THE SOUTH CAROLINA DISTRICT COUNCIL BYLAWS

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THE BYLAWS

The South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God
A South Carolina Non-Profit Corporation

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THE BYLAWS

The South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God
A South Carolina Non-Profit Corporation

PREAMBLE

WE BEAR WITNESS that we are a voluntary, cooperative Fellowship of Pentecostal, Spirit-baptized believers from local Pentecostal assemblies of like precious faith throughout the State of South Carolina known as the South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God, a not for profit corporation.

Our purpose is neither to usurp authority over the various assemblies, nor to deprive them of their scriptural and local rights and privileges, but to recognize and promote scriptural methods and order for worship, unity, fellowship, work and witness for God; and to disapprove unscriptural methods, doctrines and conduct, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (*cf*. Ephesians 4:13).

WE BEAR WITNESS AND DECLARE ourselves to be constituted by and affiliated with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, hereafter referred to as the General Council.

ARTICLE I. NAME

Section 1. Corporate Name

The corporate name is *The South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God* which refers to the legal entity of the voluntary, cooperative Fellowship.

Section 2. Common Use of Name

1. The common term *District Council* shall refer to duly called sessions of the corporate membership and, generally, to the body of assemblies and credentialed ministers of the South Carolina fellowship of the Assemblies of God.
2. The term *district* shall refer specifically to the geographical domain of the District Council, namely, the State of South Carolina.

ARTICLE II. NATURE AND ROLE

Section 1. Reason-for-Being

The priority reason-for-being of the South Carolina Assemblies of God is to be an agency of God for evangelizing and making disciples throughout the world, to be a corporate body in which man may worship God, to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of believers, both Jew and Gentile, being perfected in the image of his Son, and to be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all peoples of the world.

Section 2. A Voluntary, Cooperative Fellowship

The South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God is a cooperative Fellowship based upon mutual agreements voluntarily entered into by its membership, and shall be known as the Fellowship embodying its assemblies and credentialed ministers. Its role is primarily relationship based. It shall relate to General Council affiliated assemblies in accordance with the provisions of the General Council Constitutional Declaration, Constitution Article XI, Bylaws Article VI, and these bylaws of the District Council.

Section 3. Relationships and Resources for Ministry Enrichment

The District Council shall facilitate a network of relationships for the mission of the Fellowship through building and enhancing relationships with ministers and assemblies. It shall provide information, offer guidance and recommend resources for ministry enrichment, offering opportunity for essential ministerial training and continuing education opportunities for assemblies and ministers (*cf*. General Council Bylaws, Article V, Section 2).

Section 4. Ministry Events

The District Council shall provide ministry events for assemblies and ministers, such as District Councils, Sectional Councils, conferences, retreats and camps.

Section 5. Credentialing Ministers

In accordance with General Council and District Council Bylaws, the District Council shall process and recommend ministerial credentials for its constituents (*cf*. General Council Bylaws, Article V, Section 2).

Section 6. Accountability

The District Executive Leadership Team, Executive Presbytery and District Presbytery shall serve and safeguard ministers and assemblies, upholding and maintaining a high level of integrity based upon biblical, relational and redemptive principles worthy of the gospel of the Kingdom of God. This shall include holding ministers and assemblies accountable for doctrine and conduct in order to maintain good standing and a healthy walk in attitude, faith, duty and mission within the Assemblies of God Fellowship.

ARTICLE III. ORGANIZATIONAL AND FELLOWSHIP PRINCIPLES

Section 1. Constitutional and Affiliation Principles

The South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God is duly constituted by and affiliated with the General Council of the Assemblies of God. The South Carolina District Councils Bylaws, and other legal documents, including the Bylaws of District affiliated assemblies, automatically shall be brought into conformity and compliance with the General Council's Constitution and Bylaws when amendments are made by the General Council in session without delay and without the otherwise requirement of formal resolutions necessary for amending the Bylaws at the District Council.

Section 2. Missional Principles

The mission of the South Carolina District Council is four-fold:

1. To encourage and promote evangelization and making of disciples throughout the State of South Carolina, the United States of America, and to all peoples of the world among Jews and Gentiles according to the Great Commission of the Messiah Jesus set forth in Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-20 and Acts 1:8.
2. To establish and develop assemblies throughout the State in accordance with biblical standards and principles.
3. To encourage, instruct and oversee the collective body of ministers of the assemblies, approved institutions and missionaries to advance the cause of its mission locally and to the world.
4. To approve all scriptural teachings, methods and conduct among the assemblies and by credentialed ministers, and to disapprove all unscriptural teachings, methods and conduct.

Section 3. Fellowship Principles

The South Carolina District Council shall represent, as nearly as possible, the body of faithful believers in the Messiah Jesus as described in the Bible.

It shall recognize the principles inherent in the Body as also inherent in this fellowship, particularly the principles of unity, cooperation, respect and equality. It recognizes that these principles will enable it to achieve its priority reason for being as an agency of God for evangelizing and making disciples throughout the world, to be a corporate body in which man may worship God, to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of faithful believers from among Jews and Gentile, being perfected in the image of his Son, and to be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all peoples of the world.

Sectional and Regional Councils, as well as the annual District Council, shall offer fellowship opportunities for the constituency. All credentialed ministers shall be urged to participate in these events on a regular basis.

The South Carolina District Council in compliance with the General Council Constitution and Bylaws encourages ministers and churches to fellowship with other Christians and churches of like precious faith who hold to the inspiration of Scripture, the deity of Christ, the universality of sin, the substitutionary atonement, the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and his second coming. It encourages open communion with all professing believers.

Section 4. Credentialing Principles

The South Carolina District Presbytery shall serve as the District Credentials Committee. It shall oversee the credentials process. The committee shall review each recommendation for approval from the Credentials Examination and Interview Committee and, upon satisfaction that all requirements and standards are met, shall recommend candidates to the General Council Credentials Committee for certification, license and ordination.

To be approved and recommended, all candidates must meet the Scriptural standards (*cf*. 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9) and satisfy all requirements of the District Credentials Committee and General Council Credentials Committee as set forth in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws and guidelines.

The District Credentials Committee shall be amenable to the General Council Credentials Committee in matters of methods, doctrine and conduct of all ministers, including when necessary, discipline and restoration.

Section 5. Organization and Operation Principles

The District Presbytery of the South Carolina District Council, a body elected to serve and safeguard ministers and the assemblies, shall establish, organize, operate and maintain such ministries, teams, commissions, divisions, departments and institutions as may be thought advisable from time-to-time for the propagation of the good news and work of the Kingdom of God within the South Carolina Assemblies of God Fellowship. These entities shall be specified as to purpose, function, fiscal control and other terms of management in *The South Carolina District Council Organization and Operations Manual*, hereafter referred to as *The Organization and Operations Manual*.

The District Presbytery shall meet at least annually to review the manual and approve any and all policy changes recommended by the District Executive Leadership Team and/or the District Executive Presbytery.

Section 6. Governance Principles

The South Carolina District Council shall have the following powers of governance:

1. To practice its precious faith and determine how best to fulfill it's reason-for-being and mission.
2. To elect its officers and select its own teams and committees, to arrange for its own meetings and to govern itself.
3. To own, hold in trust, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of such property, real and chattel, as may be needed in the execution of its work.
4. To set boundaries for geographical regions and fellowship sections in the State of South Carolina for organization, mission, ministry and fellowship.

Section 7. Geographical Oversight Principles

A. **Regions.** For its purposes, the District Council shall divide the State of South Carolina into three regions: the Upstate, Midlands and Coastal regions. Each region shall have an executive presbyter who shall serve as a member of the District Executive Presbytery.

B. **Sections.** For its purposes, the District Council divides each of the three regions into sections. Each section shall have a presbyter to serve on the District Presbytery, the highest governing authority under the District Council. The regions with their respective sections shall be as follows:

   1. *Upstate Region*. The Upstate Region shall be comprised of five sections:
      a. Anderson-Seneca Section (Counties: Anderson, Oconee and Pickens)
      b. Greenwood-Laurens Section (Counties: Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, and Saluda)
      c. Greenville-Greer Section (County: Greenville)
      d. Rock Hill-Lancaster Section (Counties: Chester, Lancaster and York)
      e. Spartanburg-Union Section (Counties: Cherokee, Spartanburg and Union)
   2. *Midlands Region*. The Midlands Region is comprised of three sections:
      a. Aiken-Orangeburg Section (Counties: Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg)
      b. Columbia Section (Counties: Fairfield, Lexington, Richland, and Newberry)
      c. Florence-Sumter Section (Counties: Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Kershaw, Lee, Marlboro , Sumter and Williamsburg)
   3. *Coastal Region*. The Coastal Region is comprised of three sections:
      a. Charleston-Summerville Section (Counties: Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester)
      b. Georgetown-Grand Strand Section (Counties: Georgetown, Horry and Marion)
      c. Hampton-Port Royal Section (Counties: Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper)

ARTICLE IV. ARTICLES OF FAITH

The articles of faith of the District Council and all its assemblies, both District affiliated and General Council affiliated, shall be the same as those set forth by The General Council of the Assemblies of God. These articles, known officially as the Statement of Fundamental Truths, are as follows:

STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us [i.e., that we all speak the same thing (1 Corinthians 1:10; Acts 2:42)]. The phraseology employed in this Statement is not inspired or contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full-gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all Biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines.

1. The Scriptures Inspired

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

2. The One True God

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

THE ADORABLE GODHEAD

(a) Terms Defined

The terms "Trinity" and "persons", as related to the Godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from "gods many and lords many." We therefore may speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is One Lord, as a trinity or as one Being of three persons, and still be absolutely scriptural (examples, Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16, 17).

(b) Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

Christ taught a distinction of Persons in the Godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but that this distinction and relationship as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 1 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3, 4).

(c) Unity of the One Being of Father, Son and Holy Spirit

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

(d) Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are never identical as to Person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the Godhead; not opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father, as to authority. The Holy Spirit is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation and authority. Hence, neither Person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17-30, 32, 37; John 8:17, 18).

(e) The Title, Lord Jesus Christ

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

(f) The Lord Jesus Christ, God with us

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

(g) The Title, Son of God

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

(h) Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ

Wherefore, it is a transgression of the Doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title, Son of God, solely from the fact of the incarnation, or because of his relation to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (1 John 9; John 1:1, 2, 14, 18, 29, 49; 1 John 2:22, 23; 4:1-5; Hebrews 12:2).

(i) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

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

(j) Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son

Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only the express duty of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is an unspeakable joy in the Holy Spirit to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of Deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the Godhead (except those which express relationship, see paragraphs b, c, and d) and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22, 23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2:8, 9; Revelation 7:9, 10; 4:8-11).

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

(a) His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35).

(b) His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).

(c) His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).

(d) His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3; 5:21).
(e) His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4).
(f) His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, 11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1-3).

4. The Fall of Man

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

5. The Salvation of Man

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

(a) Conditions to Salvation

Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11, 3:5-7).

(b) The Evidences of Salvation

The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians. 4:24; Titus 2:12).

6. Ordinances of the Church

(a) Baptism in Water

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47, 48; Romans 6:4).

(b) Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements--bread and the fruit of the vine--is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

8. The Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this

instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 28), but different in purpose and use.

9. Sanctification

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

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

10. The Church and its Mission

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

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

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

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

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

11. The Ministry

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

12. Divine Healing

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

13. The Blessed Hope

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

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

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

15. The Final Judgment

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

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

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

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING CONSTITUENCY

The membership of the South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God shall consist of the following:

Section 1. Credentialed Ministers, Executive Officers, Presbyters and Department Heads

A. **Scope of Membership.** All ordained ministers, licensed ministers and certified ministers holding accredited Fellowship certificates from the General Council of the Assemblies of God and having their permanent residence within the boundaries of the district are recognized as members. Credentialed ministers of the South Carolina District Council have the established sacerdotal and ministry duties, rights and privileges as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council of the Assemblies of God and in the District Council Bylaws.

B. **Members Exempt from a South Carolina Permanent Residence.** Missionaries, evangelists and other ministers affiliated with the District Council serving in national and international roles and ministries of the General Council of the Assemblies of God and those in administration, teaching or attending higher education institutions approved by the General Council who desire to retain affiliation with the District Council, and those chaplains and military personnel serving in the United States armed services or other government agencies shall also be recognized as members.

C. **Executive Officers and Presbyters**. Executive officers and presbyters shall have voice and voting privileges in the District Council business sessions based on membership. They shall have voice in all sections and regions, but shall have voting privileges only in the section of which they are members.

D. **Department Heads.** Department heads shall have voice and voting privileges in the District Council business sessions. They shall have voice in all sections and regions, but shall have voting privileges only in the section of which they are members.
E. **Limits on Voice and Voting Privileges.** Only licensed and ordained ministers and department heads have voice and voting privileges in Sectional Council and District Council business sessions providing that they (1) are members of the Sectional Council and District Council and (2) are duly registered to vote. Unregistered ministers shall forfeit their voice and voting privilege until such time as they are duly registered. Certified ministers, though members of the Sectional Council and District Council Fellowship, do not have voice or voting privileges in business sessions.

Section 2. Assemblies

A. **Rights of Assemblies.** Assemblies that are set in order by the South Carolina District Council as District Council affiliated assemblies or as General Council affiliated assemblies are corporate entities of their respective Sectional Council and of the District Council with the right to send official delegates to Sectional Councils and District Councils to have voice and voting privileges in business sessions. One delegate from each assembly is permitted. Each assembly having in excess of fifty (50) members shall be allowed two delegates in Sectional Council and District Council business sessions.
B. **Delegates to Sectional and District Councils.** Representatives chosen from the membership of the assemblies to represent their respective local assembly at a Sectional Council and District Council shall be considered voting members during business sessions providing that they are (1) certified in advance to serve as delegates by regular mail or electronic communications with the District Secretary-Treasurer's office, (2) have letters of certification from their authorized board or governing committee to serve as delegates to present at time of open registration, or (3) are certified in person by the lead pastor at time of registration to the registrar, (4) the number of delegates assigned is within the number allowed by these bylaws and (5) the delegates are registered at the time of the duly called meeting. Unregistered delegates forfeit their right to voice and voting privileges.

