

**Minnesota District Council of the
Assemblies of God**

**Articles of Incorporation
& Bylaws**



Minnesota District Council of the
Assemblies of God

1315 Portland Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55404
(612) 332-2400
Fax: (612) 332-2510
www.mnaog.org

Revised 5/2/2025

**MINNESOTA DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(Revised 2025)

ARTICLE I. NAME.....	2
ARTICLE II. REGISTERED OFFICE.....	2
ARTICLE III. PURPOSES	2
ARTICLE IV. EXISTENCE	2
ARTICLE V. ORGANIZATION	2
ARTICLE VI. BUSINESS MEETINGS.....	3
ARTICLE VII. RELATIONSHIP	4
ARTICLE VIII. MEMBERSHIP.....	4
ARTICLE IX. DECLARATION OF FAITH.....	4
ARTICLE X. DISSOLUTION	4
ARTICLE XI. NON-PROFIT	5
ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS	5

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the corporation shall be Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE II. REGISTERED OFFICE

The location and post office address of the registered office of this corporation shall be 1315 Portland Avenue, City of Minneapolis, County of Hennepin, State of Minnesota. The registered agent is the duly elected Secretary, with offices at the above stated address.

ARTICLE III. PURPOSES

The purpose of this corporation shall be to engage in any lawful activity and to promulgate and further the Gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord; to provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like precious faith; shall be the agent for the issuing of credentials for the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri; to establish churches, missions, Bible schools, colleges in the United States and its possessions, and in foreign lands, and all other acts necessary and incidental to the advancing, promoting, and administering charitable and benevolent aims in its own behalf or as agent, trustee, or representative of others, and to that end, adopt, amend, repeal or establish bylaws, and make rules and regulations deemed necessary and expedient for the management of its affairs in accordance with the law, and not inconsistent with these Articles of Incorporation; and to take, buy, manage, hold, sell, mortgage, encumber and dispose of property, both real and personal of said corporation, as may be needed for the implementation of its work.

ARTICLE IV. EXISTENCE

The duration of this corporation shall be perpetual.

ARTICLE V. ORGANIZATION

- A. NATURE. The Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God is a cooperative fellowship based on mutual agreements voluntarily entered into by its members.
- B. JURISDICTION. The jurisdiction of this corporation shall include all the area within the boundaries of the State of Minnesota. The Board of Presbyters (aka District Presbytery) shall divide this statewide District into sections, setting the boundaries of each section and shall establish language/ethnic sections as defined in the Bylaws within the District. Each section shall elect a presbyter to represent it in the Board of

Presbyters, subject to affirmation of the election by the Executive Presbyters by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

- C. **MANAGEMENT.** The management of this corporation shall be vested in a Board of Presbyters of not less than five (5) members. The Board of Presbyters of this corporation shall include its Executive Officers, Executive Presbyters, a Presbyter from each section of the District, and other members as may be provided in the corporation Bylaws. Their terms of office shall be as designated in the corporation Bylaws and until their successors are duly elected and qualified.
- D. **BOARD OF PRESBYTERS.** The Presbyters and Executive Officers make up the Board of Presbyters. Qualifications of board members shall be as set forth in the corporation Bylaws. This board shall have such powers and perform such duties as this corporation in and by its Bylaws, rules and regulations may prescribe. Their terms of office shall be for that period as designated in the Bylaws of this corporation.
- E. **OFFICERS.** The Executive Officers of this corporation shall be Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Secretary and Treasurer, together with such other Officers as may be authorized in the future. The Officers of this corporation shall, by virtue of office, be members of the Board of Presbyters. Their terms of office shall be for that period as designated in the Bylaws of this corporation.
- F. **VACANCIES AND REMOVAL.** An Officer or Presbyter may be removed and the vacancy filled as provided in the corporation Bylaws.
- G. **QUORUM.** A majority of the duly elected members of the Board of Presbyters shall constitute a quorum for any officially called meeting.

ARTICLE VI. BUSINESS MEETINGS

- A. **ANNUAL MEETING.** The annual meeting of this corporation shall be held during the month of April of each year; the exact date of such annual meeting to be fixed each year by a majority vote of the District Board of Presbyters, who constitute the governing body of this corporation when a District Council is not in session.
- B. **SPECIAL MEETING.** Special District Councils may be called if agreed to by a two-thirds majority of the District Presbyters.
- C. **QUORUM.** All accredited ministers and delegates of the District Council who are present and registered by the roster committee at a duly called meeting shall constitute a quorum.
- D. **PROXY.** Voting by proxy shall not be permitted at any meeting. An absentee ballot is permitted if authorized by the corporation Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII. RELATIONSHIP

- E. **GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD.** The Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God recognizes itself as part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, whose headquarters is in Springfield, Missouri; and shall recognize and be subject to the said General Council as the parent body.
- F. **LOCAL CHURCHES.** The local churches within the jurisdiction of the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God, which are in full fellowship with the District, shall recognize and be subject to the District as set forth in the Bylaws. Each affiliated assembly shall be incorporated separately, and although autonomous, it shall be cooperative and supportive of the policies and efforts of the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God. Each affiliated assembly may send delegates to General Council and/or to District Council.

ARTICLE VIII. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God shall consist of all ordained and licensed ministers of the District, and such delegates as may be elected by local assemblies to represent them at a District Council. There shall be no personal liability of members for corporate obligations.

ARTICLE IX. DECLARATION OF FAITH

The Bible shall be the rule and guide of faith, especially the fundamental truths as set forth in the Tenets of Faith of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, of which this corporation is a member, and whose Tenets of Faith it hereby adopts.

ARTICLE X. DISSOLUTION

The assets of the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God, a Minnesota corporation, are irrevocably dedicated to religious and/or charitable purposes, the same being stated fully in its Articles of Incorporation and its Bylaws. In the event of liquidation, dissolution or the revocation of its charter or abandonment of its stated purposes, after providing for the payment of debts and obligations of the corporation, the remaining assets will not inure to the benefit of any private person or persons, but all such remaining assets will be distributed to the General Council of the Assemblies of God, 1445 Boonville Avenue, Springfield, Missouri, who will have the right of refusal, or to nonprofit organizations, which are organized and operated exclusively for the religious and/or charitable purposes which are exempt under Section 501 (c)(3) of the

Internal Revenue Code, under which section the organization or organizations shall have established tax exempt status.

ARTICLE XI. NON-PROFIT

There shall be no capital stock issued, and this corporation is not organized for profit. This corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including for such purposes, making distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to its members, presbyters, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered, and to make payments and distribution in furtherance of the purposes set forth in ARTICLE III hereof.

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation may be made at any regular or special District Council, provided the proposed amendment has been submitted to the Board of Presbyters first for consideration, and a copy mailed or digitally mailed to each member of the Minnesota District at least one month prior to the time of the meeting at which the amendment shall be considered. Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation shall require a two-thirds vote of all Minnesota District members present and voting.

**MINNESOTA DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

BYLAWS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(Revised 2025)

ARTICLE I. DISTRICT COUNCILS	9
A) Rules of Order.	9
B) Quorum.	9
C) Right of Initiative.	9
D) Order of Business.	9
E) Procedure for Resolutions.	9
ARTICLE II. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS	10
A) Election Procedure for District Superintendent.	10
B) Election Procedure for other Executive Officers.	10
C) Qualifications for Executive Officers.	11
D) Executive Presbyters (Non-Officer).	11
E) Geographic District Presbyters.	12
F) Geographic Assistant District Presbyters.	13
G) Non-Geographic District Presbyters and Non-Geographic Assistant District Presbyters.	13
H) General Council Non-Resident Executive Presbyters.	15
I) General Council Nonresident Executive Presbyters Additional Representation.	15
J) General Presbyters.	16
K) Other Section Officers and Representatives.	17
L) Vacancies.	17
ARTICLE III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS	18
A) Duties of the Executive Officers.	18
B) Duties of the District Superintendent.	18
C) Duties of the Assistant District Superintendent.	19
D) Duties of the District Secretary.	19
E) Duties of the District Treasurer.	19
F) Duties of Executive Presbyters.	20

G) Duties of District Presbyters.....	20
H) Duties of Assistant District Presbyters.....	21
I) Duties of the Section Secretary-Treasurer.....	21
ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES.....	22
A) Administrative Committees.....	22
B) Standing Committees.....	22
C) District Council Committees.....	22
D) Lake Geneva Christian Center Committees.....	22
E) Special Committees.....	22
ARTICLE V. SECTIONS.....	23
A) Section Designations.....	23
B) Section Councils.....	23
C) Section Meetings.....	23
ARTICLE VI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES.....	24
A) General Council Affiliated Assemblies.....	24
B) District Council Affiliated Assemblies.....	29
C) Parent Affiliated Assemblies.....	30
D) District Home Missions Assemblies.....	31
ARTICLE VII. MINISTRY.....	32
A) Ministry Described.....	32
B) Basic Qualifications.....	32
C) Specific Qualifications.....	36
D) Senior Ministers.....	38
E) Credentials.....	38
F) Ministerial Accountability.....	39
G) Ministerial Courtesy and Conduct.....	40
H) Causes for Disciplinary Action.....	40
ARTICLE VIII. WORLD & U.S. MISSIONS.....	41
A) General Statement.....	41
B) Missions Finances.....	42
C) District World & U.S. Missions Committee.....	42
D) Local Assemblies.....	42
ARTICLE IX. MINNESOTA CHURCH MULTIPLICATION (“MCM”).....	45
A) General Statement.....	45

B) Management.....	45
C) Guidelines.....	45
D) Policies	45
ARTICLE X. DEPARTMENTS.....	46
ARTICLE XI. FINANCES.....	46
A) Ministerial Support.....	46
B) Church Support.	48
C) Minister’s Benevolence Fund.....	48
ARTICLE XII. DISTRICT PROPERTIES	48
A) Legal Custodians.....	48
B) Titles.....	48
C) Sale of Real Property.	49
D) Sale of Personal Property.....	49
E) Purchase of Real and Personal Property.	49
F) Grandfather Clause.	49
ARTICLE XIII. INSTITUTIONS.....	49
A) Authority.	49
B) Purpose.....	49
C) District Representation.	49
D) North Central University.	50
E) Institute for Ministry Development.	50
ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS	50

ARTICLE I. DISTRICT COUNCILS

- A) Rules of Order. In order to expedite business and to avoid confusion in deliberations, all District Councils shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, in keeping with the Spirit of Christian love and fellowship.
- B) Quorum. All Members of the Minnesota District who are present and registered by the Roster Committee at a duly called District Council shall constitute a quorum.
- C) Right of Initiative. The right of initiative in the matter of calling a special District Council shall be granted to the members of the Minnesota District. A statement, setting forth the reasons for the special District Council must be signed by not less than fifteen members. Such statement is to be filed with the District Presbytery, who may, if it be deemed advisable, respond to the summons and issue the call for a special District Council.
- D) Order of Business. The regular order of business for a District Council shall be:
1. Devotional
 2. Report of Roster Committee
 3. Report of Superintendent
 4. Report of Secretary-Treasurer
 5. Report of the Committees
 6. Unfinished Business
 7. Elections
 8. New Business
 9. Adjournment

Note: This order may be varied or supplemented. Elections shall be interspersed with committee reports, unfinished business, and new business.

