

**GENERAL COUNCIL AFFILIATED
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this Assembly shall be Bethel Assembly of God, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, INC.

ARTICLE II. AFFILIATION

Section 1. While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, this assembly shall voluntarily enter into full co-operative fellowship with assemblies of like precious faith associated in the Southern Missouri District Council, and the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri; and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation.

Section 2. It is understood and agreed that this assembly shall conform its standards of membership, qualifications for deacons, and requirements in a pastor, to those standards which are set by the District Council.

Section 3. Officers of the District and General Council shall be recognized and respected by the Pastor and members of this Assembly.

ARTICLE III. PREROGATIVES AND PURPOSES (10/07)

Section 1. This assembly shall have the right to govern itself and to conduct its own affairs according to the standard of the New Testament Scriptures and of the Southern Missouri District Council and the General Council of the Assemblies of God. This right shall specifically include such matters as the calling of a pastor, the election of an official board, the discipline of its members and the conducting of its own services and church program.

Section 2. In connection therewith, or incidental thereto it shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes; all in accordance with its constitution and bylaws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended. (10/07)

Section 3. The purpose of this assembly shall be to establish and maintain a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith where the Holy Ghost may be honored according to our distinctive testimony, and to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands. (10/07)

ARTICLE IV. 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

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thing, I Cor. 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.

Section I. 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 Tim. 3:15-17; I Thess. 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21).

Section 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 (Deut. 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, Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 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; I Cor. 1:24; Matt.11:25-27; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; I John 1:3,4.

(c) Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Accordingly, 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 of the Begotten, and the Holy Ghost is the one proceeding for 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; John 15:26; John 17:11,21; Zech. 14:9).

(d) Identity and Co-operation 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 co-operation. 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, co-operation and authority. Hence, neither Person in the Godhead either exist or works separately or independently of the others. John 5:17-30; John 5:32,37; John 8:17-18.

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

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

(g) The Title, Son of Man. 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. Matt. 1:21-23; 2 John 3; I John 3:8; Heb. 7:3; Heb. 1:1-13.

(h) Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ. Wherefore it is a transgression of the Doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus 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; I John 2:22-23; I John 4:1-5; Heb. 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. Heb. 1:3; I Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Rom. 14:11; I Cor. 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; I Peter 1:8; Rev. 5:6-14; Phil. 2:8,9; Rev. 7:9,10; Rev. 4:8-11.

Section 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; I Peter 2:22).
- (c) His miracles (Acts 2:22, 10:38).
- (d) His substitutionary work on the cross (I Cor. 15:3, 2 Cor. 5:21).

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- (e) His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; I Cor. 15:4).
- (f) His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9,11; Acts 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3).

Section 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 transgressions fell thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:17; Genesis 3:6; Romans 5:12-19).

Section 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 of Salvation

Salvation is received 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 a heir of God, according to the hope of eternal life. (Luke 24:47; I John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Eph. 2:8; Titus 2:11; Titus 3:5-7).

(b) The Evidence 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 (Eph 4:24; Titus 2:12).

Section 6. Ordinances of the Church

(a) Baptism in Water

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commended 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 the newness of life. (Matt. 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 (I Cor. 11:26); and is enjoined on believers "till He come!"

Section 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 church. With it comes the enduement 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; I Cor. 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:17; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 15:7-9). With the baptism of the Holy Ghost some such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:80) a deepened reverence for God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His word and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

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Section 8. The Evidence of the Baptism of 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 of tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (I Cor. 12:4-10,28), but different in purpose and use.

Section 9. Sanctification. Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Rom. 12:1-2; I Thess. 5:23; Heb. 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of “holiness without which no man shall see the Lord” (Heb. 12:14). By the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to obey the command “Be ye holy, for I am holy” (I Peter 1:15-16)

Section 10. The Church and its Mission. The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the First-born, which are written in heaven (Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 2:22; Heb. 12:23).

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

- (a) To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16).
- (b) To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (I Cor. 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 (Eph. 4:11-16; I cor. 12:28; I Cor. 14:12).

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

- (a) Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-21; Acts 4:29-31; Heb. 2,3,& 4).
- (b) Adds a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God (I Cor. 2:10-16; I Cor. 12,13, &14).
- (c) Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruits and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ (Galatians 5:22-26; I Cor. 14:12; Eph. 4:11-12; I Cor. 12:28; Col. 1:29).

Section 11. The Ministry. A divinely called scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the three-fold purpose of leading the church in: (1) Evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20); (2)Worship of God (John 4:23-24); (3)Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Eph. 4:11-16).

Section 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; Matt. 8:16-17; James 5:14-16).