ARTICLE VI. DISTRICT COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

Section 1. Qualifications of District Council Officers

A. Executive Leadership Team (ELT) Members. The District Superintendent, the Assistant District Superintendent and the District Secretary-Treasurer shall comprise the Executive Leadership Team. To qualify, they shall be distinguished in ministry as active, full-time ministers as defined by these bylaws (*cf.* Article X., Section 7, E., 3, 6; Section 9, C.) and shall reside within the district. They shall be of mature experience and ability whose lives and ministry are above reproach according to biblical standards for ministers (*cf*. 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9) and satisfy all requirements of the District Council and General Council as set forth in their bylaws and by the guidelines set forth by the General Presbytery of the Assemblies of God. They shall have held credentials as ordained ministers affiliated with the General Council for at least three consecutive years. They shall have been members of this District Council for at least two concurrent years immediately prior to election. They shall have faithfully contributed to the District Council treasury in accordance with the tithing provisions as set forth in the Article XIII,

Section 3. They shall be elected by the District Council in session as provided for in Article VI, Section 8.

B. District Executive Presbyters. District Executive Presbyters consist of the members of the Executive Leadership Team and three elected Regional Executive Presbyters, one from each region. They shall be the executive officers of the District Council. Regional Executive Presbyters shall reside within their respective region. To qualify, they shall be distinguished in ministry as active, full-time ministers as defined by these bylaws (*cf*. Article X., Section 7, E., 3, 6; Section 9, C.). They shall be of mature experience and ability whose lives and ministry are above reproach according to biblical standards for ministers (*cf*. 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9) and satisfy all requirements of the District Council and General Council as set forth in the bylaws and by the guidelines set forth by the General Presbytery of the Assemblies of God. They shall have held credentials as ordained ministers affiliated with the General Council for at least three consecutive years. They shall have been members of this District Council for at least two concurrent years immediately prior to election. They shall have faithfully contributed to the District Council treasury in accordance with the tithing provisions as set forth in the Article XIII, Section 3. The three Regional Executive Presbyters shall be elected by the District Council in session as provided for in Article VI, Section 9.

C. Sectional Presbyters. Executive Presbyters and Sectional Presbyters shall be the officers of the District Council. To qualify, they shall be distinguished in ministry as active, full-time ministers as defined by these bylaws (*cf*. Article X., Section 7, E., 3, 6; Section 9, C.) and shall reside within their section. They shall be of mature experience and ability whose lives and ministry are above reproach according to biblical standards for ministers (*cf*. 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9) and shall satisfy all requirements of the District Council and General Council as set forth in their respective Bylaws and in the guidelines set forth by the General Presbytery of the Assemblies of God. They shall hold credentials as ordained ministers affiliated with the General Council and shall have been members of this District Council for at least one year immediately prior to election. They shall have faithfully contributed to the District Council treasury in accordance with the tithing provisions as set forth in Article XIII, Section 3. They shall be ratified by the District Council in session as provided for in Article VI, Sections 10 and 11.

Section 2. General Presbytery of the Assemblies of God

The District Superintendent, Assistant District Superintendent and the District Secretary-Treasurer shall, by virtue of their executive offices, be General Presbyters of the General Council of the Assemblies of God responsible for making policy decisions between sessions of the General Council. One of the three General Presbyters shall, however, be an ordained minister who serves as an active pastor of an assembly located within the district (*cf*. General Council Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, a., and General Council Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, d.(1).

Section 3. District Executive Leadership Team

A. **Composition of Executive Leadership Team (ELT).** The District Superintendent, Assistant District Superintendent and the District Secretary-Treasurer shall comprise the membership of the Executive Leadership Team. The District Superintendent shall serve as the chairman of the Executive Leadership Team, the Executive Presbytery and the District Presbytery. In his absence, the Assistant District Superintendent shall serve as chairman. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep official minutes of the meetings.

B. **Fiduciary Powers of Executive Leadership Team.** The Executive Leadership Team shall have fiduciary powers entrusted to it by the District Council to execute the business of the District Council. The District Superintendent and one other executive officer, either the Assistant Superintendent or District Secretary-Treasurer according to availability, shall have authority to execute and deliver deeds, mortgages, encumbrances or any other instruments affecting real estate and chattel properties owned by the District Council as well as any other interests or financial instruments which may revert to or come into the possession of the District Council.

Section 4. District Executive Presbytery

A. **Composition.** The District Executive Presbytery shall consist of the Executive Leadership Team and three elected Regional Executive Presbyters, one from each of the three geographical regions. Members of the District Executive Presbytery shall serve the District Council as executive officers of the District Council and shall be members of the District Presbytery.
B. **Executive Powers.** This body shall have the power to act as the official board of directors between regular sessions of the District Presbytery, performing such fiscal and legal functions as are usual and customary for a board of directors. Decisions of this body are subject to the District Presbytery and shall be reported to the District Presbytery at each regular meeting.
C. **Missional Powers of the District Executive Presbytery.** The District Executive Presbytery shall safeguard the reason-for-being and mission of the District Council as delineated in Article II, Section 1, and Article III, Section 2. Missional Principles.
D. **Other Duties.** The Executive Presbytery shall perform the following duties:
    a. Serve as the first response level for sectional presbyters and other sectional officers regarding sectional and regional interests.
    b. Serve as the Finance Committee with two other at large members appointed by the Executive Presbytery who are known to be established, reputable and astute in finances and are qualified to offer financial guidance. In this capacity, the committee shall propose the annual budget to the District Presbytery for approval.
    c. Serve as the Home Missions, Church Planting and Revitalization Committee to approve all home missions programs and projects, and to process and approve plans, projects, personnel and budgets for home missions, new church plants and revitalization efforts of older churches with final approval subject to the District Presbytery.
    d. Serve as the Doctrinal Purity Committee subject to approval by the District Presbytery
    e. Serve as the Discipline and Restoration Committee subject to approval by the District Credentials Committee, *i.e*., the District Presbytery.

Section 5. District Presbytery

A. **Composition of the District Presbytery.** The District Presbytery shall be comprised of the members of the District Executive Presbytery, the Sectional Presbyters, and four Presbyters at-Large: (1) and African-American ordained minister, (2) a Hispanic ordained minister, (3) an ordained woman, and (4) an ordained minister under forty (40).
B. **General Powers of the District Presbytery.** This body of elected leaders shall be the official board of directors of the District Council, shall serve as the elected body of officers and shall perform such functions as are usual and customary for a board of directors. The District Presbytery shall have powers to edit the District Council Bylaws, and any other similar legal and binding documents, including the Bylaws of District Affiliated Assemblies, for purposes exclusively pertaining to clarity in meaning, syntactical structure, legal accuracy and literary

smoothness while the rights and will of the District Council are protected and safeguarded against any changed meanings, implied inferences, misapplications or other interpretations, subject to review by the District Council in session.

C. **District Credentials Committee.** The District Presbytery shall serve as the District Credentials Committee.

Section 6. Duties of Officers, Presbyters, Department Heads and Other Leaders

Members of the Executive Leadership Team, District Executive Presbytery and District Presbytery, and all other elected or appointed leaders, shall perform duties as stipulated in these bylaws and, more specifically, in the *Organization and Operations Manual* as adopted by the District Presbytery.

Members of the Executive Leadership Team, Executive Presbytery, District Presbytery, Presbyters-at-Large and full-time District ministry and department heads shall have the right to nominate officers throughout the District Council for regional and sectional officers if a qualified candidate is not nominated otherwise before the deadline. They may only vote for a slate of officers within their own region and section if not otherwise provided for in these Bylaws.

Section 7. Nomination of General Council Executive Presbyter

The District Council at the annual meeting prior to the General Council session shall nominate two ministers from within its fellowship, one of whom is not an elected full-time District Council official, to be presented to the General Council as nominees from the Southeast Area for the office of General Council non-resident Executive Presbyter. Nominees shall be ordained ministers of mature experience and ability whose lives and ministries are above reproach. Minimum residence requirements within this District Council shall not apply to these nominees.

Section 8. Nominations and Elections of the District Executive Leadership Team (ELT)

A. **Nomination Process for District Superintendent and Assistant District Superintendent.** During the time period of no more than ninety (90) days and not less than thirty (30) days prior to the time of election at District Council, the nominating process shall be open to qualified voting members of the District Council. At the appropriate sectional and/or regional council prior to the election at District Council, nominations for the offices of the District Superintendent and Assistant District Superintendent shall be cast by secret ballot in accordance with each office's completion of term. A valid nominating ballot shall include the legible name of the nominee, date nominated, and name of the nominator. Only licensed and ordained ministers shall be authorized to cast nominating ballots for these District Executive Leadership Team offices. The sectional presbyter shall collect the ballots, seal them in a secure packet marked by his signature with the date of the meeting, and shall deliver or otherwise present them promptly to the District Secretary-Treasurer.

Nominating ballots, if not cast at the duly called sectional and/or regional council for this purpose, shall be submitted by letter, electronically, in person or other means of delivery to the District Secretary-Treasurer dated no later than thirty (30) days prior to the District Council.

B. Nomination Process for District Secretary-Treasurer.

1. When a vacancy is anticipated or occurs in the office of the District Secretary-Treasurer, or at the discretion of the District Presbytery during any election cycle of the four year term of office, the Executive Presbytery shall serve as the Nominating Committee.

2. Beginning ninety (90) days prior to and no later than sixty (60) days prior to the District Council business session, licensed and ordained ministers may recommend in writing via letter or email names of qualified ministers for consideration as nominees for the office of the District Secretary-Treasurer. A valid recommendation shall be in writing, be legible, dated, include the name of the person recommended, and be signed by the submitter. Recommendations shall be submitted in writing to the office of the District Superintendent or office of the District Secretary-Treasurer. Recommendations shall not be considered nominees, but shall be considered potential nominees subject to the nominating and vetting process of the Nominating Committee.
3. The Nominating Committee shall select, interview, vet and nominate up to five ordained ministers to present to the District Presbytery for review before thirty (30) days prior to the District Council business session.
4. The District Presbytery, upon receiving the list of nominees with accompanying profiles on each, shall approve from one up to five of the vetted nominees to present to the District Council in session for election.

C. **Terms and General Qualifications.** The term of each office shall be for a four-year period beginning thirty (30) calendar days after election at the close of the District Council in which the election occurred and ending twenty-nine calendar days after the election of a successor. The nominee shall be an ordained minister in good standing with the Assemblies of God who resides within the State of South Carolina and has so resided within the State for at least two years.

D. **Special Conditions for Nominations**
1. The District Executive Presbytery (1) shall assess the validity of each nomination ballot and (2) shall determine the eligibility and willingness of each nominee to serve.
2. The District Presbytery shall review the list of nominees and submit the names to the District Council for balloting.
3. Nominations shall not be made from the floor during the business session of the District Council.

E. **Election Process.** Members of the Executive Leadership Team shall be elected by the District Council in session. All nominees shall be balloted upon until a candidate shall receive a two-thirds majority of the votes cast until the seventh ballot. If an election has not been declared after the third electoral ballot, the three candidates having received the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be the only nominees to be further voted upon and all other names shall be eliminated. If an election has not been declared after the fifth electoral ballot, the two candidates having received the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be the only nominees to be further voted upon. Should a two-thirds majority of votes cast not be decisive by the sixth ballot, the seventh ballot shall require a majority of votes cast for the election.

F. **Terms of Office.** Terms of office for each member of the District Executive Leadership Team (ELT) shall be for a four-year period beginning thirty calendar days after election and ending twenty-nine calendar days after the election of a successor.

G. **Terms Sequence of Executive Leadership Team.** To avoid multiple expirations of terms at the same time and to assure continuity of experienced persons in executive offices, election of members of the Executive Leadership Team shall take place in the following order: the election of the District Superintendent, Assistant District Superintendent and the District Secretary-Treasurer shall be arranged so that the District Superintendent is elected in an even-numbered year for a four-year term, the Assistant District Superintendent in an odd-numbered year for a four-year term, and the District Secretary-Treasurer in an even-numbered year, provided terms shall be so arranged that the terms of the District Secretary-Treasurer shall commence two

years from the date of the election of the Assistant District Superintendent. The dual office of the Secretary-Treasurer may be divided by action of the District Council upon the recommendation of the District Presbytery when deemed expedient to conduct the work of this office.

Section 9. Nominations and Elections of Regional Executive Presbyters

A. **Nomination Process.** During the time period of no more than ninety (90) days and not less than thirty (30) days prior to the District Council, the nominating process shall be open to qualified voting members residing within the region in which the nominee resides. At the appropriate sectional and/or regional council, nominations for the office of the regional executive presbyter shall be cast by secret ballot per instructions on the ballot to include the date, name of one nominee, and the name of the nominator. Only licensed and ordained ministers shall be authorized to cast nominating ballots for regional executive presbyters. The sectional presbyter shall collect the ballots, seal them in a secure packet marked by his signature with the date of the meeting, and shall deliver or otherwise present them promptly to the District Secretary-Treasurer.

   Nominating ballots, if not cast at the duly called sectional and/or regional council for this purpose, shall be submitted by letter, electronically, in person or other means of delivery to the District Secretary-Treasurer dated no later than thirty (30) days prior to the District Council.

B. **Term and General Qualifications.** The term of regional executive presbyters shall be for three years effective thirty days (30) at the close of the District Council in which the election occurred. No more than three consecutive terms of office may be held at one time not to exceed nine years. The nominee shall be an ordained minister in good standing with the Assemblies of God who resides within one of the sections of the respective region and has so resided there for at least two years.

C. **Special Conditions for Nominations**
   1. Nominees may include sectional officers who, if elected, shall resign from any elected sectional office within thirty days after election. A regional executive presbyter shall not hold two elected District Council offices concurrently.
   2. To be a valid nomination, the nomination ballot shall be cast by any licensed or ordained minister who resides within the region in which the nominee resides. It shall include the date of the nomination to be at least thirty (30) days before the opening of the District Council, and show the written, legible signature of the credentialed minister making the nomination. Unsigned nomination ballots shall be disqualified.
   3. Nominations shall not be allowed from other regions or from the floor of the District Council.
   4. The District Executive Presbytery (1) shall assess the validity of each nomination ballot and (2) shall determine the eligibility and willingness of each nominee to serve.
   5. The District Presbytery shall review the list of nominees and submit the names to the District Council for balloting.
   6. Nominations shall not be made from the floor during the business session of the District Council.

D. **Elections.** Since regional executive presbyters shall represent the whole constituency of the District Council, they shall be elected by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at a duly called District Council. If a nominee has not been declared elected after the third electoral ballot, the two candidates having received the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be the only nominees to be further voted upon. All other names shall be eliminated. In the event of

only one qualified nominee, voting shall be done by secret ballot. Otherwise, the chair may determine that the election shall be held by acclamation subject to a ~~by~~ a two-thirds majority voice vote cast by the voting constituency.