All business sessions of a District Council shall begin with prayer.

E) Procedure for Resolutions.

- 1) A Resolutions Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. All resolutions for presentation at a District Council, except emergency measures, shall be signed by the author and presented to the District secretary's office at least 45 days prior to the District Council session. The Resolutions Committee in conjunction with the District secretary's office shall prepare resolutions in printed or electronic form and mail or digitally mail those that are in good order to the Minnesota District ministers and churches 15 days prior to the District Council, with the understanding that this does not apply to business growing out of Executive Presbytery and District Presbytery meetings just prior to the District Council; and that resolutions of an emergency nature shall be decided by a two-thirds vote of the council.

- 2) Resolutions to amend the Minnesota District's Articles of Incorporation must conform to the procedure outlined in Articles of Incorporation Article XII.

ARTICLE II. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

A) Election Procedure for District Superintendent.

- 1) All candidates for District Superintendent shall be nominated by secret ballot. In the event that a two-thirds vote on the nomination ballot is received this shall constitute an election for that office.
- 2) All names thus presented shall be balloted upon until a candidate shall have received a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.
- 3) If no such majority shall have been reached after three electoral ballots, the three candidates having the highest number of votes in the third electoral ballot shall be the only nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated.

B) Election Procedure for other Executive Officers.

- 1) The Executive Presbyters shall act as a Nominations Committee for candidates for executive office other than Superintendent. Any Certified, Licensed or Ordained minister in good standing with the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God may submit a name of a qualified minister to the Nominations Committee for consideration. Churches affiliated with the General Council or the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God shall also be entitled to submit a name for consideration, to the District Secretary, by action of the church board.
- 2) The Executive Presbyters shall establish a procedure that provides as many means as feasible to submit a name to the Nominations Committee. Names must be submitted no later than January 15 of the year of the election of said Executive Officer to be considered by the Nominations Committee.
- 3) Nominations Procedure.
 - a) All names which receive 15 nominations or more will automatically be placed into nomination for District Council action, unless the person declines to have their name placed into nomination or the Nominations Committee is aware of reasons the person would not meet the qualifications for the position for which they have been nominated.

- b) The Nominations Committee will examine all other names presented to it and determine if they meet the qualification for the position for which they have been nominated. Following this examination, the Nominations Committee will vote on which names to present to the District Council for action.
 - c) The Nominations Committee will submit the names so chosen to Minnesota District ministers and churches 15 days prior to the District Council.
- 4) All names thus presented shall be balloted upon until a candidate shall have received a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.
 - 5) If no such majority shall have been reached after three electoral ballots, the three candidates having the highest number of votes in the third electoral ballot shall be the only nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated.
- C) Qualifications for Executive Officers.
- 1) The Executive Officers of the Minnesota District shall be elected at the annual District Council.
 - 2) The term of office shall be four years with not more than one term expiring in any given year.
 - 3) All officers shall be ministers who have been ordained no less than three years, and of mature experience and ability, and shall have been members of the Minnesota District for at least one year.
- D) Executive Presbyters (Non-Officer).
- 1) The Executive Presbytery shall consist of three or more ordained ministers, together with the Executive Officers. The Non-Officer Executive Presbyters shall come from the following groupings of sections: North Area, South Area and Metro Area. The constituency of these areas shall be determined by action of the District Presbytery.
 - 2) In an area where the Non-Officer Executive Presbyter is up for election, each section at its Section Council prior to the annual District Council shall nominate by secret ballot a qualified minister for the office of Executive Presbyter for their area.
 - 3) The Non-Officer Executive Presbyters are to be elected at the annual District Council meeting by a majority of the votes cast for the Section nominees.
 - 4) The term of office for Non-Officer Executive Presbyters shall be three (3) years with not more than one term expiring in any given year.

5) An Executive Presbyter shall be a **pastor** in a church who has been ordained no less than three years, and of mature experience and ability, and shall have been a member of the Minnesota District for at least one year.

6) The Executive Presbyter and District Presbyter shall not be congruent positions.

E) Geographic District Presbyters.

1) Each section with a Geographic District Presbyter whose term is expiring shall conduct a Section Council prior to the annual District Council, at which time a Geographic District Presbyter shall be elected by secret ballot to represent the section. This election is to be by a majority vote.

2) One qualified minister shall be elected from each section. (See Article II, ORGANIZATION of Articles of Incorporation).

3) The members of the District Presbytery so elected by each Section shall be affirmed by the Executive Presbyters by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

4) In the event a Geographic District Presbyter is elected to the Executive Presbytery at the District Council meeting, the Geographic Assistant District Presbyter shall become the Geographic District Presbyter for that section. In the event that there is no Geographic Assistant District Presbyter, that section shall have the right of initiative to caucus so as to elect another qualified candidate for Geographic District Presbyter.

5) The term of office for Geographic District Presbyters shall be for two years, they shall take office immediately following the next annual District Council.

6) Ministers who are elected to the office of Geographic District Presbyter shall be at least 26 years of age and shall have been ordained no less than three years and of mature experience and ability. This minister shall have resided in and been a member of the Minnesota District for at least one year.

7) In the event a Geographic District Presbyter is unable to attend a duly called session of the District Presbytery, by reason of illness or any other emergency, the Geographic Assistant District Presbyter shall be able to attend as an alternate. They shall have all the rights and privileges of a Geographic District Presbyter. The Geographic District Presbyter shall inform the District Secretary that an alternate shall attend in their place.

8) It is recommended that each Geographic District Presbyter shall not serve more than two consecutive terms and it is advised that the Geographic District Presbyter be considered ineligible for re-election for at least two years following

the completion of the second consecutive two-year term. If a section does not have an eligible candidate they may waive the term limit for that year.

- 9) Honorary Presbyters and Auditors may be appointed at the discretion of the Minnesota District at a duly called District Council.

F) Geographic Assistant District Presbyters.

- 1) Each section with a Geographic Assistant District Presbyter whose term is expiring shall conduct a Section Council prior to the annual District Council, at which time a Geographic Assistant District Presbyter shall be elected by secret ballot. This election is to be by a majority vote.
- 2) This minister shall meet the same qualifications and election procedures as those of Geographic District Presbyter in Article II, Letter E.

G) Non-Geographic District Presbyters and Non-Geographic Assistant District Presbyters.

- 1) To ensure on-going diversity on the District Presbytery, there shall be three presbyters representing non-geographic constituencies: Under 40, Ethnic, and Female.
- 2) Qualifications. The qualifications for each of the Non-Geographic District Presbyters shall be the same as Geographic District Presbyters with the additional qualifications stated below for each position respectively:

Under 40: This presbyter shall be under 40 years of age at the time of election;

Ethnic: This presbyter shall be self-reported with the General Council in any ethnic group category except ethnic code Anglo;

Female: This presbyter shall be a female.

- 3) Duties. Non-Geographical District Presbyters shall be fully voting members of the District Presbytery and the credentialing committee and whose duties will include being available to provide additional support to the credential holders that are represented by their position.
- 4) Nominating Constituency. The nominating constituency for each Non-Geographic Presbyter position shall be limited to ordained, licensed, and certified ministers of the MN District as defined by the qualifications of each Non-Geographic District Presbyter position.

- 5) Nomination. When a term of office is nearing completion, qualified ministers will be contacted electronically no later than January 15 notifying them of their eligibility and presenting them with the duties of the Non-Geographic District Presbytery position. They may at that time choose to withdraw their name from the list indicating they are not willing or able to serve the District in this capacity. All qualified ministers who do not remove their names will be on the list that will be circulated for nominations.
- a) Names of all ministers qualified and willing to serve as Non-Geographic Presbyters shall be presented electronically to the voting constituency for each Non-Geographic Presbyter position no later than February 1. The members of that voting constituency shall provide their nominations of a named minister – to the District Office designee – electronically, by mail, or by any other means deemed acceptable to the Nominations Committee. All nominations shall be submitted by the deadline of April 1. All names which receive five (5) nominations or more will automatically be presented for election at District Council, unless the nominated minister chooses to withdraw their name from consideration.
- b) Where the open nominations procedure (as laid out in Point a) of this Sub-Section) produces fewer than four (4) candidates having received the required number of nominations, the Executive Presbyters shall act as a Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee shall supply a number of additional candidates, as needed, so at least four (4) candidates for each open Non-Geographic Presbyter position are available for the Membership to consider and vote upon (at District Council). The Nominations Committee shall have no right to supply additional candidates where at least four (4) candidates are duly nominated through the open nominations procedures (as laid out in Point a) of this Sub-Section). Further, the Nominations Committee's power to supply additional candidates does not also grant it a right to remove or replace any candidate that is duly nominated in compliance with Point a) of this Sub-Section.
- c) Prior to supplying an additional candidate for consideration for election at District Council, the Nominations Committee shall screen its potential additional candidates. The Nominations Committee's screening of candidates shall:
- i. Ensure that the potential candidate consents to his or her candidacy;
 - ii. Apprise the potential candidate of the responsibilities and duties of the Non-Geographic Presbyter role; and
 - iii. Permit the Nominations Committee to ensure that no other reasons exist why the potential candidate should not be considered as a candidate.
- 6) Election. Each expiring Non-Geographic District Presbytery position will be voted upon at the annual District Council meeting. Election will be by highest number of

votes. A second vote will be conducted, considering the remaining three nominees to determine the Non-Geographic Assistant District Presbyter.