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Section 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 (I Thess. 4:16-17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; I Cor. 15:51-52).

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

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

Section 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; Rev. 21,22). (9/07)

ARTICLE V. ORDINANCES

Section 1. The ordinance of Baptism by immersion in water (Matt. 28:19) shall be administered to all who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls, and who give clear evidence of their salvation. Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12.

Section 2. The ordinance of the Lord’s Supper shall be observed regularly as enjoined in the scriptures. Luke 22:19, 20:1; I Cor. 11:23-26. (9/07)

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP

The members of this Assembly shall consist of those who have met the requirements for membership as stated in the By-laws, have been received into membership, and have not been removed from the membership roll. They shall be classified as active and inactive as defined in the By-laws.

ARTICLE VII. GOVERNMENT

Section 1. The government of this Assembly shall be vested in the Official Board which shall consist of the Pastor and a minimum of three and maximum of seven deacons. This Board

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shall act as trustees of the Assembly and all spiritual and material management of this Assembly shall be committed to them, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and By-laws. They shall be elected in the manner hereinafter provided. (10/07)

Section 2. Monthly meetings of the Official Board shall be held at the call of the Pastor who shall serve as Chairman. A Secretary and Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer) shall be appointed by the Official Board from among the members of the Board or from among the other members of the church as a whole. Special meetings of the Official Board may be held as occasion requires. (Amended 1947).

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under the direction of the Pastor or the Official Board if there is no Pastor. (Oct 2002)

Section 2. There shall be an annual business meeting of the Assembly, at which time the election of officers shall take place and the report of all officers shall be read. This meeting is to be held on the last Tuesday of January each year, or in the event of inclement weather, as soon as possible after this date. The time and place is to be announced by the Pastor. (Oct 2002)

Section 3. Special business meetings of the Assembly may be called when necessary by the Pastor or by a majority of the members of the Board after notice has been given on the two preceding Sundays or four days notice may be given by mail. Special meetings may also be called by petition having been signed by not less than one fourth of the active members of the Assembly, the petition to be placed in the hands of the Pastor or the secretary and announcement made on the two Sundays prior to the date of the meeting. No more than one petition shall be recognized in one calendar year pertaining to the same subject and shall be no less than twelve months apart. It is the understanding that this would also include the office of Pastor.

ARTICLE IX. DEPARTMENTS

Section 1. This Assembly shall create and maintain such departments and sub-organizations as may be necessary and advisable for the extension of its work. All such departments and organizations shall be subordinate to the Assembly and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the Pastor and Official Board, and the Pastor shall be an ex officio member of all committees or departments.

Section 2. The Sunday School shall be considered as that department of the church which particularly provides for the teaching ministry and the spiritual care of the church. The Official Board shall appoint the superintendent of the Sunday School from among the members of the church. The appointment shall be submitted for ratification to the church as a whole. The

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pastor and the Sunday School Superintendent shall have the right to appoint all officers, teachers, and other workers of the Sunday school and programs of the school. (Oct 2002)

Section 3. A Youth Department shall be established to help in the spiritual growth of the youth of the Assembly. This department will be under the direction of the youth pastor or youth leader. It is advised that participation in sectional and district youth activities be an integral part of their program. This organization shall have the right to elect its own officers, conduct its own services, and plan its own activities, subject to the authority of the church as stated above.

ARTICLE X. FINANCE

All funds for the maintenance of the Assembly shall be provided by the voluntary contributions, the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the organization. Offerings shall be accepted by the Assembly at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the Official Board and shall be administered by the Treasurer under their direction (Mal.3:10; Luke 6:38; I Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:6-8.) All offerings shall be counted by two authorized persons before the funds are removed from the church building. An offering receipt form shall be signed in duplicate by those counting the offering, with one copy going to the treasurer and the other copy given to the Pastor. A record shall be kept of all receipts and disbursements of the local Assembly, and of all individual giving. All funds shall be deposited in a responsible F.D.I.C. Bank. (Oct 2002)

ARTICLE XI. PROPERTY

Section 1. All property of the Assembly shall be deeded as authorized by a two-thirds majority vote of those in attendance and voting, at any regular or special business meeting which has been called to consider the matter, provided such deed complies with the provisions of the Southern Missouri District Constitution and By-laws. Property may be held in the corporate name or may be invested through trustees. Should the Assembly choose to do so, it may in the same manner request the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God to act as its trustee to hold the title.