E. **Order of Elections and Rotation of Terms of Regional Executive Presbyters.** To avoid multiple expirations of terms at the same time and to assure continuity of experienced persons on the District Executive Presbytery, election of regional executive presbyters shall take place in a three year election cycle, one Regional Executive Presbyter only being elected each successive year in the following rotation: Upstate Region, Midlands Region, and Coastal Region.

F. **Vacancies.** In the event a regional executive presbyter, for whatever cause, is unable to serve out a full term and resigns, becomes incapacitated or is removed, the office shall be declared vacant by the District Presbytery. The District Presbytery shall appoint a regional executive presbyter *pro tem* from the region until the next duly called District Council at which time, following the normal nomination process, an election shall be held to fill the unexpired term. If such term expires at the time of the next District Council, an election shall be held for a full term.

Section 10. Nominations and Elections of Sectional Presbyters and Other Sectional Officers

A. **Nomination Process.** Nominations for sectional officers shall be cast by secret ballot no earlier than thirty (30) days and no later than three (3) days prior to the Sectional Council. The ballots may be cast by letter, electronic transmission, in person, by telephone or other means of delivery to the office of the Secretary-Treasurer. Ballots shall include the date, name of one qualified nominee per office, indicating each office, and the name of the nominator. Only licensed, ordained ministers and department heads within their respective sections shall be authorized to nominate.

B. **Eligibility to Vote.** Those eligible to vote shall be ordained and licensed minsters, and authorized church delegates.

C. **Sectional Presbyter.** At the biennial Sectional Council, each sectional council shall elect its own Sectional Presbyter subject to ratification by the District Council. The person elected shall be an ordained minister in good standing with the General Council of the Assemblies of God who resides and has resided within the section for at least a year. The term of office shall be for two years beginning at the close of the District Council in which he or she was ratified. In the event of only one qualified nominee, the chair may determine that the election shall be held by acclamation subject to a two-thirds majority voice vote cast by the voting constituency.

D. **Assistant Sectional Presbyter.** At the biennial Sectional Council, each sectional council shall elect its own Assistant Sectional Presbyter. The person elected shall be an ordained minister in good standing with the General Council of the Assemblies of God who resides and has resided within the section for at least a year. The term of office shall be for two years beginning at the close of the following District Council. In the event of only one qualified nominee, the chair may determine that the election shall be held by acclamation subject to a two-thirds majority voice vote cast by the voting constituency.

E. **Sectional Secretary-Treasurer.** At the biennial Sectional Council, each sectional council shall elect its own Secretary-Treasurer. The nominee shall be a licensed or ordained minister in good standing with the General Council of the Assemblies of God who resides within the section and has so resided there for at least one year. The term of office shall be for two years beginning at the close of the forthcoming District Council. In the event of only one qualified nominee voting shall be done by secret ballot. Otherwise, the chair may determine that the election shall be held by acclamation subject to a two-thirds majority voice vote cast by the voting constituency.

Section 11. District Presbyters at-Large

A. **Prerogative.** The Assemblies of God is a culturally, ethnically and generationally diverse Pentecostal fellowship and movement that seeks to reflect the values of the kingdom of God. It recognizes and espouses the highest human value and dignity of all peoples as being made in God's image and likeness and being called into his holy service. In this context of diversity in membership and mission, as cherished in the Body of Christ, the District Council shall provide for one or more Presbyters at-Large in harmony and compliance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

B. **Culture of Honor within Cultural, Ethnic, Gender and Generational Diversity.** The District Council shall preserve and practicea culture of unity and honor for all people from all living generations, cultures, languages and nationalities, including the alien in the land.

I. Nomination Process.

(a) During the time period of no more than ninety (90) days and not less than thirty (30) days prior to the District Council, the nominating process shall be open to qualified voting members residing within the region in which the nominee resides. At the appropriate sectional and/or regional council, nominations for the office of presbyters-at-large shall be cast by secret ballot per instructions on the ballot to include the date, name of one nominee, and the name of the nominator. Only licensed and ordained ministers shall be authorized to cast nominating ballots for regional executive presbyters. The sectional presbyter shall collect the ballots, seal them in a secure packet marked by his signature with the date of the meeting, and shall deliver or otherwise present them promptly to the District Secretary-Treasurer.

(b) Nominating ballots, if not cast at the duly called sectional and/or regional council for this purpose, shall be submitted by letter, electronically, in person or other means of delivery to the District Secretary-Treasurer dated no later than thirty (30) days prior to the District Council.

J. Term and General Qualifications. The term of presbyters-at-large shall be for two years effective thirty days (30) at the close of the District Council in which the election occurred. The sole exception is that the term of the Presbyter-at-Large Under Forty shall not exceed age forty (40). The nominee shall be an ordained minister in good standing with the Assemblies of God who resides within the District for at least two years.

C.

Section 12. Quorums

A. **District Council, Regional and Sectional Councils Quorums.** Ministers and delegates who shall respond to the announcement of the time and place of business meetings of the District Council, regional councils and sectional councils as called for by the District Presbytery, and who shall properly register by signing the roster, shall constitute a quorum.

B. **District Presbytery and District Executive Presbytery Quorum.** The majority of District Presbyters assembled in person and/or through other technological means of interactive communication for a duly called meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 13. Vacancies of Office

A. Reasons for Vacancy. Vacancies may occur for any of the following reasons: death, resignation, disability, removal for cause or dereliction of duty.

1. *Death or resignation:* Upon the death or resignation of any elected official or District Council leader, his or her office shall be declared vacant and the process for replacement shall be initiated by the District Presbytery.
2. *Disability:* In the event any elected officer or other District Council leader becomes temporarily or permanently disabled for a period exceeding 120 days and is unable to fulfill the duties of the office, the office shall be declared vacant by action of the District Presbytery unless special circumstances warrant otherwise. If special circumstances warrant otherwise, a qualified person or persons shall be appointed to help fulfill the required duties until the issue is resolved.
3. *Removal for cause:* In the event any elected officer or other District Council leader no longer meets the qualifications required for the office, he or she shall be released from office for cause by action of a two-thirds majority of votes cast by the District Presbytery in session and the office shall be declared vacant.
4. *Dereliction of duty:* In the event any elected official or District Council leader is found derelict in the assigned and expected duties, he or she may be removed from office by action of a two-thirds majority of votes cast by the District Presbytery in session and the office shall be declared vacant.

B. District Executive Leadership Team. If a vacancy occurs in the office of the District Superintendent, Assistant District Superintendent or District Secretary-Treasurer, such vacancy shall be filled by the District Council at a duly called special business session within 45 to 60 days after the vacancy. It shall be chaired by the highest ranking executive officer. In the event a vacancy occurs within 60 days of the annual District Council, the filling of the vacancy shall occur at the annual District Council business session.

C. Regional Executive Presbyters. If a Regional Executive Presbyter's office becomes vacant due to any of the reasons for vacancy, or because he or she ceases to reside in the region of nomination for his or her election, the office immediately shall become vacant. Nominations to fill the unexpired term of the vacated office shall be submitted to the District Secretary-Treasurer up to seven days prior to a duly called special Regional Council by the Executive Presbytery. The sections of the region shall meet as a special called Regional Council within forty-five (45) to sixty (60) days after the vacancy to elect one ordained minister from among the qualified nominees to fill the vacancy. The election shall require a two-thirds majority of votes cast subject to ratification by the District Presbytery. A member of the Executive Leadership Team shall chair the meeting. In the event, the vacancy occurs within 120 days of the next regular District Council session, the nomination process shall comply with the ninety (90) day nomination process for election at the District Council for the unexpired term.

D. Sectional Presbyters. If a Sectional Presbyter's office becomes vacant due to any of the reasons for vacancy, or because he or she ceases to reside in the section of nomination for his or her election, the office immediately shall become vacant. The Sectional Council shall nominate and elect the succeeding Sectional Presbyter within a time period of no more than sixty (60) days at a duly called special Sectional Council, allowing for at least two weeks advance notice of all voting members. The Sectional Council shall be chaired by a member of the District Executive Presbytery. If the vacancy occurs within ninety (90) days of the next regular or special-called District Council session, and a Sectional Council is not called by the Assistant Presbyter or the District Executive Presbytery within sixty (60) days prior to the District Council to fill the unexpired term, the District Presbytery shall appoint a qualified minister of the section to fill the unexpired term based upon a polling of all eligible voting members of the section within sixty (60) days after the vacancy occurs with the appointment to be ratified at the next District Council.

Section 14. Board of Trustees of Southeastern University of the Assemblies of God

A. **Representation on the Board of Trustees.** The South Carolina District Council authorizes its District Superintendent and one other person to represent this District Council as members of the Board of Trustees of Southeastern University of the Assemblies of God, to attend each of its sessions and to vote on behalf of the District Council in decisions made by said board.
B. **Selection of Member from Assemblies.** The other member of the Board of Trustees shall be nominated by the District Superintendent and ratified by the District Presbytery. His or her term shall be for an indefinite period of time. He or she shall attend each of the sessions of the Board of Trustees and vote on behalf of the District Council in the decisions made by said board.
    a. He or she shall be a member of an Assemblies of God congregation and shall manifest the spiritual, professional, educational and social qualities essential to making a viable contribution to the Board of Trustees of the university.
    b. His or her appointment shall be for an indefinite period.
    c. The District Superintendent shall inform the Secretary of the Board of Trustees of any changes in District Council representation before the Spring meeting of the Board of Trustees.
    d. Consideration of the total composition of the board as well as the individual's ability and willingness to invest in the university should be considered in making the appointment.

Section 15. Conflict of Interest

Executive officers and other district officers and elected leaders who have an interest or relationship that may bias or appear to bias a decision-making process shall recuse themselves in matters of ministerial credentials and discipline, in disciplinary intervention in assemblies when family, staff, close friendships or business and pastoral relationships are involved, and in any and all matters where personal benefit may be gained directly or indirectly due to a decision rendered.

ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees

Standing committees shall be appointed by the District Presbytery as necessity may require. They shall serve for the designated time or until their purpose has been accomplished. In the event a vacancy shall occur within a committee, the District Superintendent shall be authorized to fill such vacancy by appointment.

Section 2. District Home Missions, Church Planting and Revitalization Committee

The District Executive Presbytery shall serve as the District Home Missions, Church Planting and Revitalization Committee. It shall process and approve plans, projects, personnel and budgets for home missions, new church plantings and revitalizations of churches with final approval subject to the District Presbytery.

Section 3. U.S. and World Mission Committee

The District Presbytery shall appoint the director and other members of the U.S. and World Mission Committee. The District Mission Director shall serve as chairman and may recommend committee member appointments. The Director and committee members shall represent and promote U.S. and world missions interests and endeavors of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, including guidance and assistance in the itineration of approved missionaries from South Carolina. The committee shall interview missionary candidates and recommend them to the District Presbytery for approval by the Assemblies of God U.S. Missions or Assemblies of God World Missions. The South Carolina District shall be an open District to all approved Assemblies of God missionaries.

Section 4. District Credentials Committee

The District Presbytery shall serve as the District Credentials Committee. Among its duties shall be to evaluate applicants for ministerial credentials and recommend issuance of certificates of fellowship to qualified applicants to the General Council, including provisional certification, certification, license and ordination. The Credentials Committee shall oversee the discipline and restoration of ministers.

Section 5. Credentials Examination and Interview Committee

The District Executive Presbytery shall serve as the Credentials Examination and Interview Committee under the auspices of the District Credentials Committee. The committee shall examine each applicant's file, conduct an interview, record the results of the interview and make a recommendation regarding each candidate to the District Credentials Committee.

Section 6. District Discipline and Restoration Committee

The District Executive Presbytery shall serve as the District Discipline and Restoration Committee. It shall examine and review all cases where formal, written charges are preferred against a credentialed minister. It shall recommend to the District Credentials Committee just and appropriate actions, either to dismiss charges or to advance a recommendation to administer ministerial discipline and restoration in accordance with the General Council Credentials Committee.

Section 7. Doctrinal Purity Commission

The District Executive Presbytery shall serve as the Doctrinal Purity Committee. It shall examine doctrinal interests and concerns on behalf of the District Council and make recommendations to the District Presbytery.

Section 8. Finance Committee

The District Executive Presbytery shall serve as the Finance Committee and shall include the Office Manager or office accountant, and two other at large members appointed by the Executive Presbytery and ratified by the District Presbytery who are known to be established, reputable and astute in finances and are qualified to offer financial guidance. The committee shall function according to guidelines set forth in the *Organization and Operations Manual*. It shall recommend financial policy and the annual budget to the District Executive Presbytery for review prior to approval by the District Presbytery. It shall monitor the budget during the fiscal year.

Section 9. South Carolina District School of Ministry Board

The District Presbytery shall appoint the director, academic dean and other members of the board of the South Carolina District School of Ministry. The board shall function as the governing body for the District School of Ministry in compliance with the standards of the National Association of District Schools of Ministry and the General Presbytery of the Assemblies of God. It shall be subject to the District Presbytery.

Section 10. Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee shall be chaired by the Assistant Superintendent. Members of the committee shall be appointed by the District Presbytery. The committee shall review, study and evaluate all proposed resolutions from voting members of the District Council to determine appropriateness and shall present its findings to the District Presbytery. Resolutions proposed by the District Executive Presbytery and District Presbytery may be reviewed by the Resolutions Committee for editorial purposes and legal guidance.

Section 11. Parliamentary Committee

A parliamentary committee shall be provided for by the Executive Leadership Team for business sessions of the District Council. In a business session, the parliamentary committee members have the same duty as the presiding officer to maintain a position of impartiality and, therefore, shall not make motions, participate in debate, or vote on any question except in the case of a ballot vote. During a meeting the work of the parliamentary committee members shall be limited to giving advice to the chair and, when requested, to any other member. It is the duty of the committee as inconspicuously as possible to call the attention of the chair to any error in the proceedings that may affect the substantive rights of any member or may otherwise do harm. The chair has the right to follow the advice of the parliamentary committee or to disregard it.

Section 12. Special Committees

Special committees may be created by the District Council in session and by the District Presbytery as may be required.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Section 1. Parliamentary Authority

In order to expedite the work of South Carolina District Council and to avoid confusion in its deliberations, all business meetings shall be governed by the accepted rules of parliamentary procedure in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The parliamentary authority shall be *Robert's Rules of Order*, current edition, and it shall apply when it is not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order that the District Council may adopt in the future.

A parliamentary committee shall be provided for by the Executive Leadership Team for business sessions of the District Council.