If the individual elected as a Non-Geographic District Presbyter already holds a position as a Geographic District Presbyter, that person will vacate the position representing a section, allowing the Geographic Assistant District Presbyter from that section to fill the vacancy.

- 7) Term of office. Non-Geographic Presbyters shall take office immediately upon election. The term of office shall be the same as Geographic District Presbyters.
- 8) In the event a Non-Geographic District Presbyter is unable to attend a duly called session of the District Presbytery, by reason of illness or any other emergency, the Assistant Non-Geographic District Presbyter shall be able to attend as an alternate. They shall have all the rights and privileges of a Non-Geographic District Presbyter. The Non-Geographic District Presbyter shall inform the District Secretary that an alternate shall attend in their place.

H) General Council Non-Resident Executive Presbyters.

The General Council Executive Presbytery is the Board of Trustees of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

- 1) The District Council, in session, shall cast an open Nominating Ballot allowing for all qualified ministers to be nominated.
- 2) The Teller Committee, in consultation with the District Secretary, shall present the names of the ten (10) ministers who receive the highest number of votes to be balloted on for voting. If there is a tie on the nominating ballot that results in more than ten (10) names qualifying for the electoral ballot, they shall present as many names as possible but not more than ten (10) names for balloting.
- 3) Two nominees shall be selected from the slate presented by a majority vote of the District Council in session. These nominees shall be presented to and balloted upon by the General Council in session.

I) General Council Nonresident Executive Presbyters Additional Representation.

Prior to a General Council, a number of required nominees from the Minnesota District shall be selected so as to fulfill the District's right to nominate Nonresident Presbyter candidates for the General Council's Executive Presbytery. The District has the right to submit up to three nominees for consideration (with final selection of the General Council's Nonresident Presbyters being proffered by the General Council's Executive Presbytery and ratified by the membership present at General Council.) Of the District's three nominees, one nominee must be an ordained pastor under 40 years of age at the time of election; one nominee must be an ordained

female minister (no age requirement); and one nominee must be an ordained African American minister (no age requirement). These nominees shall be selected by the following procedure:

- 1) The Presbytery of the District (or its designate) shall generate a list of all qualified ministers who may be nominated for a General Council Nonresident Presbyter role.
- 2) At least sixty (60) days prior to the deadline for the District's nominations to be submitted to the General Council, all qualified ministers who may be nominated for such a role shall be notified of their right to be nominated.
- 3) All qualified ministers who wish to be considered for nomination shall – within thirty (30) days after having received such notice – give written notice of his or her intent to be considered for nomination. Qualified ministers who fail to give written notice shall, automatically, have their candidacy for nomination revoked.
- 4) After having received all qualified ministers' timely and proper notice of his or her intent to be considered, the Presbytery of the District shall:
 - a) Examine the qualifications of all ministers who have assented to being candidates for nomination; and
 - b) Select a qualified minister to be the District's nominee for the relevant General Council's Nonresident Presbyter role.

The Presbytery of the District (or its designee) shall notify the membership, at District Council, of its nominations.

J) General Presbyters.

The General Presbytery is the official policy making body of the General Council of the Assemblies of God when the General Council is not in session.

The District Superintendent and District Secretary shall serve on the General Presbytery by virtue of their office. The third General Presbyter shall be an ordained pastor of a church or an ordained minister serving in an Assemblies of God ministry located in the District. They shall be elected using the following procedure:

- 1) The District Council in session shall cast an open Nominating Ballot allowing for all qualified pastors to be nominated.
- 2) The Teller Committee, in consultation with the District Secretary, shall present the names of the ten (10) pastors who receive the highest number of votes to be balloted on for election. If there is a tie on the nominating ballot that results in more than ten (10) names qualifying for the electoral ballot, they shall present as many names as possible but not more than ten (10) names for balloting.
- 3) The third General Presbyter shall be elected by a majority vote of the District Council in session, for a two (2) year term. They shall take office immediately upon election.

The Assistant District Superintendent if not elected as a General Presbyter shall, by virtue of office, is authorized to audit the General Presbyters' meetings.

K) Other Section Officers and Representatives.

- 1) Election Procedure. All Section Officers and Representatives shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present at the Annual Section Council, by secret ballot. A two-thirds majority vote on the nomination ballot shall constitute an election. Their term of office shall be for two Section council years.
- 2) Qualifications for Election. Each position shall be filled by a minister of the Section or a qualified lay person in good standing in a local Assemblies of God Church.
- 3) Elected Positions:
 - a) Section Secretary-Treasurer

L) Vacancies.

- 1) Executive Officers. In the event that a vacancy should occur, the District Presbytery shall, within 60 days of the vacancy, call a special District Council for the purpose of filling the vacated office in the original manner. Any portion of a term that has not expired may be added to a full term so as to not disrupt the rotation of terms.
- 2) Executive Presbyters. Vacancies, for any cause, shall be filled by nomination in the original manner, and ratified by the District Council. Should an Executive Presbyter move from their area or cease to be a pastor, their office shall be considered vacated.
- 3) Geographic and Non-Geographic District Presbyters. Vacancies, for any cause, shall be filled by the Assistant District Presbyter according to Article III, Section H, Subsection 1. In the event that there is no Assistant Presbyter, elections shall be in the original manner as delineated in Article II, Section E for Geographic District Presbyters and in Article II, Section G for Non-Geographic District Presbyters. Should a Geographic District Presbyter move from their section, their office shall be considered vacated. Should a Non-Geographic District Presbyter move from Minnesota, their office shall be considered vacated.
- 4) General Presbyters.
 - a) In the event the third (Ordained Pastor) General Presbyter shall move out of the District or shall vacate his office for any reason, the District Presbytery shall appoint a member of the District, provided they meet the ordinary

BYLAWS

requirements for General Presbyters, to serve as a General Presbyter until that office is regularly filled at the next meeting of the District Council.

- b) In the event a General Presbyter of the District is unable to attend a duly called session of the General Presbytery, by reason of illness or any other emergency, the District Presbytery shall have the right to select an alternate, provided they meet the ordinary requirements for General Presbyters. They shall have all rights and privileges of a regularly elected General Presbyter. The District shall present certification of an alternate to the General Secretary no later than the opening session of the General Presbytery.
- 5) Other District Elected Positions. Vacancies in any other area, for any cause, shall be filled in the original manner.

ARTICLE III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

A) Duties of the Executive Officers.

- 1) By virtue of office the Executive Officers shall serve on the Executive Presbytery.
- 2) The Executive Officers and their successors shall be empowered to negotiate, consummate, and execute documents affecting real estate owned by the Minnesota District, when so authorized by the Presbytery.
- 3) To be ex-officio members of all committees.

B) Duties of the District Superintendent.

- 1) To represent the Minnesota District as a General Presbyter.
- 2) To serve as President and Chief Executive Officer of the corporation in all legal matters.
- 3) To preside at District Council meetings.
- 4) To preside at all meetings of the Presbytery and to receive all communications directed to that body.
- 5) To be the head of the District Office, and to supervise the work of that office.
- 6) To be a member of the North Central University Board of Regents.
- 7) To be a member of the Institute for Ministry Development Board of Regents.
- 8) Act as field representative of the World Missions Committee.

- 9) To perform any function usual and customary for the presiding officer, or such as may be directed by the Executive Presbyters, District Presbytery or the Minnesota District Council.

C) Duties of the Assistant District Superintendent.

- 1) To serve as the Vice President of the corporate body.
- 2) To preside at meetings in the absence of the District Superintendent.
- 3) To assist the District Superintendent in the supervision of the District and to perform any functions under the supervision of the District Superintendent or such as may be directed by the Executive Presbyters, District Presbytery or the Minnesota District Council.

D) Duties of the District Secretary.

- 1) To make and keep accurate records of the proceedings of the District Council and publish the same as approved and directed by the Presbytery.
- 2) To be the custodian of the official seal.
- 3) To keep records of all ministers and churches in the District.
- 4) To serve as Secretary of the Presbytery.
- 5) To be authorized to sign all official and legal documents.
- 6) To perform any functions as are customary, or as may be directed by the District Superintendent, Executive Presbyters, District Presbytery, or the Minnesota District Council.

E) Duties of the District Treasurer.

- 1) To serve as Chief Financial Officer of the corporation.
- 2) To be the custodian of all District funds.
- 3) To keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements.
- 4) To give periodic reports as requested by the Presbytery.
- 5) To submit a financial report at the annual District Council.
- 6) To submit financial records for annual auditing.

- 7) To provide oversight and management over all District investments and investment activity.
- 8) To be required to furnish a bond as requested by the Presbytery.
- 9) To perform any functions as are customary to the office as may be directed by the District Superintendent, Executive Presbyters, District Presbytery, or the Minnesota District Council.

F) Duties of Executive Presbyters.

- 1) By virtue of office the Executive Presbytery shall serve on the District Presbytery.
- 2) When the District Presbytery is not in session the Executive Presbytery shall act as a Board of Trustees on behalf of the Minnesota District.
- 3) A majority of Executive Presbyters assembled for a meeting shall constitute a quorum.
- 4) To execute District policy established by the Minnesota District in session and interpreted by the District Presbytery.
- 5) To make decisions on matters of business between meetings of the District Presbytery in accordance with the District Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.
- 6) To be amenable to the District Presbytery. Copies of their Minutes shall be provided to the District Presbytery. All decisions shall be final unless reversed by the District Presbytery.
- 7) To meet a minimum of bimonthly.
- 8) To set the time and place for all District meetings.

G) Duties of District Presbyters.