Section 2. In the event that this Assembly shall cease to function as a church body, under the direction of the pastor or any other duly authorized leader, by not having a regular church service for a period of six months, or shall sever its relation with the Assemblies of God, then the property, real and chattel, shall become the property of the Southern Missouri District Council and the Assemblies of God, a corporation, whose headquarters are located at Springfield, Missouri. This District Council shall forthwith have full authority to use or dispose of the property at their discretion. In the event of the sale of the property by the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God, the proceeds derived therefrom shall be used by the said District Council in the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ. (Amended 1944).

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ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the Assembly who are in attendance at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided it is consistent with the provisions of the Constitution and By-laws of the Southern Missouri District, provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made at all the services on at least two Sundays preceding the time of such meetings.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Only those shall be eligible for membership in this Assembly who:

- A. are born again;
- B. agree with the fundamental truths placed forth by the Assemblies of God.
- C. faithfully attend a minimum of 50% of Sunday services.
- D. prayerfully support the total church program and its outreach.
- E. live a consistent Christian life.
- F. serve in the church and its outreach according to their abilities.
- G. share their Christian testimony by word and life on a person to person basis.
- H. support its work by the methods of tithing (giving a tenth of their income) and offerings. (Oct 2002)

Section 2. Those individuals eligible for membership who shall desire to become members of this church shall make application therefore to the Pastor or Official Board. The Official Board shall have the right and authority to determine the eligibility and acceptability of all applicants for membership. Those approved for membership by the Official Board shall be received into the church publicly at any of its regular services.

- A. By virtue of office the Pastor shall be considered an active member of the church during his tenure.
- B. The Pastor's spouse shall be granted membership simultaneously with the membership granted to the Pastor by the church which they shall serve if the Pastor's spouse

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qualifies according to Article I, Section 1 of the By-laws of the church. It would be understood that their membership would automatically expire at the time of their final date as the pastors.

Section 3. Should any member of this church, in the opinion of the Official Board, fall below the standard of membership as stated above, or should s/he be the cause of contention or strife within the church, the Official Board shall have the following options:

A. Place his/her membership in this church on probation for a specific or indefinite time. The member's voting privileges will be suspended for the entire period of probation.

Terminate his/her membership in this church and remove his/her name from the membership list.

It is understood that neither action shall be taken unless and until patient and persistent effort shall have been made to win the individual back to the standards of membership and conduct of this church. (Oct 2002)

Section 4. Any member of this church whose membership has been placed on probation or terminated shall be notified of such action in writing, or in person by at least two members of the Official Board. The church member shall have the right of protest within 30 days of said notification. Such protest shall be in writing and addressed to each of the following: the Official Board, the Sectional Presbyter; and a District Executive. The protest shall entitle the member to a hearing before the church membership. The action of the church membership, by majority vote, shall be considered final. If the member is restored to active membership by the action of the church, all membership privileges shall be restored. (Oct 2002)

Section 5. The Official Board of this church shall also have the right to move to inactive membership any member who shall willfully absent himself from the regular services of the church for a period of three consecutive months, except for physical disability. If such inactive member shall become active again by resumed attendance at church services and have not departed from the standards of membership of this church, the Board may return his name to the active list without formal reception into membership again. (10/07)

Section 6. When a pastor's credentials be withheld or withdrawn by the District and General Council, his term of office as pastor shall be automatically terminated forthwith.

ARTICLE II. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The Pastor shall be considered the spiritual overseer of the Assembly and shall direct its activities. He shall act as Chairman of all business meetings of the Assembly and of the Official Board.

A. As Chairman of the Official board, he shall be a member of the Nominating Committee for Deacons. The Pastor shall also privately interview those nominated ascertaining

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their eligibility and willingness to serve as Deacons.

B. He shall provide for all services of the Assembly and arrange for all special meetings. Consideration may be given to his Official Board and Church in arranging these meetings. (Oct 2002)

C. Appeal may be made at any time over a decision, or concerning the action and attitude of a pastor by at least one fourth of the members of his church to the Officiary of the District Council. The officers shall have the right of investigation of such charges, and the power to call a meeting of the Assembly to consider the removal of such pastor from office. A majority vote shall be necessary to remove a pastor from office before his term expires.

D. In the event that a pastor is removed before his term expires for any reason except moral turpitude, he shall be given a minimum of two months of his regular or average remuneration.

Section 2. The Deacons are chosen to serve the church and therefore shall act in an advisory capacity with the pastor in all matters pertaining to the Assembly in its spiritual life and in the ministry.

A. They shall act in the examination of applicants for membership, and also in the administration of discipline of the Assembly. They shall act as a nominating committee for the selection of Deacons. This nominating committee shall have veto power for any scriptural or moral issues that they may personally know of. They shall submit such nominees to the membership at the annual business meeting of the Assembly.