Section 2. Annual District Council

A. **Convening the Annual District Council.** The annual District Council meetings shall convene at a suitable location during the month of May, generally during the week following Mother's Day. The dates and times of the meetings shall be published at least a month prior to the meeting.
B. **Order of Business.** The order of business for the Annual District Council shall be:
    a. Reports
    b. Unfinished Business
    c. Elections
    d. New Business
    e. Adjournment
C. **Suspension of Order of Business.** The order of business may be suspended when deemed necessary by a two-third majority of votes cast by the District Council in session.
D. **Motions and Resolutions**
    1. *Limits on Motions.* During a District Council business session, new motions may be presented from the floor that do not bind or conflict with the corporate purpose, function, mission and future of the District Council, amend Bylaws or amend District Council policy and practices. Such weighty motions shall be presented rather as resolutions to the Resolutions Committee at least ninety (90) days prior to the District Council session, allowing adequate time for review, study and evaluation as to appropriateness.
    2. *Resolutions.* During a District Council business session, resolutions shall be considered for vote that were presented in a timely and proper manner and format to the Resolutions Committee at least ninety (90) days prior to the District Council by the sponsor(s), being signed. Resolutions shall meet the accepted criteria for appropriateness as determined by the Resolutions Committee's guiding principles set by these bylaws. Upon acceptance, resolutions shall be duly presented to the District Presbytery for review and referral to the District Council in session. Such resolutions shall be distributed electronically and, as needed, by paper to the voting members and assemblies at least fourteen (14) days prior to the session of the District Council. Resolutions of an emergency nature may be presented upon permission of the house by a two-thirds majority of votes cast. The sponsor or representative of the sponsors shall move the resolution on the floor of the house and, once seconded, shall speak to the resolution first.
    3. *Criteria for Appropriateness of Resolutions.* The Resolutions Committee shall, by a two-thirds vote, determine the appropriateness of a proposed resolution. It shall include the following criteria in its decision:
        a. Possible conflict with the Articles of Agreement and the Bylaws, both of the General Council and the District Council
        b. Absurdity in substance
    4. *Rights of Sponsor(s).* In the event the committee determines that a resolution is inappropriate, it shall so advise the author and shall apprise him or her of the right to present the proposed resolution to the house for determination as to appropriateness for consideration. A two-thirds majority of the votes cast shall be required for consideration as established by these bylaws for presenting emergency resolutions.
E. **Courtesy of the Floor.** Guest ministers from the General Council national office, other District Councils and other guests may be granted the courtesy of the floor, without vote, at the discretion of the chair or by action of the body.
F. **Financial Report.** The unaudited annual report shall be sent by email or mailed correspondence to all credentialed ministers in the South Carolina District Council no less than 14 days prior to the annual District Council.

Section 3. Special Sessions of the District Council

Special sessions of the District Council may be arranged if agreed to by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast by the District Presbytery. The right of initiative in the matter of calling special sessions shall be granted to any ordained minister of the District Council when occasion demands. A statement setting forth the reasons for the special session, signed by not less than twenty-five percent of all ordained and licensed ministers of this District Council, may be considered sufficient reason for calling a special session, such statement to be filed with the District Presbytery who shall respond to the summons and issue the call for a special session.

Section 4. District Presbytery

The District Presbytery shall convene at least quarterly and as often as needed, in person and/or at times by interactive technological communication methods when business must be expedited without delay or for mutual convenience. The District Superintendent, the Executive Leadership Team and the District Executive Presbytery shall have power to call for special meetings.

Section 5. District Executive Presbytery

The District Executive Presbytery shall meet at least bi-monthly and as often as needed, in person and/or at times by interactive technological communication methods when business must be expedited without delay or for mutual convenience. The District Superintendent and the Executive Leadership Team shall have power to call for special meetings.

Section 6. District Executive Leadership Team

The District Executive Leadership Team oversees and conducts the daily business of the District Council. It shall meet at least monthly or as often as needed, in person and/or at times by interactive technological communication methods when business must be expedited without delay or for mutual convenience. Any member of the Executive Leadership Team shall have power to call meetings.

Section 7. Sectional Councils

Sectional Councils meet at least annually for purposes of conducting business and more frequently for purposes of fellowship and instruction. Meetings are called, announced and arranged by the Sectional Presbyter with consultation with the sectional officers. The Executive Leadership Team, District Executive Presbytery and District Presbytery shall have power to call Sectional Councils and other sectional meetings.

ARTICLE IX. ASSEMBLIES

Section 1. Recognition

All true Pentecostal believers associating themselves in local bodies as assemblies shall have the right of recognition by the District Council provided they meet the standards approved by the General Council

and the District Council in regard to membership, doctrine, order, methods, conduct and all other matters affecting the harmony of the Fellowship as a whole.

Section 2. Classifications of Assemblies

A. **District Council Affiliated Assemblies.** Groups of Pentecostal believers which are still in the formative stages shall be recognized as District Council affiliated assemblies. For a period of at least one year, and until they qualify to become a General Council affiliated assembly, such assemblies shall be under District assistance, understood as non-encumbering and non-liable, by the District Presbytery which shall serve as trustees thereof. The District Presbytery shall provide for pastoral oversight, organizational documents and bylaws. It shall also determine when such groups of believers shall become autonomous assemblies. District affiliated assemblies that are proven to be mature and, otherwise, qualify for General Council affiliated status with the lone exception of being able to secure adequate financing apart from District Council assistance, shall be qualified to expand to new campuses as a multi-church site and/or launch new District Council affiliated assemblies as part of their overall vision and strategy. Because of the debt relationship of the mother church to the District Council, such efforts shall be approved in advance by the District Home Missions, Church Planting and Revitalization Committee in consultation with the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) for legal and financial endorsement.

B. **General Council Affiliated Assemblies.** District Council affiliated assemblies which have matured sufficiently to accept their full share of responsibility for the maintenance of scriptural order and financial autonomy without outstanding debt to the District Council shall be entitled to recognition as autonomous General Council affiliated assemblies. They shall be organized under the District Presbytery, its assistance understood as non-encumbering and non-liable, and shall be amenable to the District Council in all matters which affect the peace and harmony of the Fellowship.

They shall have the right to self-government, to choose their own pastors, elect officers, hold property either through trustees or the corporate name, discipline members, and transact other business pertaining to the life of the local assembly. They shall support the General Council and District Council and shall participate in their World Ministries efforts.

Such assemblies shall meet the provisions and qualifications as stated for assemblies in the General Council Constitution, Article XI and General Council Bylaw, Article VI. They shall:

(1) Accept the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God;
(2) Adopt a standard of membership that may be determined either by the local assembly or by agreement with the District Council;
(3) Have a minimum active voting membership of 20 persons who shall accept responsibility to maintain scriptural order in the local body;
(4) Adopt Articles of Incorporation, a constitution or bylaws compatible with models recommended by the District Council, or district approved governance models that provide for adequate accountability, amenability, and safeguards so that a pastor and/or governing body cannot directly or indirectly exert dictatorial control over a church;
(5) Have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of the assembly called for in its constitution or bylaws;
(6) Make provision for a pastor who is a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council and the District Council; and
(7) Participate in and support General Council and District Council home and world missions.

Assemblies shall be entitled to the benefits and safeguards afforded them in General Council Bylaws, Article VI.

C. **Cooperating Assemblies.** Provision shall be made for the status of a cooperating assembly which allows assemblies that subscribe to the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council to enter into a cooperative status with the South Carolina District Council and the General Council on a temporary, four year term basis, renewable by the request of the local assembly at the discretion of the District Council in cooperation with the General Council Executive Presbytery before officially affiliating with the South Carolina District Council and the General Council.

On a periodic basis the District Presbytery may review the status of a cooperative assembly to determine if continued cooperation is appropriate or desirable. Procedures and forms for affiliation as a cooperative assembly shall be provided for in *The South Carolina District Council Organization and Operations Manual*.

D. **Parent Affiliated Assemblies.** General Council affiliated assemblies may parent new assemblies under its auspices, government and domain according to counsel of the District Council executive officers and guidelines set forth by the General Council Presbytery. These assemblies shall be registered as parent affiliated assemblies with the South Carolina District Council and General Council and not as District Council affiliated assemblies with their respective rights and privileges.

The assets and liabilities of parent affiliated assemblies are the sole responsibility of the parent assembly and may not encumber or be a liability to the District Council or General Council. District Council affiliated assemblies shall become General Council affiliated assemblies before starting new assemblies.

Section 3. New Assemblies

The planting and establishing of new assemblies shall be a priority goal of the South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God. Resources at all levels shall be aligned to accomplish this purpose. Initiative for planting and establishing new assemblies and the oversight of those assemblies may emanate from assemblies, sections, regions and the District Council.

The District Presbytery, regional and/or sectional committees, or other authorities of the District Council charged with the responsibility of approving new assemblies shall not prohibit the planting and establishing of new assemblies unless a compelling reason exists. If it is determined that a compelling reason exists, a minister or local assembly desiring to plant and establish the assembly shall have the right to appeal to the District Presbytery or authorities within the District Council charged with the responsibility of approving new assemblies, and the decision of the District Presbytery or other authorities may be appealed to the General Council Executive Presbytery whose decision shall be final (*cf*. General Council Bylaws, Article VI, Section 6).

Section 4. Right of Autonomy with General Council Affiliation

Each assembly set in order for recognition as a General Council affiliated assembly shall be in compliance with (1) the seven eligibility requirements (General Council Constitution, Article XI and District Council Bylaws, Article VI) and (2) the doctrinal and (3) conduct standards of the General Council of the Assemblies of God. General Council affiliated assemblies shall have the right to enjoy autonomy, self-government, self-funding and self-determination.

a. The District Council shall in no way infringe upon or abolish a General Council affiliated assembly's rights to autonomy and self-government that remains in compliance with the eligibility requirements, Assemblies of God doctrine and conduct standards.
b. General Council affiliated assemblies shall recognize that the South Carolina District Council has the right to approve scriptural doctrine and conduct and disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct

and administer discipline when violations occur for all affiliated assemblies and credentialed ministers in its jurisdiction.

c. Further, all churches shall recognize that the South Carolina District Council has the right to safeguard the assemblies as set forth in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws.
d. If a lead pastor of a General Council affiliated assembly allows his or her ministerial credential with the General Council of the Assemblies of God to lapse, or his or her credential is suspended, removed, revoked, or for any other cause, becomes invalid, the assembly shall revert to the temporary status of District affiliated assembly until such time all criteria for General Council affiliation status are satisfied for reinstatement.
e. If a General Council affiliated assembly has a recognized debt to the General Council of the Assemblies of God, the South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God, or another General Council affiliated assembly, it shall not separate from the Assemblies of God without first repaying the recognized debt.
f. When in need of counsel or advice, the local assembly may appeal to the South Carolina District Council for help. It may appeal any decision by the District Council in such cases 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 District Council. When exceptions are taken to the decision of the Executive Presbytery, either by the local assembly or by the District Presbytery, appeal may be made to the General Presbytery of the General Council of the Assemblies of God as provided in General Council Constitution and Bylaws (*cf*. Constitution Article XI, Section 2, paragraph e; Bylaws, Article VI, Section 4, paragraph c).

Section 5. Order in Assemblies

Each General Council affiliated assembly shall be set in order, meaning that the assembly shall have proper scriptural and legal governance documents and follow guidelines for incorporation as required by civil law. Each local assembly shall cooperate in the work of the District Council and shall support the District Council with two percent (2%) of its monthly income, half assigned to new church planting and revitalization and half assigned to the Unified Ministries Fund for District Council support of departmental ministries.

Being officially affiliated, they may send one or two delegates according the prescribed number allotted by these bylaws to District Council business sessions. An assembly with fifty (50) adherents or less shall be entitled to one official delegate. Larger assemblies may send two official delegates.

Governance and legal liability of parent affiliated assemblies, satellite assemblies and other church plants shall be the responsibility of the sponsoring assembly within the guidelines set forth in *The Organization and Operation Manual* (OOM), unless specific exceptions are made by the District Presbytery.

Section 6. Legal Precedence of Powers

The legal precedence of powers of a General Council affiliated assembly as established by civil law is follows: (1) Articles of Incorporation filed with the Secretary of State, (2) constitution and/or bylaws of the local assembly approved by a two-thirds majority of votes cast in a duly called business meeting of the membership, (3) policies, agreements and contracts approved by the membership at a duly called business meeting and (4) official board policies, agreements and contracts.

The constitution and bylaws of assemblies shall take precedence over the District Council Bylaws except when such are in violation of the agreement of affiliation or, otherwise, contradict the

Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council and/or the South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 7. Missions Participation by Assemblies

A historic and primary distinctive of the Assemblies of God is its persuasion and unswerving commitment to evangelize and make disciples of both Jews and Gentiles, establish assemblies among all people groups of the world, and care for the poor and needy with acts of compassion, justice, relief and rescue.

All credentialed ministers and assemblies, both District Council affiliated and General Council affiliated, are expected to have and maintain an active interest in and to give prayer and financial support to (1) local missions and benevolence endeavors, (2) the South Carolina District Council's church planting and revitalization efforts, (3) its world mission projects and endeavors, (4) Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, BGMC, Speed-the-Light, Light-for-the-Lost, and Assemblies of God World Missions through appointed missionaries, approved projects and institutions.

Section 8. Participation with Assemblies of God Educational Institutions

Assemblies shall be expected to participate in, promote, recommend and support the Assemblies of God institutions of ministerial training and higher education, particularly the South Carolina District School of Ministry, Southeastern University of the Assemblies of God in Lakeland, Florida, the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, Missouri, and Global University based in Springfield, Missouri.

Section 9. District Council Assistance of a General Council Affiliated Assembly

A. **Conditions for District Council Assistance.** When a General Council affiliated assembly is no longer able to fill the corporate offices of the assembly with scripturally-qualified members, or fails to meet its ongoing financial obligations, or falls below twenty (20) adult members, or fails to meet any other requirements for General Council affiliation (cf. General Council Constitution, Article XI, Section 1.a.), or the pastor or the board requests that the assembly come under District Council assistance, understood as non-encumbering and non-liable, the District Council may exercise its prerogative to bring the assembly under its assistance. In cases where the General Council shall revert an assembly to the South Carolina District Council by written notice, the District Council shall bring the assembly under assistance immediately.
B. **Purpose.** The purpose of District Council assistance is not punitive, but is meant for purposes of reestablishing congregational life to good health. At such time as the assembly returns to sufficient strength and order, it may reapply with the South Carolina District Council and the General Council for reinstatement to General Council status.
C. **Process.** Before such action is taken, investigation shall be made by the District Council leadership in consultation with the pastor and official board to determine if the above conditions are present. If so, the assembly shall be reverted to District Affiliated status. Whenever possible, a meeting between congregational members and District Council leadership shall take place to explain fully the process of District Council assistance, understood as non-encumbering and non-liable, and implement a plan to restore the assembly to good health, witness and productivity.