- 1) The District Presbytery is comprised of the Executive Officers, the Non-Officer Executive Presbyters, a Presbyter from each section, and the Non-Geographic Presbyters described in Article II, Section G.
- 2) The District Presbytery shall act as a Board of Trustees on behalf of the Minnesota District in all matters pertaining to the business of the Minnesota District or concerning its property, assets or liabilities and in the conduct and management of its property and business affairs and also in the management, transfer, sale or mortgaging of any property, real or personal, held in the name of the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God in trust or for the benefit

of any local church; except as may be otherwise provided in these Bylaws or the Articles of Incorporation of the said corporation. When the District Presbytery is not in session the Executive Presbytery shall act as a Board of Trustees on behalf of the Minnesota District.

- 3) A majority of District Presbyters assembled for a meeting shall constitute a quorum.
- 4) To act for the Minnesota District in all matters that affect its interests and shall make reports to the members of the Minnesota District. All decisions shall be final unless reversed at a District Council.
- 5) To appoint the departmental directors from the nominees submitted by the Executive Presbyters.
- 6) To conduct business meetings of the ministers of their section.
- 7) For Geographic District Presbyters only, to conduct the annual Section Council.
- 8) To be available to conduct church business meetings in their section.

H) Duties of Assistant District Presbyters.

- 1) Should a Geographic or Non-Geographic District Presbyter become unable to complete their term for any reason, the corresponding Geographic or Non-Geographic Assistant District Presbyter shall serve out the unexpired term.
- 2) For Geographic Assistant District Presbyters only, to preside at Section meetings in the absence of the Geographic District Presbyter and to assist the Geographic District Presbyter in the supervision of section activities.

I) Duties of the Section Secretary-Treasurer.

- 1) To make and keep accurate records of all Section business meetings.
- 2) To provide clerical assistance as the Section constituency deems necessary.
- 3) To receive and disperse Section funds.
- 4) To prepare an annual financial report for the District Office, ministers, and churches of the section.

ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES**A) Administrative Committees.**

- 1) Minnesota District Credentials Committee. The District Presbytery shall serve as the members of this committee and shall have the authority to examine, approve, and recommend candidates who qualify as Certified Ministers, Licensed Ministers, and Ordained Ministers. These recommendations shall be forwarded to the General Council Credentials Committee who shall give final approval and issue the proper ministerial credential.
- 2) Minnesota District World Missions Committee. The District Presbytery shall serve as the members of this committee and shall have the authority to administer the District Missions Program as it pertains to Home and Foreign Missions.

B) Standing Committees. Standing Committees may be established by the District Superintendent, Presbytery, or the Minnesota District in session. Committee members shall be appointed by the District Superintendent in cooperation with the Executive Presbytery. These committees shall provide information to the Minnesota District necessitating periodic meetings to research and report concerning their assignment.

C) District Council Committees. The District Superintendent in cooperation with the Executive Presbytery shall establish and appoint committees to expedite the functions of an Annual District Council. These committees shall include the areas of Parliamentarian, Program, Resolutions, Roster, Tellers, and any other area that the District Superintendent deems necessary. These committees shall cease to exist upon the conclusion of the District Council they were appointed for.

D) Lake Geneva Christian Center Committees. The District Superintendent in cooperation with the Executive Presbytery shall establish and appoint committees to expedite the functions of Lake Geneva Christian Center. These committees shall include the areas of Camp Ministry, Youth Camp, and any other area that the District Superintendent deems necessary.

E) Special Committees. Special Committees may be established by the District Superintendent, Presbytery, or the Minnesota District in session. Committee members shall be appointed by the District Superintendent in cooperation with the District (or Executive) Presbytery. They shall serve for a designated time or until their assignment is accomplished.

ARTICLE V. SECTIONS

A) Section Designations. The Minnesota District Presbytery shall designate the geographical boundaries of all geographical Sections and shall create a language / ethnic Section whenever there are at least ten (10) churches that qualify to be a part of a language / ethnic section in the Minnesota District.

B) Section Councils.

- 1) Each section shall hold a Section Council prior to the Annual District Council before the end of the month of March, pursuant to a call by the Section Officers. Notice of such meeting is to be mailed or digitally mailed to all churches and qualified ministers in the section 14 days in advance of the meeting by the Section secretary.
- 2) The voting constituency at a Section Council shall be all members of the Minnesota District Council holding a Fellowship Certificate who are currently ministering in the Section. Provision is also made for credentialed ministers not ministering in a local church who are either living or worshipping in the section. A minister shall have voting rights in only one section.

Churches affiliated with the General Council and/or the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God shall also be entitled to one voting delegate who shall present to the Section Secretary a letter of appointment signed by their pastor or board secretary.

All qualified ministers and delegates present and registered shall be eligible to vote.

- 3) The purpose of this council shall be to:
 - a) Elect a District Presbyter and an Assistant District Presbyter;
 - b) Nominate a qualified minister for Non-Officer Executive Presbyter, on the year their Section's area is up for election; and
 - c) Elect a Section Secretary-Treasurer.

C) Section Meetings.

- 1) Each section is expected to hold periodic meetings of the membership of the section for the purpose of fellowship and to conduct whatever business the Section Officers deem necessary.
- 2) Each section shall have the right to solicit from its members dues to off-set the cost of Section mailings and other related expenses.

ARTICLE VI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

A) General Council Affiliated Assemblies.

- 1) Procedure for Recognition. All District Council Affiliated Assemblies who fulfill the following qualifications and desire to become a General Council Affiliated Assembly shall follow the procedure as outlined in General Council Bylaws Article VI Assemblies, Section 1. Procedure for Affiliation.
- 2) Qualifications for Recognition.
 - a) Minimum Membership. An active voting membership of not less than 20 persons.
 - b) Statement of Fundamental Truths. An acceptance of the Assemblies of God Tenets of Faith. (See District Articles of Incorporation Article IX).
 - c) Acceptable Standards of Membership. A scriptural standard of membership determined by the local assembly.
 - d) Acceptable Standards for Pastoral Leadership. Make provision for a pastor who is a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council and /or a District Council.
 - e) Acceptable Standards for Church Officers. A scriptural standard for deacons and other officers in positions of leadership in the local assembly. 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) or in the case of domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (Psalms 11:5; 146:5-9; Proverbs 6:16; Isaiah 1:16-17; Ephesians 4:1-3, 31-32; Ephesians 5).
 - f) Incorporation and Bylaws. 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 Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws acceptable to the District.
 - g) Membership Certificate. Upon notification by the District of the action, the General Secretary's office shall issue a certificate of affiliation to each church coming into the Fellowship, and which has been approved for General Council Affiliation.

3) Prerogatives and Privileges.

- a) **Autonomy.** The right of self-government under Jesus Christ its living Head, which includes the power to choose or call its pastor, elect its official board, and transact all other business pertaining to its life as a local assembly.
- b) **Limits to Autonomy.** While the fact that a local assembly is affiliated in the association of a District Council or the General Council of the Assemblies of God shall in no wise destroy its rights as above stated or interfere with its autonomy, there are certain responsibilities to the Fellowship that should be recognized.
 1. **Adherence to General Council Principles and Doctrine.** It shall be the duty of local assemblies to support by every means possible the basic principles upon which the Fellowship is founded, including that of "voluntary cooperation," and strict adherence to the Statement of Fundamental Truths.
 2. **Maintenance of Scriptural Order and Conduct.** Local assemblies shall accept their full share of responsibility for the maintenance of Scriptural order in the local body, and uphold a Scriptural standard of conduct.
- c) **Available Ministries.** The local assembly is encouraged to request the assistance of the District Officiary in filling a pastoral vacancy.
- d) **Discipline.** The local assembly has the right to administer discipline to its members according to the scriptures and its bylaws.
- e) **Property.**
 1. The Local Assembly has the right to acquire and hold title to property, either through trustees or in its corporate name as a self-governing unit.
 2. In case the congregation should cease to exist as a church body and ceases to use its property for church purposes, then the property is to revert to and become the property of the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God. Moneys received (after all debts have been paid) from the sale of closed church properties shall be deposited in the restricted Home Missions Fund.
 3. In case the congregation should be divided over doctrinal or any other issues, or shall vote to disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God, all property and assets of the assembly shall remain with those members, whatever their number, desiring continued affiliation with the Assemblies of God and adhering to its Statement of Fundamental Truths. The determination of which group of members desires continued affiliation with the Assemblies

of God and adheres to its Statement of Fundamental Truths shall be decided by the District Presbytery of the Minnesota District, and its decision shall be final and binding. If all of the members of the local assembly shall vote to disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God for doctrinal or any other reasons, then the ownership of property and assets shall be determined by the mutual efforts of the assembly and the District Presbytery.

Any and all unresolved questions regarding property and assets shall be determined through a mediation process--one mediator chosen by the representative(s) of the assembly, one by the District Presbytery, and the third mediator chosen with the approval of the representative(s) of the assembly and the District Presbytery. If the assembly does not participate in the mediation process, then all matters in question will be referred to the District Presbytery for final disposition.

f) Appeal.

1. To District Officer. The pastor, the board, or the church body by petition has the right to appeal to the District Officer for help when in need of counsel or advice.
2. To District Presbytery. The local assembly has the right to appeal a decision by the District Officer to the District Presbytery of the Minnesota District of the Assemblies of God when there is a question whether or not the assembly has received proper help from the District Officer.
3. To General Council Executive Presbytery. The local assembly has the right to appeal a decision by the District Officer 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.
4. To General Council General Presbytery. When exceptions are taken to the decisions of the Executive Presbytery, either by the local assembly or by the District Presbytery, appeal may be made to the General Presbytery. Their decision shall be final.

g) Representation. The right to be represented at all General and Minnesota District Councils by one officially appointed and registered delegate. See General Council Constitution Article VII, Section 3 and Minnesota District Articles of Incorporation Article VIII.

4) Responsibilities.

a) World Missions Policy. See Article VIII, D) Local Assemblies.