B. Should there arise irreconcilable differences between the Pastor and members of the Official Church Board, destroying unity and the successful ministry of the local assembly, the District Executive Presbytery, along with the Sectional Presbyter, or Assistant Presbyter if the difficulty is in the church the Presbyter pastors, upon request from the pastor or a majority of the Official Board, shall investigate such differences and upon a two-thirds vote of the investigating committee may declare that the church be brought under District supervision until such strife ceases.

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the official meetings of the Official Board and of the annual and special business meetings of the Assembly. He shall keep a record of the membership of the Assembly and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of his duties. He shall be the custodian of all legal documents.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall be entrusted with all the finances of the Assembly which may be committed to him. He shall deposit all funds in a responsible bank in the name of the Assembly, and shall disburse the same by check, as authorized by the Official Board. The Treasurer shall keep an itemized account of the receipts and disbursements. He shall make an itemized report at the regular meetings of the Official Board and a summarized report to the Assembly quarterly and at its regular business meetings.

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ARTICLE III. VACANCIES

Section 1. Any office in the church which a member may hold becomes vacant at the termination of his active membership.

Section 2. Any office in the church may be terminated by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any business meeting of the church called for the purpose for removal of such member from the office he holds. Removal from office shall not, however, affect his church membership status.

Section 3. Vacancies among the officers of the church may be filled by appointment or special election of the official board for the unexpired term.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS

Section 1. One fifth or more of the active members of the church shall constitute a quorum without which no regular or special business meeting of the church shall be held.

Section 2. All business meetings of the church shall be conducted by the accepted rule of parliamentary procedure, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

Section 3. The voting constituency at all business meetings of the church shall consist of all active members of the church who are sixteen years of age and older, and have had active membership status in this Assembly for at least 90 days immediately prior to the convening of this business meeting.

Section 4. The regular order of business for the annual business meeting of the Assembly shall be as follows:

- A. Devotional
- B. Reading of previous minutes by the Secretary
- C. Report of the Treasurer
- D. Report of Committees
- E. Unfinished business
- F. Election of Officers
- G. New Business
- H. Adjournment

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Section 5. The Pastor shall be chosen according to District Council standards and shall be elected to serve for one or more years or for an indefinite period of time as may be determined at time of election. He shall be nominated by the Official Board. Recommendations may be made to them by any member of the Assembly. Election shall be by secret ballot at the annual business meeting of the Assembly or at a special meeting called for that purpose. A two-thirds majority vote of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election. Where a Pastor succeeds himself, only a majority vote is necessary. Balloting shall be on only one applicant at a time.

Section 6. Deacons shall be chosen from among the men who have been active members of this Assembly for at least one year and:

- A. Are filled with the Spirit according to Acts 2:4
- B. Measure up to the requirements mentioned in I Timothy 3:8-13.
- C. Currently support the church with their tithes and offerings as verified by the financial records of the church.
- D. Have a cooperative spirit
- E. Faithfully attend 80% of scheduled Sunday morning and Sunday evening worship services. (10/07)

Members who have been divorced and remarried can be candidates for the office of Deacon if they meet the following criteria:

- A. Any divorce and remarriage of the member and/or spouse occurred prior to conversion. (2 Cor. 5:17)
- B. If the divorce and remarriage occurred after conversion, the candidate has met the other requirements for Deacon for a minimum of ten consecutive years following the divorce (10/07)

Section 7. Deacons shall be selected method: All deacon nominees will agree to submit to an extensive qualifying process (scriptural, church board review, membership interview/review team, pastoral interview). The “qualifying” persons will be brought before the church body at the business meeting and each name placed in an offering receptacle. An attending active member will be chosen to pick the number of names out at random to fill the necessary deacon position(s). Each Deacon shall be selected for one three-year term, and may succeed himself for a second term. (10/07)

ARTICLE V. FINANCES

**GENERAL COUNCIL AFFILIATED
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

Section 1. The Pastor shall be remunerated for his services by a salary, a percent of tithes and offerings, or by other compensation, as agreed upon by himself and the Official Board. Such arrangement shall be reviewed semi-annually or annually.

Section 2. The Pastor shall also be given consideration by the Official Board for expenses incurred by his attendance at the District Council, by reimbursement of such expenses, or by an offering to help defray such expenses. Such consideration shall be given for attendance at other General Council and District Council functions, according to the ability of the church, as determined by the Official Board.

ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENTS

The By-Laws may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the Assembly by a majority vote of the membership present, provided it is consistent with the provision of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Southern Missouri District, provided the proposed amendment has been announced publicly on the two Sundays prior to the date of the meeting, announcement to be made by the Pastor or Secretary.