D. **Appeal.** A General Council affiliated assembly pastor or official board may appeal the decision to revert to District Affiliated status under procedures as outlined in these bylaws, Article VIII, Section 3, and related District Council or General Council governance documents.
E. **Requirements.** Assemblies that revert to District Affiliated status must:
   1. Dissolve the official board
   2. Suspend the assembly's Constitution and/or Bylaws
   3. Function under the District Council Bylaws, policies and guidelines for District Council affiliated assemblies
   4. Submit to full financial accountability according to the Bylaws and generally accepted accounting principles
   5. Work towards resolving the issues that caused reversion and rebuild the congregation in the spirit of unity and cooperation in the Messiah Jesus

Section 10. Mediation and Intervention in General Council Affiliated Assemblies

A. **Principles of Relationship, Amenability and Interdependency.** The right of General Council affiliated assemblies to be autonomous, self-governing and self-determining bodies is a fundamental privilege safeguarded by the General Council Constitution and Bylaws and by District Council Bylaws (*cf*. General Council Bylaws, Article VI, Section 4; District Council Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 3). The written agreement of the local assembly to become a General Council affiliated assembly affirmed "agreement with the Fellowship to be amenable to the General Council and District Council in matters of doctrine and conduct" (*cf*. General Council Constitution, Article XA, Section 1d and General Council Bylaws, Article VI, Section 4a).
B. **Right of District Council to Mediate and Intervene.** Voluntary, cooperative fellowship describes both the interdependent relationship that exists between assemblies and their amenability to the District Council and the General Council as certified by the issuance of certificates of affiliation. The District Council retains the right to mediate and intervene in a local assembly in matters of doctrine and conduct. Before mediation and/or intervention procedures are taken, evidence shall be known that the scriptural principles of Matthew 18:15-17 and 1Timothy 5:19 were applied without resolving the issues.
C. Assistance by the General Council and District Council. The services of both the General Council and District Council are available to assist the General Council affiliated assembly in dealing with any of its problems, either internal or external, by mediation or intervention, when requested by the pastor or a majority of the official board of the assembly or a petition signed by twenty (20) percent of the voting members.

When District Council executive officers, the Sectional Presbyter or Regional Executive Presbyter receive such requests, they shall respond by investigating problems and, if necessary, recommend remedial actions to the District Council's Executive Presbytery.

At its discretion, the District Council's Executive Presbytery may act to bring the assembly under District Council assistance, understood as non-encumbering and non-liable, and, when necessary, revert it from General Council status to District Council affiliated status until the governing entity considers the problem resolved.

Section 11. Rules Governing Disaffiliation

1. *Breach of ministerial ethics*. Generally, it shall be considered a breach of ministerial ethics for an Assemblies of God minister to lead an established Assemblies of God congregation away from affiliation with the Assemblies of God in violation of the agreement to affiliate and the certification. To do so may

result in disciplinary action, in accordance with General Council and the District Council Bylaws, such action to be determined by the District Council Credentials Committee.

2. *Divisions within an assembly*. In the event that a General Council affiliated assembly or District Council affiliated assembly in the State of South Carolina shall become divided over doctrine, conduct or any other issues, or, otherwise, shall be considering disaffiliation from the Assemblies of God, the pastor or official board shall invite the District Council officers to participate in a specially called leadership or official board meeting to discuss the matter.

3. *Preservation of affiliation*. If the differences cannot be resolved and the leadership or official board continues to pursue disaffiliation, a duly called church business meeting shall be announced to the membership and congregation not less than two Sundays prior to the meeting. Such meeting shall be called for the express purpose of giving the District Council officers opportunity to present the case for continued Assemblies of God affiliation. Final disposition of the matter may then proceed in accordance with the constitution and bylaws of the local assembly.

Section 12. Assemblies Resulting from 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 Presbytery shall exercise strong and wise leadership in ascertaining the facts and seek to preserve Assemblies of God adherents for the Fellowship. Within the bounds of ethical principles, sound doctrine, and District Council policy, the District Presbytery shall seek to retain any meritorious group within the Assemblies of God.
B. **Status of Minister(s).** Circumstances in each case shall determine whether the minister(s) shall be disciplined or denied ministry in either the original assembly or the dissident group, or even residency in the area where the division occurred. If a minister is guilty of inappropriate doctrine or conduct resulting in a division, the District Presbytery shall deal appropriately with the minister as provided in the General Council Bylaws, Article X, Section 3.

ARTICLE X. MINISTRY

Section 1. Scriptural Warrant for Ministry

The gifts of the Messiah Jesus to his body of believers include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (*cf*. Ephesians 4:11-13), exhorters, administrators, leaders and helpers (*cf*. Romans 12:7-8). His call to these ministry gifts is fully and totally within his sovereign discretion without regard to gender, national origin, ethnicity, culture or disability.

Section 2. General Council Governance of Ministry, Credentials and Due Process

The South Carolina District Council shall incorporate, abide by and be amenable to all current General Council Bylaws, regulations and rulings existing now or as may be amended in the future pertaining to ministry, credentials and due process within the Assemblies of God (*cf*. General Council Bylaws, Article VII).

The General Council Credentials Committee delegates to the district councils the authority to examine, approve and recommend candidates who qualify as certified ministers, licensed ministers and ordained ministers.

Final approval and issuance of the ministerial credential shall be made by the General Council Credentials Committee. All ordination services, with the laying on of hands, shall take place under the auspices of the District Council.

Section 3. Credentials Examination and Interview Committee

The District Executive Leadership Team and another presbyter in proximity to the District Council office shall serve as the Credentials Examination and Interview Committee. It shall examine and interview all applicants to determine whether to recommend applicants, each on a case-by-case basis, to the District Presbytery for approval to recommend to the General Council Executive Presbytery for ministerial credentials. It shall follow the credentialing process set forth by the General Council Bylaws, policies and regulations, and according to *The South Carolina District Ministerial Credentials Guidebook*, hereafter referred to as *The Ministerial Credentials Guidebook*.

Section 4. District Council Guidelines for Ministry Credentials

District Council credentialing policy and guidelines shall be approved by the District Presbytery. Instructions on the process of applying and qualifying for credentials shall be made available in *The South Carolina District Ministerial Credentials Guidebook* approved by the District Presbytery. All applicants for credentials shall be members in good standing in their respective assemblies of God congregation.

Section 5. Classifications of Ministers

Three classifications of ministry are recognized and transferable among all Assemblies of God District Councils in the United States: 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 sacerdotal functions of ordinances and other ceremonies common to the work of the assemblies, as well as those holding a local church credential as provided below.

A fourth classification of ministry, a local church credential, may be provided by a local General Council affiliated assembly under basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines as adopted by the District Presbytery. The local church credential shall be non-transferable, limited to the issuing local assembly, and shall be limited to two (2) years unless the credential is solely required for active and continuing local ministry in a prison, hospital or other institution. A person holding a local church credential may perform the sacerdotal functions of ordinances and other ceremonies common to the work of the assembly if authorized in writing by the senior or lead pastor of the local assembly issuing the credential. District Council affiliated assemblies may not issue local church credentials without the express consent of the District Presbytery.

Section 6. Basic Qualifications for Ministry Recognition

Basic qualifications for all applicants for ministry recognition are set forth in the General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2 and Section 3.

A. **Salvation.** Testimony to having experienced the new birth through faith in the Messiah Jesus (*cf*. John 3:5).

B. **Baptism in the Holy Spirit.** Testimony to having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the initial physical evidence of speaking in tongues according to Acts 2:4. The Spirit-filled life will enable a minister to fulfill the fourfold mission of the Assemblies of God (*cf*. General Council Constitution, Article V, paragraph 10; District Council Bylaws, Article II. Section 1, Article III, Section

2).

C. **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.

D. **Christian character.** A blameless Christian life and a good report of those who are without (*cf*. Titus 1:7; 1 Timothy 3:7).

E. **Doctrinal position.** A thorough understanding of, and agreement with, our doctrinal position as contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.

F. **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 District Council Bylaws.

G. **Voluntary cooperation and commitment to the Fellowship.** An active loyalty to the constitutional agreements, a cooperative spirit and a readiness to seek and receive the counsel of older, mature Christians and those in positions of authority.

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 processes.

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.

H. **Basic Education Requirements.** Basic education requirements for ministerial applicants are set forth in the General Council Bylaws in Article VII, Section 2, paragraph h. Any level of formal academic achievement (diploma or degree) shall not be a requirement for credentials. However, applicants shall meet the following criteria:

1. All applicants are required to be interviewed by the 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 doctrine, and ministerial practices; and either
2. Successfully complete equivalent training to that indicated in paragraph 3 below, preferably in an endorsed Assemblies of God postsecondary school; or in a seminary, college, Bible college, or school approved by the District Credentials Committee consistent with criteria established by the General Council Credentials Committee; or
3. Successfully complete courses prescribed by the General Council Presbytery, offered by the South Carolina District School of Ministry, in correspondence through Global University of the Assemblies of God, or pass the final examinations in the prescribed courses; or
4. Be recommended by the 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 District Credentials Committee for such a candidate shall be presented to the General Council Credentials Committee and may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

I. **Mandatory Screening.** All applicants for ministerial credentials shall be screened through a designated screening agency established by the General Council Executive Presbytery. Said screening shall be done by the District Credentials Committee prior to the application to the office of the General Secretary of the Assemblies of God.

J. **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 occurred prior to his or her conversion or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (*cf*. Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (*cf*. 1 Corinthians 7:10-15), except as hereinafter provided.

K. **Ecclesiastical Annulments and Marriage Dissolutions.** The Executive Presbytery of the General Council of the Assemblies of God shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant qualifies for an ecclesiastical annulment. In such cases there must be clear and satisfactory evidence of deception, fraud, or other conditions which have a profound impact preventing the creation of a valid marriage union, unknown at the time of marriage by the applicant.

The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant qualifies regarding a former marriage when the termination of that marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the Fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials; or if a former marriage ended prior to conversion. In those cases involving preconversion divorce they shall be decided on an individual basis just as those that deal with ecclesiastical annulments.

Appeals from the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the General Presbytery.

L. **Eligibility of women.** The Scriptures plainly teach that divinely called and qualified women may also serve the assemblies in the ministry of the Word (*cf*. 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 perform all sacerdotal functions of the ordinances and are eligible to serve in all levels of ministry, and/or District Council and General Council leadership.

M. **Ministers from Other Organizations.** If a minister from another reputable body desires to affiliate with the Assemblies of God, the credential committees of both the General Council and the District Council 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:

1. Conform to Assemblies of God criteria for recognition.
2. Complete an application for ministerial recognition.
3. Submit a letter of recommendation from a neighboring Assemblies of God minister or the Sectional Presbyter for the applicant's area.
4. 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.
5. Take the credential examination.
6. Complete such courses as may be prescribed by the General Presbytery for ministers transferring from other credentialing bodies.
7. Meet with the District Credentials Committee for an oral interview.
8. Be recommended by the District Credentials Committee for action by the General Council Credentials Committee.
9. All previously ordained ministers so approved shall receive recognition as ordained Assemblies of God ministers with the laying on of hands by the District Presbytery. All other applicants so approved shall receive the appropriate level of credential recognition.
10. Ministers who receive Assemblies of God recognition shall relinquish their ministerial credentials with any other organization, unless an exception is granted by the General Council Credentials Committee upon recommendation of the District Credentials Committee for a minister serving as a missionary in this country who holds a credential

with a member of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship, or in special and/or unique cases as determined by the General Council Credentials Committee.

Section 7. Specific Qualifications

A. **Residency Requirements of Applicants.** Applicants for all credentials must be residents of or hold credentials in the South Carolina District where they make application and appear before the District Council Credentials Committee.
B. **Local Church Credential.** A local church credential shall be administered by the local assembly pursuant to basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines adopted by the South Carolina District Council. It shall be non-transferable and limited to the issuing local assembly.
C. **Certified Minister**.
    1. *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 District Council 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, disability or advanced age.
    2. *Pastoral requirements.* In the event a certified minister is serving in a position as the pastor, he or she shall be expected to advance to the ministry license level with two years of acceptance of the pastorate. This shall not apply to any minister who has reached the age of sixty-five (65) or older, or whose Certificate of Ministry has been issued on a provisional basis. Any exceptions shall be at the discretion of the District Council Credentials Committee.
    3. *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 District Credentials Committee to be essential to the continuity of the assembly or a ministry. The reason for such 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 the minister accepts another qualifying assignment. Other limitations are:
        a. The Certificate of Ministry on a provisional basis will be issue for one year and shall not be renewed more than two times.
        b. A person who has been granted the Certificate of Ministry on a provisional basis must meet the qualifications for a ministry certificate within a three (3) year period.
D. **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 the gospel.
E. **Ordained Minister.** Qualifications for ordination are outlined in the Bible (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9). In addition:
    1. *Age requirements.* Applicants must be twenty-three (23) years of age or older.
    2. *Application requirements.* They must have met all requirements in making application and in completing the prescribed application form.
    3. *Two full, consecutive years of ministry.* 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 two (2) full, consecutive years immediately prior thereto.
    4. *Residency requirements of applicants.* Applicants must be residents of or hold credentials in the District Council and appear before the Credentials Committee. The Credentials Committee

shall refrain from approving any applicant for ordination who may have been licensed in another District Council until such licensed minister shall have been a member of the South Carolina District Council at least one year. Applicants who have not been a member of the District Council where they apply for ordination for two (2) full, consecutive years must meet the requirements and secure the endorsement of the executive officers of the District Council in which they were previously licensed, as well as the South Carolina District Council.

5. *Exceptions to requirements.* The General Council Credentials Committee, upon request by the South Carolina District Credentials Committee and where exceptional circumstances exist, may waive the requirements for an applicant holding a ministry license for two (2) full consecutive years or being a member of the South Carolina District Council in which he or she is seeking ordination for at least one year.
6. *Maintaining active status.* In order to maintain active status, ordained ministers shall be 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.

Section 8. Certificates and Fellowship Cards

The General Council Credentials Committee is authorized to issue ordination certificates, ministry licenses, and certified ministers' certificates, together with the accompanying annual fellowship card, to all properly qualified and approved candidates.