- b) Annual Reports. Each church of the Assemblies of God shall be requested to keep an up-to-date record of its membership and a report of the same shall be sent annually, on forms provided, to the office of the District Secretary and the General Council Secretary.
 - c) Safeguarding the Assemblies.
 - 1. Pastors and leaders of assemblies should make proper investigation regarding 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 since the use of non-Assemblies of God ministers may bring confusion and problems detrimental to the Fellowship.
 - 2. 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.
 - d) Transfer of Local Church Membership.
 - 1. 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.
 - 2. It is recommended that the receiving church shall give an acknowledgment of transfer to the former church.
 - e) Support. It is recognized that for any organization to survive and serve effectively it must have the moral and financial support of its constituency. The entire District program should be supported by the local assembly and financial support should be according to the policies of the District.
- 5) Intervention of District in a Local Assembly.
- a) Circumstances Requiring Intervention. While the right of a local assembly to self-government is a basic General Council principle, it is also recognized that the assembly has a responsibility to the District Council and General Council, and both have a responsibility to the assembly. Some of the circumstances which require intervention by the District Officiary are as follows:
 - 1. Division resulting in disruption
 - 2. Assumption of dictatorial authority by the Pastor or Board

3. Prolonged absence of pastoral leadership
 4. Deviation or departure from Assemblies of God principles and practices
 5. Attempt to disaffiliate from Assemblies of God Fellowship
 6. The inability of the local assembly to provide qualified leadership to be self-governing and/or the inability to sustain financial solvency.
- b) Intervention Procedure. The District has the right to call and conduct a meeting(s) with the board and/or congregation, or the District Officiary may be extended an invitation. This can come about in the following ways:
1. By the request of the Pastor
 2. By action of the Board
 3. By petition of 30% of the voting members of the congregation

The petitioning process and delivery to the District Council should take no more than thirty (30) days in total to complete. When the District Officiary receives such request, 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. District Officers shall respond by investigating problems and, if necessary, recommending remedial actions to the District Executive Presbytery. At its discretion, the District Executive 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 governing entity considers the problem resolved.

- c) District Supervised Church. In the event that the circumstances which require intervention by the District Officiary are not able to be resolved to the satisfaction of the District Officiary in a meeting with the Board and/or congregation, the District Officiary, with the unanimous ratification of the Executive Presbyters and the District Presbyter of the section, shall be authorized to place that local assembly under District Supervision as a "District Supervised Church." A District Supervised Church is defined as a church that has come under District supervision by their own act or at the initiative of the District Officiary, with the unanimous ratification of the Executive Presbyters and the District Presbyter of the section. The process and procedure of the supervision of such a District Supervised Church shall be conducted according to the guidelines established by the Executive Presbytery which are contained in the *Minnesota District Operations Manual*.

- 6) Discipline of Assemblies. Since the approval of an assembly is the prerogative of the District and General Councils, and is indicated by the issuance of appropriate certificates of affiliation, the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God has the right to request a meeting with the assembly if for some valid reason its status is in question. The General Council of the Assemblies of God has the right to withdraw its certificate of membership if deemed necessary.
 - 7) New 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. The District should seek to retain any meritorious group within the Assemblies of God within the bounds of ethical principles, sound doctrine, and District policy.
 - b) Status of minister. Circumstances of the occasion would determine whether the minister should be disciplined or denied ministry in either the original church or the dissident group or even residency in the area where the division occurred. If a minister is guilty of inappropriate conduct resulting in a split and/or an attempt to disaffiliate with the Assemblies of God, the District Presbytery shall deal appropriately with him as provided in Article X., Section 3, of the General Council Bylaws.
 - 8) Private Ownership of Church Properties Disapproved. The General Council disapproves of the ownership of any church properties by other than the entire church body through its duly elected trustees.
 - 9) Guidelines for Minimal Membership for General Council Affiliated Assemblies. When the membership of a General Council affiliated church falls below 20 active voting members, it shall seek the assistance of the District Officiary for help in maintaining the minimal requirement for General Council affiliation. If after 1 year the minimal number of 20 members is not attained the church shall revert to District Council affiliated status, unless an exception has been granted by the district in accordance with the provisions of General Council Constitution Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (3). The church shall remain in a District Council affiliated status until it again meets the standard for affiliation as a General Council affiliated church as provided for in Article XI, Section 1 of the General Council Constitution.
- B) District Council Affiliated Assemblies.
- 1) Procedure for Recognition. It shall be the responsibility for the District Officiary to determine when a District Home Missions Assembly has reached a state of growth, stability, and maturity qualifying it for affiliation with the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God. All aspects of this Assembly shall be the same

as those outlined in Bylaws Article VI Local Assemblies, A. General Council Affiliated Assemblies, except as otherwise noted in this portion of the Bylaws.

2) Qualification for Recognition.

- a) Membership of Less than 20 Persons. A District Council Affiliated Assembly is one that has less than 20 active, voting members. The fact that an assembly shall have attained a membership of 20 or more active voting members shall not in itself qualify it for General Council Affiliation status, but the District Officiary shall make the judgment in the light of other factors related to its maturity.
- b) Other Requirements. A District Council Affiliated Assembly must be capable of being self-governing and financially solvent.

3) Prerogatives and Privileges.

- a) Request for Help from the District Officiary. The pastor, the board, or the church body by petition has the right to appeal to the District Officiary for help when in need of council or advice. Their decision shall be final.
- b) Representation. The right of representation at any meeting of the members of the Minnesota District by an officially appointed and registered delegate. District Council Churches are presumed to be represented at a General Council by their pastors, provided that the pastor is a Member of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- c) Certificate of Affiliation. A certificate of affiliation will be issued by the Minnesota District Council to an assembly that qualifies for District Council Affiliation.

4) Guidelines for Minimal Requirements for District Council Affiliated Assemblies. When the membership of a District Council affiliated church falls below 20 active voting members and it is no longer capable of being self-governing and/or financially solvent, it shall seek the assistance of the District Officiary for help in maintaining the minimal requirement for District Council affiliation. If after 1 year the minimal requirements are not attained the church shall revert to District Home Missions status. The church shall remain in a District Home Missions status until it again meets the standard for affiliation as a District Council affiliated church as provided for in Article VI, Letter B of these Bylaws. An application for same shall be filed with the District secretary and approved by the District Presbytery.

C) Parent Affiliated Assemblies. A Parent Affiliated Assembly is defined as a church which is under the supervision of a parenting church. A Parent Affiliated Assembly shall be governed in accordance with the parenting church's Articles of Incorporation, Constitution (if any) and Bylaws.

D) District Home Missions Assemblies.

- 1) Definition. All new and existing works that are not capable of being self-governing and/or financially solvent within the District. Any new work started during the decade of the 1990's shall also be known as a Decade of Harvest Church
- 2) Structure.
 - a) The Pastor. The pastor is to be appointed by the District HM Steering Committee, from recommendations by the Section HM committee, and ratified by the District Executive Presbytery, usually for a 3-year period, and reviewed annually.
 - b) The Official Board. The Official Board shall consist of the Pastor, a representative from the Parent Church/Primary Partner Leadership, a representative from the District Church Health Team, the Section Presbyter or a representative appointed by him and any other additional representatives approved by the Official Board.
 - c) The Advisory Committee. The official board may at its discretion appoint 3 to 5 regular attendees of the Assembly to act in an advisory capacity to the pastor and help the pastor with the day-to-day management of the church.
- 3) Prerogatives and Privileges.
 - a) Incorporation. All District Home Missions Assemblies shall be incorporated as early as possible with guidance from the District Officers.
 - b) Trustees. The Official Board shall act as trustees of the Assembly and have General oversight of the assembly.
 - c) Title to the Property. The Title to the property of a District Home Missions Assembly shall be held by the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God, unless in the judgment of the Executive Presbytery the church is qualified to hold title to its property. In case the congregation should cease to exist as a church body and/or ceases to use its property for church purposes, then the property is to revert to and become the property of the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God.
 - d) Representation. District Home Missions Churches are presumed to be represented at a General Council and/or District Council by their pastors, provided that the pastor is a Member of the General and/or Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God.

4) Responsibilities.

- a) Monthly Reports. District Home Missions Assemblies shall send monthly reports to the District Presbyter and the District Office.
- b) Progress in Status. District Home Missions Assemblies are expected to progress in maturity and growth so as to be able to petition to become District Council Affiliated Assemblies.

ARTICLE VII. MINISTRY

- A) 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.

Three classifications of ministry are recognized and transferable among all Assemblies of God districts: the ordained minister, the licensed minister, and the certified minister.

All ordained, licensed, and certified ministers holding current ministerial credentials are authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church in accordance with applicable federal or state laws, providing that credentials are registered with a county in Minnesota. Those holding a local church credential are authorized as provided below.

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 nontransferable (limited to the issuing local church) and shall be limited to two (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.

No other classification of ministry shall be recognized other than those described in this section.

- B) Basic Qualifications. The following qualifications pertain to applicants for ministerial recognition:
- 1) Salvation and Baptism. Testimony to having experienced the new birth (John 3:5) and to having been baptized in water by immersion (Matt. 28:19).

- 2) Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Testimony to having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues according to Acts 2:4. The Spirit-filled life will enable a minister to fulfill the fourfold mission of the church.
- 3) Evidence of call. Clear evidence of a divine call to the ministry, evidenced by a personal conviction, confirmed by the work of the Spirit and the testimony of fellow ministers.
- 4) Christian character. A blameless Christian life and a good report of those who are without (Titus 1:7; 1 Timothy 3:7).
- 5) Doctrinal position. A thorough understanding of and agreement with our doctrinal position as contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.
- 6) Assemblies of God polity. A satisfactory working knowledge of the principles, practices, and purposes of the Fellowship through a study of the General Council and Minnesota District Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.
- 7) Voluntary Cooperation and Commitment to the Fellowship. An active loyalty to our constitutional agreements, a cooperative spirit, and a readiness to seek and receive the counsel of older mature Christians and those in positions of authority (Proverbs 11:14).

By voluntary it is meant that, upon learning the principles, doctrines, and practices of the Assemblies of God, and by seeing the benefits to be derived from being associated with such an organization, persons of their own free choice decide to become members, thus subscribing to all that for which the organization stands.

