the Women's Ministries and any other areas of Women's Ministries as designated by the Women's Ministries Executive Committee.

- f. **Vacancies.** In case of a vacancy in the office of director, the assistant director shall fill the unexpired term. Vacancies in any other office shall be filled by the Executive Committee.

Section 5. Voting Constituency

The voting constituency shall consist of all ministers and registered delegates of the Appalachian District Council, together with the ministers' wives and widows of deceased ministers, along with the local Women's Ministries president or an elected delegate from each Women's Ministries group.

Section 6. Meetings

The Women's Ministries of the district shall meet annually in conjunction with the meeting of the District Council. Elections shall take place in the regular voting sessions of the District Council. Any other business to be taken care of, the time and place for such meeting, shall be arranged for by the director.

Section 7. Finance

- a. **Women's Ministries Fund.** There shall be a Women's Ministries Fund in the District Treasury, and all receipts and disbursements shall be transacted through the office of the district treasurer.
- b. **Allowance.** The Women's Ministries officers shall receive travel expenses, meals, and lodging while traveling on official business for the Women's Ministries.
- c. **Expenses.** The expenses of any Women's Ministries officer visiting a local assembly in the interest of Women's Ministries shall be defrayed by an offering from the assembly being visited.
- d. **Salaries.** The salaries of the District Women's Ministries officers shall be set by the District Presbytery.
- e. **Offerings**
 - (1) The District Women's Ministries shall be financed by offerings sent quarterly by each local Women's Ministries group, who shall pay tithes on all money coming into their treasury.
 - (2) Offerings from District Women's Ministries meetings shall help to finance the District Women's Ministries Department.
 - (3) Ten percent of the tithes received from local groups shall be sent to the National Women's Ministries Department.
 - (4) A time will be designated in the Section Council for receiving of the annual Coin Collection offering.
- f. **Rally offerings.** Rally offerings shall be retained by the respective section Women's Ministries representative to be used to promote the Women's Ministries in her section. This fund shall be set up in a local bank and a financial report given at the Section Council each year. The Section Representative shall receive travel expenses from this fund while on official business for the Women's Ministries.

Section 8. Local Groups

- a. **Recognition.** The Women's Ministries of each assembly of the district, organized according to the provisions of the District Women's Ministries Department and accepting full share of responsibility for the support of all work undertaken by the District Women's Ministries, is recognized as an integral part of the Women's Ministries of the Appalachian District. Application of local groups for membership in the district organization shall be made to the District Women's Ministries director. They shall be set in order by the District Women's Ministries director or by the section representative when requested to do so by the district director.
- b. **The five-fold program of Women's Ministries:**
 - (1) Projects for world missions.
 - (2) National Home Missions and special ministries.
 - (3) Benevolence homes.
 - (4) District projects, pioneer churches, district parsonages, etc.
 - (5) Local community, church, and parsonage.

ARTICLE XII. GIRLS MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Name

This organization shall be known as Girls Ministries of the Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of Girls Ministries is to win girls to Jesus Christ through love and acceptance, to teach them to obey everything Jesus commanded, to develop girls spiritually and mentally, to provide encouragement, support, and accountability through lasting Christian relationships, to provide an environment for girls to develop their gifts and abilities and to acquaint them with the Great Commission of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Section 3. Membership

All members of the Girls Ministries clubs in any local Assembly of God church of the Appalachian District Council are members of the District Girls Ministries.