Ministerial credentials shall be considered valid only when accompanied by up-to-date Fellowship certificates. All Fellowship certificates are valid only until January 15 of each year, and must be renewed annually. Renewing credentials is the responsibility of the individual minister. In the event his renewal form is not received by December 31, it shall be the minister's responsibility to notify the District Secretary-Treasurer to avoid lapsing after January 15.

Section 9. Ministry Credentials

A. Credentials Renewal Process. Credentialed ministers shall renew their credentials annually per General Council Bylaws, regulations and deadlines. The deadline for renewal is December 31. The deadline to avoid a lapsed credential normally is January 15. To avoid a late fee, the General Council requires a postmarked date no later than December 31 to accompany the renewal form. A grace period from January 1 through January 15 is granted by the General Council accompanied by a requisite late fee. Renewals may be made by posted and date stamped mail to the District Council at any time before the deadline up to the end of the grace period. Online renewals may be made at the General Council website up to the deadline date of December 31, but not beyond.

B. Ministerial Credential Upgrades. The Credentials Examination and Interview Committee shall examine, interview and recommend status upgrades to the District Presbytery. In turn, the District Presbytery, acting as the District Credentials Committee, shall recommend status upgrades to the General Council Credentials Committee for qualified ministers who apply and satisfy all requirements of the General Council and District Council.

C. Maintenance of Credentials. All ministers are expected to be actively engaged in the proclamation of the gospel of the kingdom of God. In order to maintain active status, ministers shall be engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel during the year, except for cases of disability, retirement, or other valid circumstances as determined by the General Secretary of the General Council of the Assemblies of God. The minister's previous year's record must indicate that he or she has cooperated financially with the District Council as prescribed by the Bylaws.

D. Quality Education

1. *Continuing education.* Ministers and assemblies are encouraged to seek continuing education, discipleship, spiritual formation and training opportunities of all kinds, of all degrees of difficulty, or their own initiative or in cooperation with the District Council and the General Council, but with great care always taken to properly understand and honestly describe all such training, certification, degrees and titles.
2. *Using adequately accredited institutions*. Because of the many questionable institutions offering unaccredited or deficient training and education, and since the General Council, its accredited schools and its regional Assemblies of God universities are committed to achieving and maintaining the highest standards of accreditation in education, the District Council encourages its ministers to meet their continuing education needs either through endorsed Assemblies of God institutions such as its regional university, Southeastern University of the Assemblies of God, or through other reputable institutions having accreditation status at least equivalent to that held by the Assemblies of God regional and national accredited schools.
3. *South Carolina District School of Ministry (SC DSOM).* The South Carolina District School of Ministry shall exist to provide a competent, convenient, fast track and inexpensive way to (1) satisfy basic academic and internship requirements of the General Council of the Assemblies of God for ministerial credentials at certification, license and ordination levels and (2) provide quality education for staff and members of assemblies not seeking ministerial credentials who desire continuing education in ministry-related courses.

E. Compliance with Tithing Policy. Each minister shall comply with the tithing policy of these bylaws and the required dues of the General Council during the calendar year in order to be renewed or, in such cases, to be reinstated upon lapsing after January 15. If a minister's tithe and/or General Council dues are in arrears, he or she shall be given opportunity to explain the reason and shall meet the deficit at the time of renewal. Should a minister fail to comply through negligence with his or her agreement to give tithes according to these bylaws during the calendar year, except for stated exceptions in these bylaws, the District Credentials Committee retains the prerogative to arrange a repayment plan for tithes in arrears with the current tithe to be completed within the following year not to exceed December 31. During this period of time the minister shall be on ministerial probation. If the minister fails to comply with the repayment plan, the District Presbytery may recommend to the General Secretariat that the credential not be renewed.

F. Transfer of Credentials. When a member minister takes up residence in another district, a certificate of transfer shall be issued within sixty (60 days) by the District Council unless charges are pending against the minister. The General Council Bylaws provides for the certificate of transfer to be accepted by the District Council into which the minister moves. Exceptions to transferring out to another District Council may be made according to the General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 9 such as those who serve in Assemblies of God institutions, are missionaries, serve in the military or are students.

G. Transfer from Assemblies of God World Fellowship. A minister holding ordination (or equivalent) with a member group of the Assemblies of God World Fellowship may transfer his or her ordination to the General Council of the Assemblies of God if the following criteria are met:

1. A letter of recommendation from the Executive Leadership Team of the national church or equivalent letter of recommendation.
2. A course on Assemblies of God history and polity.
3. A completed ministerial application.

H. Non-disciplinary Credential Terminations. Non-disciplinary credential terminations may be done on the initiative of the minister or the District Council Credentials Committee.

1. Initiative of the minister
    i. *Lapsed.* Ministers who do not renew their credentials shall be listed as lapsed, provided there is no cause for disciplinary action. Their names shall be published

as lapsed in the *Assemblies of God Ministers Letter*, hereafter referred to as *The Ministers Letter*.

ii. *Resigned.* Ministers who elect to remove themselves from the Fellowship shall submit a letter of resignation to the District Secretary-Treasurer. If there is no cause for disciplinary action, their resignation shall become effective after having been approved by both the District Council and General Council credential committees. Their termination shall be listed in *The Ministers Letter* as resigned.

2. Initiative of the District Council

iii. *Inactive.* When a minister becomes inactive for two consecutive years, according to the stipulations set forth in General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 6, paragraph b, his or her name shall be published as inactive in *The Ministers Letter*.

iv. *Not renewed.* If in the opinion of the District Council's Credential Committee a minister's credentials should not be renewed short of disciplinary action, the minister's name shall be published as not renewed in the *Ministers Letter*.

3. Affiliation with another church organization. In the event a minister shall identify with another organization granting ministerial credentials, and shall have received such credentials, his or her credentials with the General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be terminated. An investigation shall be made to determine the proper category of termination.

4. Surrender of credentials. In all cases, the minister shall be required to surrender his or her credential (Certificate of Ordination, Ministry License or Certificate of Ministry) and current Fellowship Card to the District Secretary-Treasurer. Refusal to surrender his or her credentials and current Fellowship Card shall be considered insubordination and may result in placing a charge against the minister.

I. Reinstatement of Ministers. When a minister's credentials is removed from the General Council's ministerial list for any cause, except failure to renew or dismissal, and shall apply for reinstatement, he or she shall not be eligible for reinstatement until at least six months have elapsed from the time of the removal. The Credentials Committee may hold such reinstatement in abeyance as long as deemed advisable. A non-refundable fee of $100 shall accompany the application to be divided between the General Council and the District Council.

Applications for reinstatement may be made through the South Carolina District Council by an applicant who resides in the district but who was removed from the ministerial list while a member of another District Council. A letter of clearance shall be sought from the District Council's executive office that processed the termination, and, upon receipt of the clearance, may add its endorsement and forward the application, together with the letter of clearance, to the General Council Credentials Committee for its action.

Section 10. Official List of Ministers

A. **Terminology.**

1. "Active ministry": ministry that is actively maintained by the credentialed minister through personal initiative, direct association, creative participation and leadership with an organized assembly, recognized institution or indigenous work in a viable leadership, missionary, evangelistic or educational role unique to the ministerial calling that conforms to the normal rigors and discipline of daily ministerial life associated with the phrase "full-time ministry".

2. "Inactive ministry": ministry that ceases to be active as part of the normal rigors of daily ministerial life, association and leadership as defined in the phrase "active ministry".
3. "Full-time ministry": ministry is considered to be full-time when two-thirds or more of a normal work week is dedicated exclusively to ministry with an organized assembly, recognized institution or indigenous work in a viable leadership, missionary, evangelistic or educational role unique to the ministerial calling that conforms to the normal rigors and discipline of daily ministerial life.

B. **Active Ministers.** All credentialed ministers who shall withdraw from active ministry, or shall cease to engage in pastoral, evangelistic, or other full-time ministry, shall be expected to notify the District Secretary-Treasurer who shall notify the General Secretary of the General Council of the Assemblies of God authorized to transfer the names of such persons to the inactive list, unless the District Credentials Committee requests otherwise by letter.

C. **Inactive or Disabled Ministers.** All credentialed ministers who shall withdraw from active ministry or shall cease to engage in pastoral, evangelistic, or other full-time ministry, shall be expected to notify the District Secretary-Treasurer who shall inform the General Secretary who is authorized to transfer the names of such persons to the inactive list, unless the District Credentials Committee requests otherwise by letter or e-mail message.

Section 11. Stewardship and Retirement Planning

A. Stewardship Planning. All credentialed ministers and assemblies are urged to draw from the counsel and benefits of the District Council Stewardship Department in estate, insurance, Social Security, Medicare and retirement planning.

B. Tax-Sheltered Retirement Funds. The South Carolina District Council recommends that credentialed ministers participate in the federal Social Security program, The General Council Ministers Benefit Association, or another tax-sheltered retirement fund, and that each local assembly contribute to these programs for its ministers.

C. District Contributions for Ministers Benefit Association (MBA). The District Council shall contribute an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the minister's monthly tithe to The General Council Ministers Benefit Association if he or she is enrolled and properly notifies in writing the District Secretary-Treasurer of the account name and number. The District Council shall have no obligation to make any contribution for the benefit of any minister who has not established an account for retirement purposes. Funds that accrue for the initial six months after a minister joins the District Council membership upon receiving his or her credentials, or by transfer from another District Council, shall be forfeited if the minister fails to join the Ministers Benefit Association (MBA) during this time. No monthly accruals shall occur after this initial six month period ends. The minister may join MBA at any time afterwards and notify the District Secretary-Treasurer in writing to begin receiving monthly deposits in his or her MBA account from his or her monthly tithe contributions.

Section 12. Senior Ministers

In respect and honor to those ministers who have given years of service to the Fellowship, senior status shall automatically be given to all credential holders who have reached the age of sixty-five (65), whether or not they continue in full-time ministry.

A. Application for Retired Category. Senior-retired status shall be granted only to those ministers who filed a request for such status with the District Secretary-Treasurer. He or she shall file an abbreviated report to maintain a correct address file for mail, e-mail and insurance purposes.

B. Guidelines

1. *Reports.* Senior-retired ministers shall file an abbreviated annual report to maintain a correct mailing address.
2. *Designation in publications.* Senior-retired ministers shall have this status indicated in the *Official List of Assemblies of God Ministers*.
3. *Support of General Council national office.* Senior-retired ministers shall be free to distribute as they desire the portion of their tithes previously paid to the General Council.

C. Aged Ministers Assistance. Recommended is that all assemblies, both District Council affiliated and General Council affiliated, contribute regularly to Aged Ministers Assistance of the Assemblies of God to provide assistance to aged ministers who are in need of financial assistance. Assistance shall be made available to ordained ministers of the Assemblies of God and to their widows, because of age or physical infirmity, and for whom no other means of support is available. Eligibility shall be determined on the following basis:

1. *Ministerial requirement*. The applicant shall have been an ordained minister in good standing and have held credentials for at least ten (10) years immediately prior to retirement.
2. *Age requirement*. The applicant shall have reached the age of sixty-five (65) in the case of an ordained minister, or sixty (60) in the case of a spouse of an ordained minister.
3. *Disability requirement*. Ministers who have been disabled to the extent that they cannot perform their ministerial duties shall also be eligible to make application.
4. *Financial cooperation requirement*. The record of the applicant shall indicate that he or she has complied with the approved financial plans of the District Council and the General Council of the Assemblies of God.
5. *District endorsement requirement*. Unqualified endorsement must be given by the District Council Executive Presbytery.

Section 13. Ministerial Status Changes

All changes in a minister's status shall be reported immediately to the District Secretary-Treasurer who, in turn, shall report this information to the office of the General Secretary of the General Council on the Ministerial Status Report (MSR) form provided by that office.

Section 14. Ministerial Relations and Ethics

A. Amenability. All certified, licensed and ordained ministers shall be amenable to both the District Council and the General Council of the Assemblies of God in matters of doctrine, conduct and discipline (*cf*. General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 1 and Section 8, a.). Above all, they shall regard themselves as subjects of the Kingdom of God and amenable to it in all matters of life, doctrine and conduct as revealed in the Word of God.

B. Culture of Honor. Ministers and their spouses are encouraged to foster a culture of honor and respect in the Assemblies of God Fellowship. Recommendations include the following principles to hallmark the lives of others:

1. *Federal, state, county and local government leaders.* Pray for all who are in authority and leadership over us as a nation, including prayer for the peace of Jerusalem (*cf*. Psalm 122:6) and peace in the world (*cf*. Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 6:9-10).
2. *Assemblies of God Fellowship leaders.* Honor the Assemblies of God Fellowship's world, national and district leadership to make their work among us easier and more beneficial to the whole of the Fellowship (*cf*. Hebrews 13:17).
3. *Pastors and staff appreciation.* Official boards and congregations are encouraged to

honor their pastors and staff through appreciation events such as common to the annual Pastor's Appreciation Day.

4. *Local leadership and members of assemblies.* Pastors are encouraged to honor those in their respective congregations who distinguish themselves in their walk with God in the Spirit as wholesome examples of godly character, integrity and mission within the greater community.
5. *Life-time achievement.* The District Council shall give due honor to those whose life-time achievement deserves General Council and/or District Council recognition among the ministers and assemblies. These include but are not limited to the following:
    a. General Council and District Council recognition of credentialed ministers who distinguished themselves by fifty (50) years of active ministry in the Assemblies of God Fellowship.
    b. Recommendation for General Council recognition as Honorary General Presbyter former District Council executive officers who served at least twenty years as a General Presbyter of the Assemblies of God.
    c. Recommendation for District Council recognition as Honorary District Council Presbyter former District Council executive officers.
6. *Honoring Retired Ministers.* Upon retirement from a congregation, a minister may feel necessity to disassociate from the congregation where he or she was beloved for ethical reasons. Though disruptive influence by former pastors is strongly discouraged in any local assembly and may be subject to disciplinary action, at the same time, succeeding pastors of retiring pastors should make every reasonable effort to honor and respect the retiring pastor and his or her family by encouraging continued association with and participation in congregational life so that he and his family may enjoy the love of the people and not face retirement years alone without membership in a local assembly. Likewise, it is the duty of the retired pastor and his or her family to honor and respect the succeeding pastor and do no harm to him or her or to the congregation. Sometimes an honorific title such as pastor emeritus may be conveyed where no duties are required or expected. If an unresolved issue arises with the retired pastor's continued association with the local assembly, the District Executive Presbytery shall hear the matter and render a final decision based upon reasonable criteria.