For the minister, by cooperation, it is meant, to the best of one's ability, complying with all decisions setting forth and defining duties and responsibilities incumbent upon members of the organization. It includes active participation and respect for the will of the majority expressed through constitutional process.

Hence, for the minister, voluntary cooperation means that when the minister decides to become a cooperating member of the Assemblies of God, this cooperation and participation thereby becomes obligatory and not optional.

- 8) Basic educational requirements. No specific level of formal academic achievement (diploma or degree) shall be a requirement for credentials; credential applicants shall meet the following criteria:
 - a) All applicants are required to be interviewed by the Minnesota District Credentials Committee and, in preparation for the interview, pass a standard

- exam approved by the General Presbytery whereby they demonstrate knowledge of the Bible, Assemblies of God doctrines, and ministerial practices, unless an exception is granted by the General Council Credentials Committee or permitted by the General Presbytery policy; and either:
- b) Successfully complete courses, prescribed by the General Presbytery, offered in correspondence through Global University of the Assemblies of God, or pass the final examinations in the prescribed courses; or
 - c) Successfully complete equivalent training to that indicated above, preferably, in an endorsed Assemblies of God post-secondary school; or in a seminary, college, Bible college, or school approved by the Minnesota District Credentials Committee consistent with criteria established by the General Council Credentials Committee; or
 - d) Be recommended by the Minnesota District Credentials Committee as qualifying for credentials through self-study and ministerial experience. Such candidates shall have a proven and fruitful ministry of substantial duration. Requests from the Minnesota District for such a candidate shall be presented to the General Council Credentials Committee and may be granted on a case-by-case basis.
- 9) **Mandatory Screening.** All applicants for ministerial credentials shall be screened through a designated screening agency established by the Executive Presbytery. Said screening shall be done by the district council prior to the submission of the application to the office of the general secretary.
- 10) **Marriage Status.** The General Council disapproves of any married persons holding ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God if either marriage partner has a former spouse living, unless the divorce is recognized under one of the following biblical categories:
- a) Recognition of preconversion divorce (2 Corinthians 5:17)
 - b) Recognition of abandonments of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15)
 - c) Recognition of spousal infidelity (Matthew 19:9)
 - d) Recognition of domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (Matthew 18:6, Ephesians 5:28-33, Colossians 3:19)
 - e) Recognition of ecclesiastical annulment – a pronouncement declaring a marriage invalid as hereinafter provided. In such cases there must be clear and satisfactory evidence of deception or fraud, unknown to the applicant at the time of marriage. Additionally, the lack of consummation or other conditions which have a profound impact preventing the creation of a valid marriage union can constitute an ecclesiastical annulment.
Each case requiring a recognition of divorce or ecclesiastical annulment shall be decided by the Executive Presbytery on an individual basis as to

whether the termination of that marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the Fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials. Appeals of the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the General Presbytery.

- 11) Eligibility of Women. The Scriptures plainly teach that divinely called and qualified women may also serve the church in the ministry of the Word (Joel 2:29; Acts 21:9; 1 Corinthians 11:5). Women who meet the qualifications for ministerial credentials are eligible for whatever grade of credentials their qualifications warrant and have the right to administer the ordinances of the church and are eligible to serve in all levels of church ministry, and/or District and General Council leadership.
- 12) Ministers from Other Organizations. If a minister from another reputable body desires to affiliate with the Assemblies of God, the credentials Committees of both the General Council and the Minnesota District are under no obligation to accept the applicant's previous ministerial status, but will judge each candidate on his or her own merits as to the level of credentials to be granted. Such applicants shall be required to:
 - a) Conform to Assemblies of God criteria for recognition.
 - b) Complete an application for ministerial recognition.
 - c) Submit a letter of recommendation from a neighboring Assemblies of God minister or the sectional presbyter for the applicant's area.
 - d) Submit a recommendation from the body with which the minister was formerly affiliated. If such is not available, letters of recommendation should be sought from three reputable ordained ministers who are familiar with the applicant's ministry, two of whom should be with the applicant's former credentialing body.
 - e) Pass the credential examination.
 - f) Complete such courses as may be prescribed by the General Presbytery for ministers transferring from other credentialing bodies.
 - g) Meet with the District credentials committee for an oral interview.
 - h) Be recommended by the District credentials committee for action by the General Council Credentials Committee.
 - i) All previously ordained ministers so approved shall receive public recognition as ordained Assemblies of God ministers with laying on of hands by the

District Presbytery at the next annual District Council. All other applicants so approved shall receive the appropriate level of credential recognition.

- j) Ministers who receive Assemblies of God credentials will relinquish their ministerial credentials with any other credentialing organization, unless an exception is granted by the General Council Credentials Committee upon recommendation of the Minnesota District Council credentials committee for good cause shown and a clear understanding of the priority of the Assembly of God credential.

C) Specific Qualifications.

- 1) Residency Requirements of Applicants. Applicants for credentials must be residents of or hold credentials in the Minnesota District and appear before its Credentials Committee.
- 2) Local Church Credential. A local church credential shall be administered by the local church pursuant to basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines adopted by the Minnesota District Council. It shall be nontransferable (limited to the issuing local church).
- 3) Certified Minister.
 - a) General Requirements. They shall show promise of usefulness in the gospel work. They shall devote full or part time to Christian ministry and, at the discretion of the Minnesota District Credentials Committee, may remain under the supervision of a pastor or a ministry coach or mentor. They shall show evidence of a divine call and be actively engaged in some aspect of ministry and proclamation of the gospel, except in case of ill health or advanced age.
 - b) Pastoral Requirements. In the event a certified minister is serving in a position as the pastor, he shall be expected to advance to the licensed credential level within 2 years of acceptance of the pastorate. This shall not apply to any minister who has reached the age of 65 or older or whose certificate has been issued on a provisional basis. Any exceptions shall be at the discretion of the Minnesota District Credential Committee.
 - c) Exception for Provisional Issuance. A Certificate of Ministry may be issued on a provisional basis to a person who has not met all the credentialing requirements but who is deemed by the Minnesota District Credentials Committee to be essential to the continuity of a church or a ministry. The reason for such a provisional issuance must be ministry driven, and the justification for its use is terminated when the minister ceases to be involved in the ministry for which it was initially granted, unless he accepts another qualifying assignment. Other limitations are:

1. The ministry certificate on a provisional basis will be issued for 1 year and shall not be renewed more than two times.
 2. A person who has been granted the Certificate of Ministry on a provisional basis must meet the qualifications for a ministry certificate within a 3-year period.
- 4) Licensed Minister. Qualifications for license shall include clear evidence of a divine call, character and preparation suitable for that calling, practical ministry experience, and an evident purpose to devote one's life in service to the proclamation of gospel.
 - 5) Ordained Minister. Qualifications for Ordination are outlined in the New Testament Scriptures (I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9). In addition:
 - a) Applicants must be 23 years of age or older.
 - b) They must have met all the requirements in making application and in completing the prescribed application form.
 - c) No person may be ordained to the ministry until he or she has shown evidence of a divine call and has held a ministry license and has been actively engaged in ministry and proclamation of the gospel for at least 2 full consecutive years immediately prior thereto.
 - d) Residency Requirements of Applicants. Applicants must be residents of or hold credentials in the Minnesota District and appear before its Credentials Committee. The Minnesota District is required to refrain from approving any applicant for ordination who may have been licensed in another District until such licensed minister shall have been a member of the Minnesota District for at least 1 year. If the applicant has not been a member of the Minnesota District for 2 full consecutive years, he must meet the requirements and secure the endorsement of the Officiary of the District in which he was previously licensed, as well as the Minnesota District.
 - e) Exceptions to Requirements. The General Council Credentials Committee, upon request by the Minnesota District Credentials Committee and where exceptional circumstances exist, may waive the requirements for an applicant holding a Ministry License for 2 full consecutive years or being a member of the District in which he is seeking ordination for at least one year.
 - f) In order to maintain active status, ordained ministers shall be actively engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel except for cases of disability, retirement or other valid circumstances as determined by the General Secretary.

D) Senior Ministers. In respect and honor to those ministers who have given years of service to the Fellowship, the term *senior-retired* shall be for those who are sixty-five (65) years of age or older and who have ceased to engage in any regular appointed ministry.

1) Application for Retired Category. Senior-retired status shall be granted only to those ministers who filed a request for such status with the District Office. The District Secretary shall forward annually to the General Secretary of the General Council a list of those ministers who have made these requests.

E) Credentials.

1) Application.

a) The Minnesota District shall have the authority to examine, approve, and recommend candidates who qualify as certified ministers, licensed ministers, and ordained ministers. The applications of the approved candidates shall be forwarded to the General Council Credentials Committee for final approval and issuance of the appropriate credential.

b) Each applicant for ministerial recognition shall obtain from the District Office an application packet, which when completed shall be mailed to the District Secretary not later than the deadline date established by the District Secretary.

c) Upon receiving completed application materials, the District Secretary shall arrange for the applicant to meet with the Credentials Committee for an interview.

2) Ordination and Credentialing Service. The Ordination and Credentialing Service for those approved for credentials shall take place at the Annual District Council. Exceptions may be granted by the Credentials Committee when special conditions warrant.

3) Status.

a) Active. Active ministry requires that an Ordained, Licensed or Certified Minister must be actively engaged in ministry and proclamation of the gospel except for cases of disability, retirement or other valid circumstances as determined by the General Secretary.

b) Ministers with Disabilities. Ministers with permanent disability or illness, which prevents them from engaging in active ministry, shall be indicated as disabled. The credential status of the minister shall remain unchanged. The annual renewal of his or her credentials shall take place in the regular

manner. Ministers with disabilities thus approved by their district shall not have further obligation of financial support to the General Council.

4) Transfers.

- a) Any minister moving into the District from another District shall request a transfer from the Secretary of the former District.
- b) When a minister takes up residence in another District, a Certificate of Transfer shall be issued within sixty days by the District Secretary, unless there are definite charges pending.
- c) Exceptions. (Refer to General Council Bylaws, Article VII, MINISTRY, Section 9, Transfer of Credentials).