Section 4. Officers

- a. **Executive officers.** The officers shall be the director, assistant director, secretary, and Mpac leadership development director.
- b. **Ministry consultants.** District consultants consistent with those of the National Girls Ministries shall be appointed annually by the department's executive committee, subject to the approval of the District Presbytery.
- c. **Section representatives.** Section ministry representatives for each respective section shall be appointed annually by the District Presbytery.
- d. **Executive Committee.** The executive officers together with the district superintendent shall constitute the Executive Committee.
- e. **Qualifications for officers, ministry consultants, and section representatives.**
 - (1) They shall be women with a manifest quality of ability and shall be chosen from the women ministers, ministers' wives, ministers' widows, or laywomen who may be interested and have a burden to promote and see Girls Ministries expanded and developed throughout the district.
 - (2) They shall have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.
 - (3) They shall be in agreement with the purpose of Girls Ministries.
- f. **Appointments and terms of office.** The officers shall be appointed annually by the District Presbytery. The terms of office shall be for one year, beginning July 1 of each year.
- g. **Duties.**
 - (1) **Director.** The director shall preside at all district and Executive Committee meetings of the Girls Ministries Department. She shall appoint committees as needed and shall be an ex officio member of all committees. She shall supervise and promote the work of Girls Ministries throughout the district.
 - (2) **Assistant director.** The assistant director shall assist the director and in her absence shall perform her duties.
 - (3) **Secretary.** The secretary shall make a true record of the district and Executive Committee meetings of the Girls Ministries Department. She shall receive and transfer to the district secretary-treasurer such funds as may be committed to her on special events, such as Girls Ministries Retreat, Nickels for Notes, etc.
 - (4) **Mpac leadership development director.** The duties shall be the oversight and training for Girls Ministries and any other area of Girls Ministries as designated by the Girls Ministries Executive Committee.
 - (5) **Ministry consultants.** The duties shall be consistent with the National Girls Ministries Department and shall be developed by the district Girls Ministries Executive Committee.
 - (6) **Section representatives.** The section representatives shall plan and preside at section rallies and stimulate interest in Girls Ministries within their respective sections under the supervision and direction of the district director and in cooperation with the section presbyter.
- h. **Vacancies.** In the event of a vacancy in the offices of director, assistant director, secretary, or Mpac leadership development director, the District Presbytery shall appoint the successor in office to fill the unexpired term.

Section 5. Finances

- a. **Girls Ministries Fund.** There shall be a Girls Ministries Fund in the District Treasury, and all receipts and disbursements shall be transacted through the office of the district treasurer.
- b. **Allowance.** The Girls Ministries officers shall receive travel expenses, meals, and lodging while traveling on official business for the Girls Ministries Department.
- c. **Expenses.** The expenses of any Girls Ministries officer visiting a local assembly in the interest of Girls Ministries shall be defrayed by an offering from the assembly.
- d. **Salaries.** The salaries of the District Girls Ministries officers shall be set by the District Presbytery.
- e. **Offerings.**
 - (1) The District Girls Ministries Department shall be financed by offerings sent quarterly by each local Girls Ministries group, who shall pay tithes on all funds coming into their treasury.
 - (2) Offerings from District Girls Ministries meetings shall help to finance the District Girls Ministries Department.
 - (3) Ten percent of the tithes received from local groups shall be sent to the National Girls Ministries Department.
 - (4) The Nickels for Notes offering will be received at the District Retreat.
- f. **Rally offerings.** The Girls Ministries section representative, when conducting rallies, shall retain the offerings

to be placed in a fund to be used to promote Girls Ministries within her section. This fund shall be set up in a local bank and a financial report given at the section council each year. The section representative shall receive travel expenses from this fund while on official business for Girls Ministries.

Section 6. Local Groups

- a. **Recognition.** The Girls Ministries of each assembly of the district organized according to the provisions of the District Girls Ministries Department and accepting full share of responsibility for the support of all work undertaken by the District Girls Ministries Department, are recognized as an integral part of the Girls Ministries of the Appalachian District. Application of local groups for membership in the district organization shall be made to the district director. They shall be set in order by the district director, or by the section representative when requested to do so by the district director.
- b. **Five-fold program of Girls Ministries:**
 - (1) Projects for world missions.
 - (2) National Home Missions and special ministries.
 - (3) Benevolence homes.
 - (4) District projects, pioneer churches, etc.
 - (5) Local community, church, and parsonage.

Section 7. Relationship

- a. The Girls Ministries Department shall be an integral part of and under the supervision of the Appalachian District Presbytery. It may, however, enjoy the right to conduct its business and promote its ministries.
- b. Each local Girls Ministries club shall be considered an integral part of the local church. It shall be under the supervision of the pastor or his appointed representative.
- c. The District Girls Ministries Department shall cooperate with the District Women's Ministries Department in all areas that jointly promote ministry to women and girls.