C. Clergy's Duty to Report Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect.

a. Reasonable Belief. Members of the clergy who are at least eighteen (18) years old are mandated reporters and are required by South Carolina Code of Law § 63-7-310 to report suspected child abuse or neglect. As mandated reporters, clergy members must report when in their professional capacity they received information which gives them reason to believe a child has been or may be abused or neglected as defined in South Carolina Code § 63-7-20. The mandate to report child abuse or neglect does not require the reporter to know for certain that a child has been abused or neglected. The duty to report is triggered when the mandated reporter has the reasonable belief that a child has been or may be abused or neglected.

b. Personal Duty to Report to Legal Authority. Reporting to a supervisor or person in charge of an institution does not relieve a mandated reporter of his or her individual duty to report, and the duty to report is not superseded by an internal investigation within an institution (South Carolina Code § 63-7-310(C)).

D. Affiliation with District of Residence. All credential holders shall be expected to affiliate with the District Council within the boundaries of which they reside and work in cooperation with the same according the General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 8, paragraph b.

1. *Exception*. Ministers who reside in one district but pastor or serve on the staff of an assembly located in another district shall be required to be a member of the district in which the assembly is located.

2. *Nationally appointed U.S. missionaries.* According to General Council Bylaw, nationally appointed U.S. missionaries shall become members of the District Council in which they serve and shall be listed on the ministerial roster of that District Council by the office of the General Secretary. They may also retain honorary membership in their home District Council, be listed as a missionary under national appointment in their home District Council's yearbook, and be extended voice and voting privileges in the same while on official furlough.

3. *Church-planting missionaries.* According to General Council Bylaw, ministers who serve in a transdistrict ministry related to church-planting efforts may do so provided:

   a. They have a scope of ministry which reaches beyond district boundaries; and
   b. The district presbyteries of both district councils agree to the assignment; and
   c. If the assignment involves a language group, they follow the guidelines provided by the General Council Executive Presbytery and adhere to the General Council Bylaws governing interdistrict relations (*cf*. General Council Bylaws, Article V, Section 6).

4. *District Council church planters*. Church planters holding credentials may obtain Affiliation with the District Council they intend to serve and retain honorary membership in their home District Council, be listed in the home District Council's yearbook, and be extended voice and voting privileges in their home District Council as they serve in another district. The financial responsibilities shall be the same as those of a nationally appointed U.S. missionary (*cf*. General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 8, paragraph c, subparagraph (3)).

D. Cooperation with Other District Councils. Ministers shall be expected to cooperate with other district councils in which they may labor temporarily. It is recommended as a standard of proper practice that all ministers conform to the financial policy of the District Council with which they are affiliated with the exceptions of financial responsibilities of world missionaries, chaplains (military and institutional) and nationally appointed or approved U.S. missionaries who shall conform to the requirements for financial support of the District Council as set forth in the General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 8, c.

E. Ministerial Etiquette and Ethics. All discourteous and unethical conduct is disapproved. The minister should seek to express himself or herself in all life's situations and challenges in a wise, understanding, respectful and appropriate manner, avoiding intemperate and inappropriate words and behavior that may lead others to question his or her character, integrity and walk with God, always drawing upon the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, power, knowledge and the fear of Yahweh in human relationships (*cf*. Isaiah 11:2-3). Ministers are to be examples before others and should walk worthy of their high calling (*cf*. Ephesians 4:1-3; 1 Timothy 3:7; Titus 1:7-9).

1. **Holding Office in Assemblies.** All credentialed ministers shall refrain from holding an elected or appointed office in assemblies (*e.g*., board member, trustee, deacon, etc.) other than the church they may pastor. They shall refrain from voting in the local business meeting. Exceptions may be made at the request of the senior or lead pastor to the District Council's Executive Leadership Team.
2. **Privileged Communications.** All credentialed ministers are obligated to respect as sacred and confidential any information confided to them while they are serving in their ministerial capacities as spiritual counselors and are not to disclose such confidential information except with the expressed written consent and permission of the confidant to prevent the commission of a crime, or if required by law.
3. **New Assemblies.** Before starting a new assembly or relocating an established assembly in any community in the South Carolina District, the credentialed minister shall exercise

ministerial courtesy to notify the District Council's Executive Presbytery in order to request written endorsement to safeguard the goodwill and intentions of the minister and, if involved, the local assembly which he is senior or lead pastor

F. Resignations. No pastor should resign from a local assembly without first advising the District Superintendent or District Secretary-Treasurer and his or her region's Executive Presbyter at least one week prior to the announcement to the officers and/or members of the local assembly.

ARTICLE XI. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED

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

Section 1. Unconditional Security

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

Section 2. Legalism

A. Matters of conscience. The Assemblies of God strongly affirms that the Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). However, since sincere commitment to holy living sometimes results in sharp differences of opinion among believers on debatable matters of personal conscience, the Assemblies of God disapproves the practice of pressing these debatable matters of personal conscience upon others (Romans 14:1-4).

B. Adding conditions to salvation. The Assemblies of God strongly affirms that salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8,9). Therefore, the Assemblies of God disapproves any teaching or practice that seems to add conditions to salvation (Galatians 3:1-5).

Section 3. Eschatological Errors

A. The restitution of all things. The Assemblies of God understands the teaching of Acts 3:21 to limit the restoration to that of which the prophets have spoken, thus denying the universal redemption theory. We are opposed to all forms of universalism (Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:10).

B. Setting a date for the Lord's return. It is unwise to teach that the Lord will come at some specified time, thereby setting a date for His appearing (Mark 13:32,33; Luke 12:37-40; 1 Thessalonians 5:2). It is also unwise to give out from the platform, or publish, visions of numbers and dates fixing the time of the second coming of the Lord.

C. Post-Tribulation Rapture. The General Council of the Assemblies of God has declared itself in the Statement of Fundamental Truths that it holds to the belief in the imminent coming of the Lord as the blessed hope of the Church; and since the teaching that the Church must go through the Tribulation tends to bring confusion and division among the saints, it is recommended that all our ministers teach the imminent coming of Christ, warning all to be prepared for that coming, which may occur at any time, and not lull their minds into complacency by any teaching that would cause them to feel that specific Tribulation events must occur before the rapture of the saints.

D. Amillennialism. The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the amillennial teaching and its attendant erroneous philosophy which denies the fact of a literal 1,000-year reign of Christ on the earth, and substitutes for it the theory that this Christian or Church dispensation is the spiritual Millennium of which, its proponents say, the Bible writers prophesied.

E. Credentials jeopardized if made an issue. We recommend that those ministers who embrace any of the foregoing eschatological errors refrain from preaching or teaching them. Should they persist in emphasizing these doctrines to the point of making them an issue, their standing in the Fellowship will be seriously affected (Luke 21:34-36; 1 Thessalonians 5:9,10; 2 Thessalonians 1:4-10; Revelation 3:10,19,20).

Section 4. Membership in Secret Orders

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

The nature of such organizations demands secrecy (John 18:20; Acts 26:26) reinforced by religious oaths (Matthew 5:34) and strong attachment by binding obligations to persons who are for the most part unregenerated (2 Corinthians 6:14). The spirit, philosophy, and general influence of such secret orders aim at the improvement of the natural man only (1 Corinthians 2:14; Colossians 2:8), thus wrongly channeling by incorrect interpretation important spiritual truths (2 Peter 3:16).

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

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

Section 5. Divorce and Remarriage

A. Membership

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

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

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

C. Assembly Leadership

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

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

D. Performing marriage ceremonies

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

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

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

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

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

Section 6. Worldliness

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

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

Section 7. Abuses of Stewardship

A. Tithing

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

B. Solicitation of funds

1. It is considered improper and unethical for ministers or missionaries to solicit funds, by letter or otherwise, for anything or any reason whatsoever without proper authorization.
2. The purpose of this section is not to hinder or discourage legitimate projects but to protect the Fellowship from those who employ methods not in harmony with Assemblies of God principles or policies.

Leaders in local projects shall have unquestioned freedom in local churches or communities. Projects of general interest to the district must have authorization of the district officers.

Projects or institutions of national scope that plan to solicit funds from Assemblies of God churches must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Promotion of all projects of a missional nature must have the authorization of the District Executive Presbytery.

3. The obtaining and use of mailing lists for promotional purposes not having proper authorization or which are not in keeping with policies of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be considered improper and unethical, whether it be under the name of a prayer chain beyond a local scope, chain letters, or appeals to the constituency for the support of ventures of strictly local or personal character. All offenders guilty of the practices expressed in the foregoing paragraphs shall be subject to discipline.

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

A disregard of this principle and recommendation shall seriously affect the relation of the Assemblies of God members involved in such ownership.

Section 8. Ministers Holding Office in Local Assemblies

All ministers holding credentials at any level shall refrain from holding any office in local assemblies, from voting in the local business meeting, and from serving on search committees for new pastors during a vacancy in office.

Those who apply for ministerial credentials who hold such offices shall resign their office immediately upon receiving credentials.

Appeals may be made by the lead pastor of a local assembly to the Executive Presbytery for waivers on a case-by-case basis. In the event waivers are not approved, if requested, a final decision shall be made by the District Presbytery. If the lead pastor requesting this arrangement shall leave the assembly, the arrangement shall be terminated as null and void, or, if the lead pastor, for any other reason, is no longer desirous of this arrangement, the minister shall comply with the lead pastor's request.

Section 9. Interference by Act or Undue Influence

All ministers are advised against interfering with pastors and staff in charge of assemblies by intruding, exercising undue influence upon their work without consent, or by correspondence or other means of contact with members of the assembly as will hurt the influence of the pastor, staff and other leaders. All correspondence and any other form of contact which concerns the whole assembly shall be addressed or directed to the one in charge and not to individual members. Where there is no pastor, letters and/or electronic forms of contact shall be addressed to the officers of the assembly. Any minister who so offends the spirit of unity, cooperation, harmony or corporate witness of an assembly and its leadership shall be subject to discipline by the District Presbytery.

Section 10. Ministry in Non-Assemblies of God Churches

Ministers shall not be limited or restrained from entering open doors to preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God and its Pentecostal message as during the times of the first apostles of the Lord Jesus so long as they retain Assemblies of God doctrine, standards of holiness, proper attitudes and proper ministerial conduct without compromise.

Inasmuch as unity and cooperation is a vital principle in the Assemblies of God as it is in the Kingdom of God, it is essential that we recognize our relationship to each other in the Messiah Jesus around the world, both within the Assemblies of God Fellowship and beyond, and that we practice cooperation whenever possible and practical with other groups of believers, fellowships and organizations in all our pastoral, evangelistic, missionary and local work of ministry.

Ministers are urged to confer with a District Executive Leadership Team member before engaging in ministry in any church group not affiliated with the Assemblies of God so as to ascertain the value and benefits of such efforts or whether such ministry might result in confusion or misunderstandings in doctrine and conduct. In the event the District Executive Leadership Team member should not give approval, the minister shall refrain from conducting services for the church or group. Ministers who violate the decision of the District Executive Leadership Team shall be subject to discipline.

Section 11. Improper Attitude toward Those Removed From the Fellowship

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

Section 12. Interdenominational or Ecumenical Relationships

The General Council of the Assemblies of God encourages ministers or churches to fellowship with other Christians of like precious faith who hold to the inspiration of Scripture, the deity of Christ, the

universality of sin, the substitutionary atonement, the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and his second coming.

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

Section 13. Divine Healing and Professional Medicine

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

Section 14. Accountability in Educational Attribution

A. Attribution. In order to maintain our testimony of quality and integrity in educational credentials before the Church and the world, and to minimize the possibility of our ministers and churches being victimized by, or supporting, or perpetrating frauds in education or credentialing, we maintain certain standards for the attribution of degrees, certifications, and titles.

(1) *Attribution by ministers*. Our ministers shall refrain from listing, promoting, or attributing to themselves or others any degrees or titles conferred by institutions or organizations having, at the time of conferral, a formal accreditation status less than that of our appropriately corresponding Assemblies of God institutions (whether our institute, regional university, or seminary levels).

(2) *Attribution by the General Council*. No media, ministry, department, arm, or employee of the General Council shall list, attribute, or promote for any person, any degree or title conferred by an institution or organization having, at the time of conferral, a formal accreditations status less than that of our appropriately corresponding Assemblies of God institutions (whether our institute, regional university, or seminary levels).

(3) *Attribution by local churches*. We strongly encourage our ministers, boards, and churches to take great care to ensure that all ministers and church employees have actually earned the legitimately accredited education, training, and certification, as defined above, which they claim by their titles or degrees (such as counselor, therapist, doctor, and so on).

(4) *Attribution accepted*. All previously earned or conferred degrees prior to August 2007, from any institution whatsoever shall be fully accepted and grandfathered in.

B. Intentional failure to comply. Intentional refusal to comply with this ethical standard for educational credentials constitutes perpetrating a fraud upon the church and the world, personally and in the good name of the Assemblies of God, and the General Council disapproves of such practices.

Section 15. Substance Abuse

The District Council of the Assemblies of God in compliance with the General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the use of substances, such as but not limited to alcohol, tobacco, and recreational drugs, that are harmful to the body or mind, or that detract from a Christian's testimony, or that are a cause of stumbling to others, or that impair good judgment.

ARTICLE XII. DISCIPLINE AND RESTORATION

Section 1. The Nature and Purposes of Discipline

The aims of discipline as determined by scriptural authority are that God may be honored, that the purity and welfare of the ministry may be maintained, and that those under discipline may be brought to repentance and restoration.

Discipline is to be administered for the restoration of the minister, while fully providing for the protection of the spiritual welfare of our assemblies. It is to be redemptive in nature as well as corrective, and is to be exercised as under a dispensation of mercy.

Section 2. The Relationship between the District and General Council Credentials Committees

The Executive Presbytery of the General Council is the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God (Constitution, Article X, Sections 4 and 6). It shall have the final authority in matters of doctrine and the personal conduct of all certified, licensed, and ordained ministers. District actions related to the termination of credentials or the remedial discipline of restoration are to be in the form of recommendations to the General Council Credentials Committee.

All references to the discipline of ministers within this article of the Bylaws relate solely to certified, licensed, and ordained ministers.