5) Renewals. All ministers shall be required to fill out a questionnaire annually in order to renew their fellowship certificate.

- a) **Expiration Date.** All fellowship certificates are valid 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.
- b) **Grace Period Until January 15.** All who shall have failed to renew their fellowship certificates on or before December 31, or who shall have failed to indicate their purpose to do so, shall be considered as delinquent and shall be required to pay a late fee of \$ 50.00 up until January 15.
- c) **Reinstatement Required After January 15.** Ministers who have not renewed by January 15 shall be recorded as lapsed as of the expiration date of December 31. They must make application for reinstatement and pay a \$ 100.00 fee in order to be reinstated.

F) Ministerial Accountability.

- 1) All ministers residing in the District shall be amenable to the Minnesota District in matters of doctrine and conduct.
- 2) All ministers residing in the Minnesota District shall be expected to affiliate with the Minnesota District, to work, and to cooperate with the same, except as noted in General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 8, letter b and Section 9, letter a.
- 3) When an assembly calls a pastor, a District Official shall be invited to conduct an installation service.

- 4) All ministers of the Minnesota District Council who resign from a pastorate shall send a copy of their resignation to the District Office for their assistance in locating him in another pastorate. The assembly secretary shall notify the District Headquarters upon a vacancy in the pastorate for the cooperation of the District in filling the vacancy in a satisfactory manner to the church and District.
- 5) Any pastor leaving his charge shall give at least thirty (30) days notice thereof, both to his church and the District Office. In case a pastor fails to be re-elected at the end of his term of office, the District Council recommends that he shall receive salary and benefits for up to sixty (60) days or until a new pastorate is located, whichever occurs first.
- 6) With the exception of the elected/appointed pastor, we discourage credentialed ministers from serving as a deacon or trustee of the local assembly.

G) Ministerial Courtesy and Conduct.

- 1) 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 pastor. All correspondence which concerns the assembly as a whole shall be addressed to the pastor in charge and not to private members. Where there is no pastor, letters concerning the work shall be addressed to the officers of the assembly.
- 2) Any minister who so offends shall be subject to Scriptural discipline as an offender by the District Officiary.
- 3) For additional information, refer to the General Council Bylaws Article IX, Doctrines and Practices Disapproved.

H) Causes for Disciplinary Action.

- 1) The District Presbytery shall administer discipline upon a complaint filed in writing with the District Superintendent by the complainant, and after a proper hearing of the case, the party found guilty shall be disfellowshipped and his name dropped from the roster or removed from office. At least two-thirds vote of the District Presbytery shall be necessary to discipline members of the Minnesota District.
- 2) Violations of Assemblies of God principles as stated in these Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws may give cause for disciplinary action by the Credentials Committee. Among such causes for action, whether committed in person or digitally, shall be:

(Refer to the General Council Bylaws, Article X, Discipline, for additional information)

- a) Sexual Misconduct.
 - 1. Moral transgression involving sexual misconduct
 - 2. Moral transgression involving pornography

- b) Financial Misconduct.
 - 1. Immoral, unethical, or illegal practices related to personal finances
 - 2. Immoral unethical, or illegal practices related to church or ministry finances.

- c) Relational/Ethical Misconduct.
 - 1. Blatant misrepresentation of our Pentecostal testimony
 - 2. A declared open change in doctrinal views
 - 3. A contentious or noncooperative spirit.
 - 4. An assumption of dictatorial authority over an assembly.
 - 5. An arbitrary rejection of counsel from District Leadership.
 - 6. Violations of ministerial courtesy or ethics (See GC Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 8).
 - 7. An improper attitude toward those dismissed from the Fellowship (See GC Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 10).
 - 8. General inefficiency in the ministry.
 - 9. Moral or ethical transgression other than sexual misconduct.
 - 10. Ministry in a non-Assemblies of God church without proper approval from district leadership (See GC Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 0.)
 - 11. A marriage in violation of our standards for either a recognized divorce or a biblical marriage (See GC Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 9).

- d) Substance Use and Abuse.

Violations of General Council Bylaws Article IX. Doctrines and Practices Disapproved, Paragraph B, Section 14. Substance Usage, including:

 - 1. Use or abuse of alcohol or recreational drugs
 - 2. Abuse or addiction involving other legal substances
 - 3. Use, abuse or addiction involving other illegal substances.

Notwithstanding the above, when more than seven (7) years have elapsed from an occurrence that is cause for disciplinary action, a district credentials committee may recommend to the General Council Credentials Committee that no discipline be administered when, in view of all the circumstances, it would appear that such discipline would serve only as punitive in nature rather than restorative. In all such cases, final determination shall be made by General Council Credentials Committee.

ARTICLE VIII. WORLD & U.S. MISSIONS

- A) General Statement. It is the purpose of the Minnesota District Council to cooperate with the programs of both the Assemblies of God World Missions (AGWM) and the Assemblies of God U.S. Missions ("AGUSM") divisions of the General Council of the

Assemblies of God. The Minnesota District shall be responsible for the implementation of the District Missions Program.

B) Missions Finances

- 1) The District Presbytery shall have the responsibility of oversight of all contributions given for AGWM or AGUSM efforts within the Minnesota District's jurisdiction. These funds are to be sent to the District Secretary/Treasurer, earmarked to be used only as designated by the District Presbyter or (to the extent legally permissible) by the donor.

C) District World & U.S. Missions Committee

- 1) The District World & U.S. Missions Committee shall operate as a committee of the District Presbytery. This Committee shall administer the District Missions Program, as it pertains to AGWM and AGUSM requirements and efforts.
- 2) The District World & U.S. Mission Committee shall adhere to the duties outlined in any relevant AGWM or AGUSM policy documents.
- 3) Where charged by either the District Superintendent or the District Presbytery (directly), the District World & U.S. Missions Committee shall develop recommendations on how contributions restricted for global and local missional uses (received by the District) should be dispersed.
- 4) Committee Structure
 - a) The District World & U.S. Missions Committee shall be comprised of:
 - A District Missions Director (acting as Chair); and
 - The District Superintendent.
 - b) The District Missions Director shall be appointed by the District Superintendent (subject to District Presbytery ratification).
 - c) The District Missions Director may appoint any additional credentialed ministers who shall serve as District World & U.S. Missions Committee members. The District Superintendent, in his or her sole discretion, shall have the right to reject any appointment of an otherwise qualified minister to serve on the District World & U.S. Missions Committee.

D) Local Assemblies.

- 1) General Statement. We believe missional efforts – both globally and locally - to be an essential part of the program for the New Testament Church. In order to support and develop the work and ministries of the Assemblies of God at home and abroad, all local churches (subject to the Minnesota District Council of the

Assemblies of God's jurisdiction) are encouraged to send offerings at regular intervals – which shall be credited to the local assembly's Total Giving credit.

2) Assemblies of God Total Giving Credit.

a) Assemblies of God Total Giving recognition provides credit to local churches for contributions to the Fellowship Partners plan, for support of:

- AGWM;
- AGUSM (including benevolences ministries);
- Christian Higher Education (including Assemblies of God educational institutions);
- District Ministries (including but not limited to: Kids', Student, Men's, Women's, Senior Adults, Worship Arts, and Pastoral Care);
- General Administration (of the General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God);
- Other General Council sponsored or approved regional project;
- Other District sponsored or approved projects; and
- A Parent Affiliated Church ("PAC").

In regards to PACs, Total Giving recognizes a local church's "shepherding" a PAC church as a valuable missional effort. In permitting PAC expenses to be counted toward Total Giving, Total Giving recognition for supporting a PAC shall be limited to:

- actually incurred startup costs for setting up the PAC, and
- a maximum of six (6) month's expenses, which may include the cost of:
 - o property (both real and personal, including but not limited to facilities and equipment);
 - o marketing and promotion; and
 - o personnel (pastoral selection and moving expenses).

The District Superintendent (or his or her designee) shall have the inherent right to audit any church's claim of Total Giving Credit for PAC related purposes.

b) Contributions by Local Churches to Projects Outside the Minnesota District. Contributions towards district-approved projects (sponsored by a district other than the Minnesota District) may be eligible for Assemblies of God Total Giving credit. Eligibility for Assemblies of God Total Giving credit requires:

1. District Executive Officers' prior approval; and
2. The contribution (made by the local church) be channeled through the Minnesota District Office or the National Office.

- c) Limitations on Total Giving Credit for Minnesota District-sponsored Projects
 1. Prior to approving a project for Total Giving credit, the Minnesota District shall notify the relevant National Office division or department of the Minnesota District's approval of a given project.
 2. It is understood that no district – including the Minnesota District – may authorize projects for Assemblies of God Total Giving credit where the project was specifically disapproved by the General Council.
- 3) World Missions Plan.
 - a) Be it recommended that: the various world missions projects of the Assemblies of God including but not limited to Speed-the-Light, Light For The Lost, and the Boy's and Girl's Missionary Challenge ("BGMC") – be supported by the local church from the group who represents them (namely, Speed-the-Light supported by middle school and high school-aged youth, BGMC by elementary school-aged children, etc.). Although these World Missions projects reach beyond the scope of Minnesota, they are, however, included under the Minnesota District's Missions Program.
 - b) Be it recommended further that: local churches should consider supporting other projects that foster and further the Assemblies of God's witness and tenets of faith, including (but not limited to): North Central University, Trinity Bible College, Lake Geneva Christian Center, The Woods at Lake Placid Camp, or any District-approved project or ministry.
 - c) So as to give the local assembly recognition for its giving, such offerings to such institutions are encouraged to be channeled through the District Office or the National Headquarters of the Assemblies of God. All such contributions are to be considered over and above recommended support for AGWM and AGUSM.
- 4) Recommended Disbursements. In dispensing funds for World & U.S. missions purposes, it is recommended that local assemblies allocate their missional giving funds in the following matter:
 - 70% to AGWM Missions;
 - 20% to AGUSM Missions;
 - 5% to AGWM (for administrative expenses); and
 - 5% to AGUSM (for administrative expenses).