ARTICLE XIII. HONORBOUND-MEN OF PROMISE DEPARTMENT

For the purpose of mobilizing men for Christian action, for fostering Christian fellowship and utilization of our men in active Christian ministry in the local church, section and district levels, we, the members of the HonorBound Ministries of the Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God, agree to be governed by the following Bylaws:

Section 1. Name

This organization shall be called the HonorBound Ministries of the Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Purposes and Objectives

- a. The purpose of this organization shall be to assist in unifying Assemblies of God men on the local church, section, district, and national levels in participating in the objectives of the HonorBound Ministries.
- b. The objectives of the HonorBound Ministries of the Appalachian District are:
 - (1) To challenge, train, and involve men in meaningful ministries in key areas of the church under the leadership of the pastor.
 - (2) To unite the efforts of men in national and district advances such as Discipleship , the personal soul-winning emphasis; Light-for-the-Lost, the world missionary arm; Church Construction Corps, the construction ministry; and other designated district projects.

Section 3. Membership

Membership of the District HonorBound Ministries shall be comprised of all HonorBound organizations in local Assemblies of God churches of the Appalachian District.

Section 4. Relationship

- a. The HonorBound Ministries shall be an integral part of and under the supervision of the Appalachian District Presbytery. It may, however, enjoy the right to conduct its business and promote its ministries.
- b. Each local HonorBound Ministries group shall be considered an integral part of the local church. It shall be under the supervision of the pastor or his appointed representative.

Section 5. Tenets of Faith

The HonorBound Ministries of the Appalachian District shall subscribe to the Tenets of Faith as set forth by the General Council of the Assemblies of God, as stated in Article V of the Constitution of the Appalachian District Council.

Section 6. Government Officers

- a. **District presbytery.** The District Presbytery shall review and ratify all phases of the HonorBound ministries.
- b. **Executive Committee.** The HonorBound Executive Committee shall be comprised of the district superintendent, district HonorBound director, assistant district HonorBound director, HonorBound secretary-treasurer, district Discipleship coordinator, district Light-for-the-Lost coordinator, and the district Church Construction Corps coordinator. The district HonorBound director shall serve as chairman of this committee.

Section 7. Duties

- a. **District officers.** It shall be the duties of all district HonorBound officers to encourage and offer assistance in the conducting of district, section, and local meetings or get-togethers of the men of the district. They shall assist further in the formation of local HonorBound groups throughout the district in careful cooperation with the pastor.
 - (1) **Executive Committee.** The HonorBound Executive Committee is authorized to develop and create

policies and guidelines for the District HonorBound ministries and other auxiliaries.

- (2) **Director.** The District HonorBound Director shall be responsible for promoting and administering the ministries of HonorBound in the district. He shall serve as an ex officio member of all district and section committees. He shall serve as chairman of the HonorBound Executive Committee. Progress of the HonorBound Ministries as administered by the District HonorBound Director shall be reviewed periodically by the District Presbytery.
 - (3) **Assistant director.** The District Assistant HonorBound Director shall carry a portfolio assigned by the District HonorBound Director to assist in the fulfillment of the purposes of the department. He shall serve under the direction of the District HonorBound Director.
 - (4) **Secretary-treasurer.** The District HonorBound Secretary-Treasurer shall keep a record of all committee meetings of the HonorBound Department. He shall carry a portfolio assigned by the District HonorBound Director to assist in the fulfillment of the purposes of the department. He shall assist in the collection and accounting of funds at events according to the guidelines of the district secretary-treasurer's office. He shall serve under the direction of the district HonorBound director.
 - (5) **Discipleship coordinator.** The District Discipleship Coordinator shall promote and coordinate evangelism training and personal witnessing invasions. He shall make plans and help conduct Discipleship meetings in every church.
 - (6) **Light-for-the-Lost coordinator.** The District Light-for-the-Lost Coordinator shall promote and coordinate Light-for-the-Lost activities in the district. He shall assist in planning and conducting Light-for-the-Lost banquets.
 - (7) **Church Construction Corps coordinator.** The District Church Construction Corps Coordinator shall assist in promoting and organizing approved domestic and world construction projects.
- b. **Section Officers**
- (1) **Section committee.** The section HonorBound committee shall correlate the overall activities of HonorBound on a section basis. Specifically, it shall promote each of the phases of HonorBound in the section during the year.
 - (2) **Section representative.** The section HonorBound representative shall be responsible for coordinating all facets of the HonorBound Ministries within the section and shall serve under the supervision of the District HonorBound Director and the section presbyter. He shall serve as chairman of the HonorBound section committee. He shall encourage the organizing of HonorBound ministries in each church in his section in cooperation with the pastor and local groups.
 - (3) **Other section officers.** The section Lifestyle Evangelism coordinator, the section Light-for-the-Lost coordinator, and the section Church Construction Corps coordinator shall assist the section HonorBound representative in promoting HonorBound ministries. Each section coordinator shall be responsible to make plans and administrate the activities in his respective ministry through the section. He shall contribute his time and talents in the support of the district HonorBound ministries.

Section 8. Appointments, Vacancies, and Removals

a. Qualifications

- (1) **Director, assistant director, secretary-treasurer, Discipleship coordinator, Light-for-the-Lost coordinator, and Church Construction Corps coordinator.** These men may be either an ordained, licensed, or certified minister of mature ability, able to promote the areas of his portfolio in the district, or a qualified layman who shall be recommended by his pastor and section presbyter. He shall be a member in good standing in the local Assemblies of God church and shall have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.
- (2) **Section representatives.** The HonorBound representative, the Discipleship coordinator, the Light-for-the-Lost coordinator, the section Royal Rangers commander, and the Church Construction Corps coordinator shall be either ordained, licensed, or certified ministers who are resident pastors, or competent laymen who are members of a local assembly and who have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.

b. Appointments and elections

(1) District officers

- (a) The District HonorBound Director, the District Assistant HonorBound Director, and the District HonorBound Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by the District Council. A two-thirds vote shall be required to elect. The term of office shall be for a period of two years, beginning June 1. If no election has been reached after the second elective ballot, only the two nominees having the highest number of votes shall be further considered and all other names shall be eliminated. The District Presbytery shall present a list of three nominees for the office of director, assistant director, and secretary-treasurer, with the understanding that nominations can be made from the floor.
 - (b) The District Discipleship Coordinator, the District Light-for-the-Lost Coordinator, and the District Church Construction Corps Coordinator shall be nominated by the District HonorBound Executive Committee and appointed by the District Presbytery, and shall serve for two years, beginning on June 1.
- (2) **Section officers.** The Section HonorBound Representative, the Section Discipleship Coordinator, the Section Light-for-the-Lost Coordinator, and the Section Church Construction Corps Coordinator shall be appointed annually by the District Presbytery. The procedure of the appointment will be a

recommendation by the HonorBound Department Executive Committee to the District Presbytery for their consideration. It is understood that should a layman be considered, he must have the endorsement of his pastor. The term of office shall be for one year, beginning with June 1.

c. **Vacancies**

- (1) **District officers.** The District HonorBound Executive Committee, in consultation with and approval of the District Presbytery, shall fill any vacancies by appointments. The appointments shall be for the unexpired term.
- (2) **Section officers.** The section Executive Committee, in consultation with the approval of the District HonorBound Director, shall fill by appointment any vacancies occurring in the offices of HonorBound representative, Discipleship coordinator, Light-for-the-Lost coordinator, and Church Construction Corps coordinator. The appointment shall be for the unexpired term.

Section 9. District Finances

- a. When an officer of the HonorBound department is called to perform some duty of his office in a local church, the church is requested to receive an offering for his expenses.
- b. Each local HonorBound group is requested to send at least 10% of all their income to the district office for the general expenses of this department.
- c. There may be special fund-raising projects as approved by the District Presbytery.

ARTICLE XIV. ROYAL RANGERS DEPARTMENT

The Appalachian District Royal Rangers Department is a ministry for boys with the purposes of world evangelism, equipping the next generation of Christ-like men, and empowering lifelong servant leaders. The department's primary alliance is with the Youth and Christian Education ministries of the district but it also desires to work with other departmental ministries to further Christ's mission.

Section 1. Officers

- a. **District officers.** The officers of this department shall consist of a director, deputy director, training coordinator, outreach coordinator, Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship president, and communications coordinator. These officers shall constitute the Royal Rangers District Leadership Team.
- b. **Section officers.** Sections shall be served by deputy outreach coordinators.