ARTICLE IX. MINNESOTA CHURCH MULTIPLICATION (“MCM”)

- A) General Statement. Minnesota Church Multiplication (“MCM”) refers, broadly, to all efforts expended toward the establishment of new church ministries in the Minnesota District’s jurisdiction.
- B) Management.
- 1) MCM shall be managed under a Church Multiplication Director, who shall be accountable to the District Superintendent.
- C) Guidelines.
- 1) All church planting efforts within the jurisdiction of the Minnesota District shall adhere to the *MCM Next Steps* document.
 - 2) All those desiring to plant a church ministry, within the jurisdiction of the Minnesota District and in affiliation with the Assemblies of God fellowship, shall contact the Church Multiplication Director.
 - 3) After the new church plant is approved by the Church Multiplication Director, both the Church Multiplication Director and the individual(s) desiring to plant a church ministry within the Minnesota District’s jurisdiction shall notify;
 - i. The Executive Presbyter of the area where the church will be planted; and
 - ii. The Section Presbyter (Geographic or Non-Geographic) of the Section the church will be a part of.
 - 4) After informing the prescribed Presbyters, the individual(s) planting the church ministry shall;
 - a) inform all Assemblies of God pastors and existing churches of the Fellowship in the neighboring communities of the proposed site; and
 - b) seek to work in close cooperation (as much as possible) with such existing church ministries of the general area.
- D) Policies
- 1) It will be the goal of the Section and District for each new church ministry effort to reach a self-governing and self-supporting status within a three to five year period – with the church moving to a General Council Affiliated Assembly status.
 - 2) Obtaining General Council Affiliated Church status shall automatically terminate any management of the local assembly by the District and shall remove the local assembly from requirements for adherence to the *MCM Next Steps* document.

- 3) By right, individuals planting new church ministries in the Minnesota District's jurisdiction shall have the right to raise financial support within all areas of the Minnesota District's jurisdiction.
- 4) In an effort to keep unity within our fellowship, no leaders of a local assembly shall directly recruit a member (or congregant) of another local assembly – except where the consent of the lead pastor of the member's (or congregant's) church has been obtained first.
- 5) Churches or (individuals) that desire to help support a new church ministry effort within the Minnesota District's jurisdiction may send these offerings to the District Office to receive giving credit.

ARTICLE X. DEPARTMENTS

Departments and ministries may be established and administered by the Executive Officers, with the approval of the Executive Presbyters for the purpose of carrying out the ministry and vision of the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God. These departments and ministries, including their structure and operations shall be detailed in a *Minnesota District Operations Manual*. No existing Departments or ministries will be eliminated without the approval of the Presbytery Board.

ARTICLE XI. FINANCES

A) Ministerial Support.

1) Minnesota District.

- a) It shall be required that all Credentialed ministers who are members of the Minnesota District pay 10% of their Ministerial Income (all compensation received for the performance of ministerial duties) or \$600 per year (\$50 per month), whichever is greater, as tithe/dues to the Minnesota District. Out of this amount may be subtracted General Council tithe/dues provided that the minimum amount is still paid to the District.
- b) Where two credentialed ministers are married to each other, the lowest earning spouse of the household shall pay the Minnesota District, as his or her required tithe/dues, the greater of:
 1. 10% of their Ministerial Income (all compensation received for the performance of ministerial duties); or
 2. \$300 per year (\$25 per month).

- c) Ministers of our District who are working in other Districts shall pay a minimum of 5% of their Ministerial Income or \$600 per year (\$50 per month), whichever is greater, as tithe/dues to the Minnesota District. Out of this amount may be subtracted General Council tithe/dues provided that the minimum amount is still paid to the District.
 - d) Ministers from other Districts working among us shall leave 5% of their Ministerial Income derived from the Minnesota District with the Minnesota District.
 - e) Tithe/dues for AGWM Missionaries, U.S. Missionaries, and Chaplains shall be in accordance with the policy established by the General Council Executive Presbytery (General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 8(c)). All AGWM missionaries and U.S. missionaries under national appointment will be expected to contribute 2% of total itineration offerings to the District Office in the Minnesota District.
 - f) Senior-retired ministers (ministers who have ceased to engage in any regular appointed ministry) shall pay a minimum of 10% of their Ministerial Income as dues to the Minnesota District.
 - g) The Minnesota District Council shall pay an amount equal to 5% of each minister's tithe/dues into the MBA account in his or her name, provided that they have paid the minimum tithe/dues required to the Minnesota District.
- 2) Procedure of Accountability.
- a) Failure to fulfill one's minimum financial responsibility to the Minnesota District will result in a minister's credentials not being renewed until the matter is resolved to the satisfaction of the District Officiary.
 - b) Each minister is individually responsible to submit his or her own dues payments to the District.
 - c) In instances of extreme circumstances or hardship, the minister so affected may appeal to the District Officiary for adjustment.
- 3) General Council Support.
- a) Ordained Ministers shall be required to contribute \$25.00 per month, Licensed Ministers shall be required to contribute \$20.00 per month and Certified Ministers will be required to contribute \$10.00 per month to the General Council of the Assemblies of God. This amount may be subtracted from their District tithe/dues, provided that the minimum is still paid, or as an additional amount. Compliance with the above requirements shall be a prerequisite for renewal of credentials of all active ministers. If their

contributions are in arrears, they shall be given the opportunity to meet this deficit with their renewal.

- b) Senior-retired ministers shall not be expected to make financial contributions to the General Council.

B) Church Support.

- 1) Each assembly is requested to faithfully support the financial Programs of the Minnesota District.
- 2) It is recommended that each church send to the General Council at least one offering for each calendar year toward the support of administrative offices of the General Council. This offering shall be called a Fellowship Partnership offering, and it shall be included with the Annual Church Ministries Report. It is suggested that each church's minimal offering be based upon its average Sunday morning attendance. A church averaging less than 50 is asked to send \$25 for the year; less than 100 but more than 50, \$50; less than 250 but more than 100, \$100; less than 500 but more than 250, \$250; less than 1,000 but more than 500, \$500; less than 2,000 but more than 1,000, \$1,000; over 2,000, \$2,000.

C) Minister's Benevolence Fund.

- 1) A Minister's Benevolence Fund shall be available for Minnesota District credential holders who are in good standing, their spouses and dependent children to be used in helping to defray the expenses of illness or death.
- 2) The Executive Presbyters shall periodically review and establish the dollar amount of the benefits offered to those who are hospitalized a minimum of three days or for a death. Normally, no benefit payment shall be given to maternity cases. Special hardship cases shall be reviewed by the Executive Officers.

ARTICLE XII. DISTRICT PROPERTIES

- A) Legal Custodians. The District Presbyters shall be the legal custodians and trustees of all property, real or personal, now owned or hereafter acquired in its name or in the name of its Executive Presbytery, which property may be or become a part of the assets of said District Council.
- B) Titles. All such property, real or personal, now owned or hereafter acquired by the Minnesota District shall be taken, held, possessed, sold, transferred, as signed, mortgaged, or conveyed in the corporate name of the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God.

- C) Sale of Real Property. No real property so owned and held by the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without the same shall have first been recommended and approved by a vote of at least two-thirds of the voting membership of the Minnesota District being present at an annual or special District Council duly called by the District Presbytery for that purpose. Notice of the time and place and object of said meeting shall have been mailed or digitally mailed prior to said meeting. And in making any such conveyance or transfer, the President and Secretary of the Minnesota District shall certify in such instrument of conveyance that the same has been duly recommended and authorized by the Board of the Minnesota District. Such certificate shall be deemed to be conclusive evidence of the facts therein stated.
- D) Sale of Personal Property. Personal property of the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God may be sold, leased, or mortgaged or otherwise transferred or assigned by the proper officers of the Minnesota District, when thereunto duly authorized by the District Presbytery or by its Executive Presbytery.
- E) Purchase of Real and Personal Property. When necessary or expedient or for the best interest of said Minnesota District or any of its member churches, said Minnesota District or its Executive Presbytery may buy or otherwise acquire or hold in trust without designating said trust, in its own corporate name or the name of its Executive Presbytery, as such, any real or personal property and may sell, transfer, mortgage or convey such real or personal property to said local church or to such other person or persons when authorized so to do by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of its Executive Presbytery.
- F) Grandfather Clause. Any property, real or personal, heretofore held in the corporate name of said Minnesota District which may have been heretofore sold, transferred, mortgaged, or conveyed and where said instrument of conveyance has been in substantial compliance with the foregoing, is hereby ratified, confirmed and in all respects approved.

ARTICLE XIII. INSTITUTIONS

- A) Authority. The Minnesota District shall help to establish schools for training of candidates for the ministry and shall cooperate with the General Council in such matters.
- B) Purpose. The Minnesota District shall encourage the establishing and maintaining of homes for children, the aged, retired ministers and missionaries, Christian day schools and Extension schools, and all humanitarian and educational work that shall be for the betterment of mankind.
- C) District Representation. The District Superintendent shall, by virtue of his office, be a member of the Executive Committee of all institutions unless otherwise provided for.

D) North Central University.

- 1) The Minnesota District Council, together with other participating Districts shall share in the administration of the University through its representatives.
- 2) The District Superintendent, shall, by virtue of office, be a member of the Board of Regents.

E) Institute for Ministry Development.

- 1) The Minnesota District Council, together with other participating Districts, shall share in the administration of the Institute through its representatives.
- 2) The District Superintendent shall, by virtue of office, be a member of the Board of Regents.
- 3) A minister and a layman shall be nominated by the District Presbytery and elected by the District Council annually as other members of the Board of Regents. They shall be members in good standing in the Assemblies of God and shall have an interest in Christian education.

ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any regular or special meeting of the Minnesota District by a two-thirds majority vote of all members voting for the amendment.

Since the Minnesota District is a creature of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and subordinate thereto, all changes made by the General Council to its Constitution and Bylaws that directly affect the Minnesota District's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, the District's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws shall automatically be amended to bring it back into conformity without needing to follow the normal amendment procedure.