Section 2. Appointments and Vacancies

- a. **District officers.** The Director, Deputy Director, Training Coordinator, Outreach Coordinator, Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship President, and Communications Coordinator shall be appointed annually by the District Presbytery. The term of office shall be for one year, beginning June 1.
- b. **Section officers.** Deputy Outreach Coordinators shall be recommended by the Royal Rangers District Leadership Team and appointed annually by the District Presbytery. The term of office shall be for one year.
- c. **Other section staff.** Other section staff shall be appointed by the Royal Rangers District Leadership Team.
- d. **Vacancies.** Any office may be declared vacant by the District Presbytery or the Executive Presbytery for any reason considered valid by either of these bodies. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the District Presbytery or the Executive Presbytery.

Section 3. Duties

- a. The Royal Rangers District Leadership Team shall be responsible for creating and developing policies and guidelines, and for providing oversight of the ministry. General policies and manuals shall be approved by the Executive Presbytery or the District Presbytery.
- b. The Royal Rangers District Leadership Team shall be responsible for the implementation and direction of the ministries of the department.
- c. Deputy Outreach Coordinators shall be given portfolios by the Royal Rangers District Leadership Team and shall have responsibility for the ministries and fellowships in their portfolios.

Section 4. Reporting and Cooperation

The Royal Rangers District Leadership Team shall report to the Executive Presbytery and the District Presbytery and shall be amenable to the policies and directives adopted by these boards.

ARTICLE XV. MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Authorization and Purpose

- a. **Authorization.** The Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God shall assume the responsibility and do all within its power to spread the gospel to the homeland and to the world. To do this there shall be a Missions Department of the district to which shall be committed the missions interest of the district. Missions ministries within the boundaries of the Appalachian District shall be known and referred to as *Appalachian Missions*. Missions to America will be known as *U.S. Missions* and missions to the world beyond shall be referred to as *World Missions*.
- b. **Purpose.** The primary responsibility of the Appalachian District Missions Department is to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.
- c. **Strategy.** The strategy of the department shall be:
 - (1) The widest possible evangelization of the spiritually lost through every available means;
 - (2) The establishment of self-supporting, self-governing, and self-propagating churches representing all cultural, socioeconomic, and other identifiable groups within the Appalachian District;
 - (3) The training and equipping of ministers and laity to proclaim the gospel and to plant, establish, and

- develop churches;
- (4) The implementation, promotion, and coordination of these strategies in cooperation with the General Council World Missions and U.S. Missions, and with the churches, ministers, and ministries of the Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Organization and Governance

- a. **District Missions Director.** The District Presbytery shall select a District Missions Director to oversee and administer the missions program of the district. The district missions director shall be an ex-officio member of all district missions committees and boards, and shall serve as chairperson of the District Missions Board. The district missions director shall also carry the portfolio of evangelism, promoting evangelism in the Appalachian District.
- b. **Section Missions Director.** A Section Missions Director shall be elected each year at the Section Council to promote missions in his section. He shall serve on the Section Administrative Committee and shall promote missions in his section. He shall assist the District Missions Director in arranging itineraries for missionaries and approved ministries.
- c. **Missions Board.** The work and promotion of district and national missions ministries in the Appalachian District shall be under the supervision of the District Missions Board.
- (1) **Composition.** The Missions Board shall consist of the District Missions Director, two members of the District Presbytery, two other members chosen by the District Presbytery, and one representative each of the Women's Ministries, HonorBound, and Youth and Christian Education departments.
- (2) **Appointments.** The members of the Missions Board shall be appointed by the District Presbytery.
- (3) **Term of office.** Term of office will be one year, except for the District Missions Director and others who serve by virtue of office. The District Missions Director shall be appointed for a three-year term.
- (4) **Authority and amenability.** It is the responsibility of the District Missions Board to evaluate the policies of the missions ministries of the Appalachian District and offer education, information, guidance, and counsel in the areas of its supervision, including the approval of policies and procedures governing the operation of the various ministries of the department. The Missions Board will be amenable to and under the general supervision of the District Presbytery. This board shall meet at least two times annually.
- (5) **Vacancies.** The District Presbytery may fill a vacancy on the Missions Board by appointment until the term is expired.
- d. **Appalachian Missions.** The District Missions Department shall be responsible for the supervision and administration of the work of the various missions ministries and missionaries in the Appalachian District according to the policies approved by the District Presbytery. Included in the area of supervision of the department shall be those ministries operating within the Appalachian District, including:
- (1) Church Planting and Redevelopment;
- (2) The training and education of church planters and redevelopment pastors;
- (3) Guidance of District Supervised Missions in cooperation with the Section Administrative Committee;
- (4) Nationally recognized missions ministries such as Chaplaincy, Chi Alpha, Special Touch, Teen Challenge, and other approved ministries that minister within the boundaries of the Appalachian District.
- e. **Amenability.** All officers, departments, boards and committees of the District Missions Department shall be amenable to the District Presbytery and its policies.
- f. **National U.S. missionaries.** National U.S. missionaries shall maintain a relationship with the Appalachian District as outlined in the Bylaws of the General Council of the Assemblies of God:
- (1) *Article XV, Section 2., h. Liaison with districts.* The division and its departments shall maintain a constant liaison with the various districts so that proven programs and innovations in each area may be refined and offered to districts. However, the supervision and administration of the work of the various ministries shall be committed to the districts where they are located.
- (2) *Article XV, Section 2., i. National U.S. Missionaries.* National U.S. missionaries shall be appointed by the U.S. Missions Board with the approval of their home districts and the districts in which the missionaries will be working. All missionary appointments and renewals shall be made according to administrative criteria established by the Department of U.S. Missions upon the approval of the work district.
- g. **Affiliated ministries.** Autonomous ministries that represent a ministry focus in harmony with the mission of the Appalachian District Council may enter into a covenant relationship with the district under such terms and conditions established by the District Presbytery. Each affiliated ministry shall have a board of directors that will be responsible for governance and administration of the ministry. The board of directors shall be selected by the ministry itself in the manner prescribed by its bylaws.
- h. **World Missions.** The District Missions Department shall serve as a liaison with the missions programs of the General Council and shall promote and coordinate its ministries in the district. It shall provide missions education to the churches and ministers of the district and encourage the recruitment of new missionaries. It shall assist in arranging itineraries and special emphases.

Section 3. Support

- a. **Missions Emphasis Month.** The month of November will be designated as "Missions Emphasis Month." The District Missions Director will coordinate and conduct Missions Stewardship Banquets in each section of the district to promote and encourage renewed support for missions throughout the district.
- b. The department shall be supported according to policies and procedures approved by the District Presbytery.

ARTICLE XVI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

Section 1. Membership of the Assemblies

The minimum standard of membership of a local assembly should include:

- a. A testimony to an experience of the "new birth."
- b. Having been baptized in water.
- c. Evidence of a consistent Christian life.
- d. Acceptance of the Tenets of Faith as set forth in Article V of the Constitution of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- e. Agreement to being governed by the constitution and/or bylaws of the local assembly.

General Council affiliated assemblies may adopt a standard of membership that may be determined either by the local assembly or by agreement with the District Council (General Council Constitution Article XI, a, subparagraph 2). District affiliated and supervised assemblies shall adopt the standard of membership as stated in the bylaws for these assemblies.

Section 2. Procedures for Affiliation and Advancement

It shall be the responsibility of the District Presbytery to determine when an assembly qualifies for affiliation or advancement. The minimum requirements for recognition or advancement shall be those listed in Article X of the Constitution of the Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God. The procedures for affiliation or advancement shall be:

- a. A church desiring affiliation or advancement shall forward its request to the district office. The district office shall provide an approved application form and procedural instructions.
- b. The meeting in which an assembly shall be set in order shall be presided over by an officer of the district who shall assist the assembly in the adoption of a constitution and/or bylaws acceptable to the district.
- c. An existing, mature church that desires to affiliate with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall apply to the district office for guidance and assistance.
- d. Upon approval by the District Presbytery, the application for General Council affiliation shall be forwarded to the General Secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Recognition of affiliation shall occur upon receipt by the assembly of an official Certificate of Affiliation issued by the General Secretary. In the event an application for affiliation is declined by the District Presbytery, appeal may be made by the church to the General Council Executive Presbytery whose decision shall be final. The application for district affiliated and supervised assemblies shall be approved by the District Presbytery and a Certificate of Affiliation shall be issued by the District Secretary.

Section 3. Annual Report from Assemblies

Each church of the Assemblies of God is requested to keep a current record of its membership and to report this information annually, on forms provided, to the offices of the District Council Secretary and the General Council Secretary.

Section 4. Safeguarding the Assemblies

- a. Pastors and leaders of assemblies should make proper investigation of persons who seek to gain entrance to teach, minister, or pastor. Use of the platform should be denied until spiritual integrity and reliability have been determined. It is recommended that Assemblies of God churches use Assemblies of God ministers. When non-Assemblies of God ministers are being considered, care should be given to avoid ministers that may bring confusion and problems detrimental to the Fellowship.
- b. No minister dismissed by the Assemblies of God may be allowed to pastor or have ministry in an Assemblies of God church. Pastors and district officials should maintain an exchange of information regarding dismissed ministers known to be seeking ministry in our assemblies.

Section 5. Relationships: Churches, District Councils, and the General Council

a. Nature.

- (1) General Council affiliated churches are deemed to be sovereign, autonomous, self-governing, and self-determining bodies which have entered into an agreement with the Fellowship to be amenable to the General Council and the District Council in matters of doctrine and conduct. (See Article XI, Section 1, paragraph d, of the General Council Constitution.)
- (2) District affiliated assemblies are deemed to be bodies which have entered into an agreement with the District Council to be amenable to the General Council and District Council in matters of doctrine, conduct, and governance. (See Article X, Section 2, paragraphs c and d of the District Council Constitution.)
- (3) Supervised churches are assemblies or groups of believers whose governance is under the general supervision of the district or a local church. These churches shall be amenable to the General Council and District Council in matters of doctrine, conduct, and governance.
- (4) Cooperating assemblies are bodies that are not affiliated with the Assemblies of God which have entered into a cooperative agreement with the Fellowship.

b. **Relationships.** Cooperative fellowship describes both the relationship that exists between local churches and their relationships with the District Council and the General Council.

c. **Organizational assistance.** The services of both the General Council and District Council are available to assist the General Council affiliated assembly in dealing with any of its problems, either internal or external, when requested by the pastor or a majority of the official board of the church or a petition signed by 30 percent of the active voting members, with the petitioning process and delivery to the District Council taking no more

than 30 days to complete. When district officers receive such requests, it is recommended they first verify that scriptural principles of reconciliation, such as those found in Matthew 18:15-17 and 1 Timothy 5:19, have been reasonably attempted by the requesting party in situations involving interpersonal conflict. The officers shall respond by investigating problems and, if necessary, recommending remedial actions to the District Presbytery. At its discretion, the District Presbytery may act to bring the church under district supervision and, when necessary, revert it from General Council status to district affiliated status until the District Presbytery considers the problem resolved. The services of the District Council are available to assist the district affiliated assembly or supervised assembly when requested by the pastor or a majority of the church administrative committee or a petition signed by a significant representation of the congregation.

- d. **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 or board shall invite the district officers to participate in a specially called business meeting where such matters will be discussed and voted upon for the express purpose of giving the district officers the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation. A decision to disaffiliate shall require a two-thirds vote of the membership, or a more restrictive rule prescribed by the governing documents of the church or district. In the case of a previously existing church which later affiliated with the Fellowship through a vote of its membership, the percentage required to disaffiliate shall not exceed the percentage required when the church voted to affiliate. District affiliated assemblies and supervised assemblies may terminate affiliation with the Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God only with the approval of the District Presbytery.

Section 6. Guidelines for Minimal Requirements

If a church is unable to meet any of the criteria for affiliation for its status as set forth in the District Constitution, Article X, it shall seek the assistance of the district officers for help in maintaining the minimal requirements for its status of affiliation. The district may use any means prescribed by its bylaws to assist the church in returning to a position of strength. If the minimal requirements have not been attained, the church shall revert to the status for which it qualifies. It shall be the responsibility of the District Presbytery to decide if a church meets the requirements for its classification and to reclassify the status of a church if necessary.

Section 7. New Assemblies

The planting of new churches shall be a priority goal of the Appalachian District Council of the Assemblies of God. Resources at all levels shall be aligned to accomplish this purpose. Initiative for establishing new churches and the oversight of those churches may emanate from local assemblies, sections, or the district. The District Presbytery, section committees, or the authorities within the district charged with the responsibility of approving new churches shall not prohibit the planting of new churches unless a compelling reason exists. If it is determined that a compelling reason exists, a minister or local church desiring to plant the church shall have the right to appeal to the District Presbytery or other authorities within the district charged with the responsibility of approving new churches. The decision of the district may be appealed to the General Council Executive Presbytery, whose decision shall be final.

Section 8. Assemblies Resulting from a Division

- a. **Status of assembly.** 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, the district should seek to retain any meritorious group within the Assemblies of God.
- b. **Status of minister.** Circumstances in each case will 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 inappropriate conduct resulting in a division, the District Presbytery shall deal appropriately with the minister as provided in General Council Bylaws Article X, Section 3.

Section 9. Transfer of Local Church Membership

- a. **Letter of introduction.** It is recommended that members request a letter of introduction from the church of which they are a member to be sent by mail to the church with which they desire to affiliate.
- b. **Acknowledgment of transfer.** It is recommended that the receiving church shall give an acknowledgment of transfer to the former church.

ARTICLE XVII. INSTITUTIONS

Section 1. Southeastern University

- a. The District Council endorses Southeastern University and recommends that each assembly cooperate in the support of the school.
- b. The District Council shall be represented on the Board of Trustees of Southeastern University by the district superintendent and assistant district superintendent.
- c. District financial support of Southeastern University shall be determined by the District Presbytery, with consideration being given to the recommendations of the university.

ARTICLE XVIII. DISTRICT PROPERTY

Section 1. Property Deeds

All property of the district shall be deeded to and held by the trustees legally elected by the district and to their successors in office.

Section 2. Sale or Lease of District Property

No real property or chattels of the district shall be sold or leased without the same shall have been recommended by a two-thirds vote of the District Presbytery.

Section 3. Conveyance of Property

The superintendent and secretary of the district shall certify in each conveyance that the same has been duly authorized and recommended by a vote of said presbytery.

ARTICLE XIX. THE APPALACHIAN MESSENGER

The Appalachian Messenger shall be the official organ of the Appalachian District Council and shall be provided free as a service to churches and ministers.

ARTICLE XX. DISTRICT COUNCIL

Section 1. Order of Business

The regular order of business for the Council meeting shall be:

- a. Report of Roster Committee.
- b. Report of superintendent.
- c. Report of assistant superintendent.
- d. Report of secretary-treasurer.
- e. Department reports.
- f. Committee reports.
- g. Unfinished business.
- h. Election of officers.
- i. New business.
- j. Adjournment

All business sessions of the Council shall begin with prayer.

Section 2. Resolutions

The Resolutions Committee is authorized to accept only resolutions neatly written and properly signed by a minister or properly authorized delegate, submitted to the Resolutions Committee not less than 30 days prior to the District Council, and to be mailed to the ministers and churches not less than 15 days of District Council. The Resolutions Committee will only receive emergency resolutions at the District Council in session. Resolutions prepared by the District Presbytery shall be mailed to the ministers and churches at least two weeks prior to District Council. Resolutions presented after the two-week deadline may be accepted for consideration by a majority vote of the District Council.

ARTICLE XXI. QUORUM

Section 1. Sessions of the District Council

A quorum shall consist of:

- a. All affiliated ministers who shall have signed the current roster.
- b. All delegates of the General Council and District Council affiliated churches, and duly set in order supervised missions, who have signed the current roster.

Section 2. Meetings of the District Presbytery

A majority of the District Presbytery assembled for a meeting shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XXII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any regular meeting of the District Council. A majority vote of all members voting shall be necessary for adoption.

ARTICLE XXIII. ADDENDA

All matters not covered by the Constitution and Bylaws, or resolutions which have been passed by the District Council, shall be governed by resolutions appearing in the minutes of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace, until we all come to the unity of faith.