Section 3. Causes of Disciplinary Action

A. Violations of Principles. Violations of Assemblies of God principles as stated in these Constitution and Bylaws may give cause for disciplinary action by the credentials committees. Among such causes for action shall be:

a. Moral failure involving sexual misconduct.
b. Moral failure involving pornography.
c. Any moral or ethical failure other than sexual misconduct.
d. General inefficiency in the ministry.
e. A failure to represent our Pentecostal testimony correctly.
f. A contentious or non-cooperative spirit.
g. An assumption of dictatorial authority over an assembly.
h. An arbitrary rejection of counsel from the District Council elected officers.
i. A declared open change in doctrinal views.
j. Immoral, unethical, or illegal practices related to personal, church, or ministry finances.
k. A marriage in violation of our stand on marriage and divorce. (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraphs d and e.)
l. Violations of ministerial courtesy. (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 8.)
m. Ministry without prior approval in a non-Assemblies of God church. (See Bylaws, Article IX, Section 9.)
n. An improper attitude toward those dismissed from the Fellowship. (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 10.)

B. Expiration of Time Limit. Notwithstanding the above, when more than seven (7) years have elapsed from an occurrence that is cause for disciplinary action, the 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 rehabilitative. In all such cases, final determination shall be made by the General Council Credentials Committee.

C. Prerogative of District Council in Other Disciplinary Issues. The South Carolina District Council retains the prerogative to exercise discipline and redemptive plans of recovery in other matters that do not rise to the level of formal charges for ministerial misconduct such as non-compliance to the acceptable standards of the Fellowship.

Section 4. Right of Initiative

A. Authority. Occasions sometimes arise which make it necessary to deal with ministers who for some reason seem to have reached the place where, in the opinion of the leaders, endorsement can no longer be given. Credentials committees which have the authority to ordain ministers and to recommend them for credentials also have the right to withdraw their approval and to recommend the recall of credentials.

B. Prior right of District Council. The General Council Bylaws provides that the officers of the District Council in which an alleged offense is reported to have occurred shall be recognized as having the prior right of initiative in matters of discipline.

C. Responsibility of District Council of affiliation. If the district in which an alleged offense is reported to have occurred for some reason cannot take action, the General Council Credentials Committee shall refer the matter, together with the facts and supporting instruments, to the district with which the minister is affiliated.

D. Responsibility of General Council Credentials Committee. In the event the District Credentials Committee fails to take action within 90 days after a matter has been referred to it, it shall be the responsibility of the General Council Credentials Committee to see that action is initiated.

Section 5. Investigation of Reports or Complaints of Alleged Violations or Confessions of Violations of Assemblies of God Principles

A. Within the District Council of the Assemblies of God. Reports or complaints of alleged violations of Assemblies of God principles (Bylaws, Article X, Section 3) or confessions of such by a minister shall be investigated. The District Superintendent in which the alleged offense is reported to have occurred, or an appointed representative, shall conduct the investigation to determine their source and validity. It is the responsibility of the District Superintendent to safeguard the church, the minister, the district, and the Fellowship. In the event such reports or complaints against a minister are filed with the General Council Credentials Committee, they shall be referred to the District Council in which the offense occurred for investigation. A copy shall be sent to the District Council with which the minister is affiliated.

(1) *Interview with complainants.* The persons involved shall be interviewed to ascertain the facts in the case and the reasons underlying the persistence of the reports or complaints.

(2) *Interview with accused minister.* The accused minister shall be given an opportunity to be interviewed to discuss the complaints received in the hope that the matter can be resolved.

(3) *Signed complaints.* In the event the investigation so warrants, a signed complaint shall be filed with the district office by each complainant describing the alleged offense.

(4) *Conditions for ministry during investigation.* Conditions of continuing ministry may be subject to restriction during the time of investigation at the discretion of the appropriate district officers on the basis of evidence at hand and the nature of the alleged offense. Such conditions

are subject to review in 3-month intervals until such investigation has been completed resulting in either clearing the person of the allegations or filing formal charges.

B. Outside United States. In case the alleged misconduct occurs outside the United States in an area under the general oversight of Assemblies of God World Missions, that division shall take the initiative to file complete data with the District Council of the minister's affiliation. Any hearing or trial affecting that individual's ministerial credentials shall be held in the District Council of the minister's affiliation. Assemblies of God World Missions shall convey all information available to the said District Council as follows:

(1) *Report to District Council of affiliation.* At the earliest date after Assemblies of God World Missions receives a report of misconduct, such report shall be conveyed by telephone and by letter to the superintendent of the District Council with which the minister is affiliated.

(2) *Confidential file.* A confidential file shall be submitted to the District Superintendent, conveying all information as it becomes available to the division. A final complete file shall be prepared under the direction of the field director of the field involved and shall be presented to the District Superintendent for use in any action the district may take.

(3) *Additional information.* When in the judgment of Assemblies of God World Missions or the district involved, basic information is lacking (which information may be available at the site of the alleged misconduct), arrangements may be made for the gathering of such.

Section 6. Preparation and Filing of Charges

If after due investigation it is determined that charges should be made, proper charges shall be prepared and filed in the district office. If no one appears to sign the charges, the district officers making the investigation may file charges based on the evidence in their possession. The person against whom charges have been filed shall be informed in writing by certified mail, at the last address furnished to the district, of the charges made in keeping with Bylaws, Article X, Section 3.

Section 7. District Credentials Committee Hearing and Discipline

A. District Council hearing. In the event the reports or complaints cannot be dealt with privately to the satisfaction of all concerned, the District Superintendent of the District Council in which the alleged offense is said to have occurred, or the District Superintendent of the District Council with which the minister is affiliated, shall arrange for a hearing by the District Credentials Committee for the accused minister. The minister shall be required to appear at the hearing in the hope the matter can be resolved.

B. Forfeiture of rights of accused. A hearing shall not be considered as final disposition of the case until the accused be present and be allowed all rights and privileges granted herein. However, an accused member may be found guilty of charges and disciplined for failure to appear at the hearing, or if proof is found of willful neglect to take advantage of rights and privileges provided in these bylaws.

C. Discipline

(1) *Cause for discipline.* A minister who has been found guilty of violating any of the Assemblies of God principles set forth in Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, either by a confession of the minister involved or by deliberation of the district presbytery, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

(2) *Determination of discipline.* It shall be the responsibility of the credentials committees to determine whether the circumstances of the case merit restoration or dismissal. The credentials committees shall weigh decisions on: (a) the basis of the offense itself, (b) the manner and thoroughness of repentance, (c) the attitude of the offending minister toward the discipline, and (d) the willingness manifested to cooperate.

(3) *Administering discipline redemptively.* If the District Credentials Committee determines that guilt has been established by the District Discipline and Restoration Committee, discipline shall be administered prayerfully and in the fear of God, in accordance with the Scriptures, and as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God (*cf*. General Council Bylaws, Article X, Sections 8 and 9).

D. Surrender of credentials. Disciplined ministers shall be required to surrender their ministerial credentials and their current fellowship card to the district office. In the event of restoration the credentials shall be held in the District Council office by the District Secretary-Treasurer. In the event of dismissal the District Credentials Committee shall forward the credentials to the General Secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Refusal to surrender ministerial credentials and current fellowship card may result in placing an additional charge against the minister.

Section 8. Restoration

Recognizing that the underlying principle involved in discipline is redemptive, and that man's conscience frequently brings him to judgment and confession, and that justice can sometimes be best served with mercy, an effort should be made to lead the offending minister through a program of restoration, administered in love and kindness. The following provisions for restoration shall apply.

A. Basis. Those found to have violated any of the Assemblies of God principles (Bylaws, Article X, Section 3) may request a program of restoration as an alternative to dismissal. Restoration is a privilege granted out of mercy and not a right to be expected or demanded. The primary purpose is to restore a person to God, spouse, and family, with the results leading to possible restoration to ministry. Granting such request shall be at the discretion of the District Council and General Council credentials committees.

B. Procedure and requirements. The following procedure shall be used by the District Discipline and Restoration Committee in its recommendation to the District Credentials Committee in determining the specific requirements for restoration for the individual minister.

(1) *Restoration requirements.* The specific terms and conditions of the restoration program as recommended by the District Credentials Committee are to be forwarded to the General Council Credentials Committee for approval. After such approval they shall be given to the minister.

(a) *Suspension.* The minister shall be considered to be under suspension during the entire period of restoration.

(b) *Terms and Conditions*

(1) Period of time. The program for restoration shall continue for not less than 1 year except when the violation involves misconduct defined in the General Council Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, paragraph a, in which case it shall continue for not less than 2 years.

(2) Authority. The General Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be authorized to establish guidelines and policy in regard to terms and conditions of restoration. Such guidelines and policy shall be consistent with provisions of the General Council Bylaws.

(c) *Extent of ministry.* The extent to which ministry may be permitted, if any, shall be determined by the District Presbytery, subject to the approval of the General Council Credentials Committee and compatible with the guidelines and policy established by the General Presbytery.

(d) *District membership*. The minister shall not be permitted to transfer his or her membership to another District Council during the period of restoration.

(e) *Publication*. While the minister's credentials are in a state of suspension, the minister's name shall not be removed from the ministerial roster, nor shall the minister's disciplinary status be published in either the General Council or District Council official publications.

(f) *Credentials renewal.* The minister shall renew his or her credentials annually in the regular manner.

(g) *Supervision.* In the event his or her ministerial activity has been terminated, the minister must become established in a local church working under the supervision of a pastor or presbyter.

(h) *Reports.* The minister must submit reports quarterly to the District Superintendent.

(i) *Ministerial benefits.* During the program of restoration the minister shall continue to be eligible for benefits such as the minister's group insurance and Ministers Benefit Association.

(j) *Program administration*. The approved restoration program shall be administered by the District Presbytery.

(2) *District Council progress reports.* The District Credentials Committee shall submit to the General Council Credentials Committee on February 1 and August 1 of each calendar year a progress report relative to the restoration of ministers under discipline.

(3) *Completion of restoration.* When the restoration program has been satisfactorily completed, the suspension shall be lifted and the minister shall be restored to good standing.

(4) *Transfer of information.* A restoration information form for District Council use, prepared and distributed by the General Secretary, shall be completed by the District Secretary-Treasurer in which the restoration occurred when the rehabilitated minister requests a transfer to a new district. The completed restoration form shall accompany the Certificate of Transfer to another District Council. A disciplined minister shall, as a condition of entering a restoration program, sign a Limited Disclosure Agreement approved by the General Presbytery allowing the basis of his or her restoration program to be disclosed by the District Superintendent or District Secretary of a transferring district. The information shall be preserved for future reference in the files of the District Council in which the restoration occurred and the General Council.

C. Eligibility of previously dismissed. In the event a minister who has been dismissed requests reinstatement, the District Credentials Committee shall first obtain permission from the General Council Credentials Committee before submitting an appropriate restoration program as prescribed in Section 8 of this article. The dismissed minister shall not be eligible for reinstatement until the requirements for restoration have been completed. Consideration may also be given to a minister if in the opinion of the credentials committees he or she has satisfactorily fulfilled the remedial requirements of such restoration.

Section 9. Referral for Action to the General Council Credentials Committee

A. District Recommendation

(1) *Restoration.* When a minister is to be placed in a restoration program in accordance with these bylaws, the District Credentials Committee shall forward to the General Council Credentials Committee the specific charges and recommended terms of restoration. The District Superintendent or District Secretary-Treasurer shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the District Superintendent of the minister's District Council of affiliation.

(2) *Dismissal.* When a minister has been found guilty of violating any of the Assemblies of God principles as set forth in the General Council Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, and it is determined that restoration is not feasible or fails, a minister's credentials are to be terminated by dismissal.

The District Credentials Committee shall forward to the General Council Credentials Committee the specific charges and its recommendation for dismissal. The District Superintendent or District Secretary-Treasurer shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the District Superintendent of the minister's District Council of affiliation.

(3) *Subsequent dismissal.* Should evidence come to light following a minister's resignation, or the lapse of his or her credentials, of conduct occurring prior to his or her resignation or lapse of credentials that would constitute grounds for disciplinary action under General Council Bylaws Article X, Section 3, the District Credentials Committee at its discretion may request the General Council Credentials Committee to change that minister's status from lapsed or resigned to dismissed. The District Superintendent or District Secretary-Treasurer shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the District Superintendent of the minister's District Council of affiliation. All rights of appeal will apply.

B. General Council Credentials Committee action. The General Council Credentials Committee shall consider the recommendation of the District Credentials Committee and shall concur if in its judgment the District Credentials Committee was justified in the action taken. If the General Council Credentials Committee does not concur, it may remand the case, together with its recommendations, back to the District Credentials Committee for review and reconsideration. The District Credentials Committee shall report the results of its recommendation to the General Council Credentials Committee for final disposition.

C. General Council to hold information. All pertinent information relating to the disciplinary action taken against a minister shall be preserved for future reference in the office of the General Council Credentials Committee.

D. Final disposition. The General Secretary shall notify the minister and the district council(s) involved of the final disposition of the case.

Section 10. Right of Appeal

A. Filing of appeal to the General Council Credentials Committee. The right of appeal applies to all actions of discipline and termination of credentials other than lapsing or resigning on the initiative of the minister. An accused minister shall have thirty (30) days from the date notification of the General Council Credentials Committee decision was mailed to appeal to the General Council Credentials Committee. The minister shall be apprised officially of this right at the time notification is given to the minister of the decision of the General Council Credentials Committee. The appeal is to be sent to the office of the General Superintendent, and should include any new or exculpatory information not previously considered, with copies sent to the District Superintendent of the minister's District Council of affiliation and any other district councils involved.

B. Consideration of appeal by the General Council Credentials Committee. The General Council Credentials Committee may respond to the appeal in one of the following ways:

(1) *Remanding of case to the District Presbytery.* If in the judgment of the General Council Credentials Committee, justice has not been served, the case shall be remanded to the District Presbytery for review and reconsideration. The District Credentials Committee shall report the results of the review to the General Council Credentials Committee for final disposition.

(2) *Denial of appeal.*

(a) *Forfeiture of right of appeal*. No appeal shall be granted by remanding the case to the District Presbytery if proof is found of willful neglect on the part of the accused to take advantage of available rights and privileges during the district hearing (see Section 5, 6, & 7 of this Article).

(b) *Insufficient grounds.* The General Council Credentials Committee shall have the prerogative to determine whether there is sufficient cause to grant an appeal, and remand the case to the district.

C. Right of appeal to the General Presbytery. A disciplined minister whose appeal has been denied by the General Council Credentials Committee may appeal to the General Presbytery. An accused minister shall have thirty (30) days from the date notification of the General Council Credentials Committee decision was mailed to appeal to the General Presbytery. The appeal is to be sent to the office of the General Superintendent, and should include any new or exculpatory information not previously considered, with copies sent to the District Superintendent of the minister's District Council of affiliation and any other district councils involved. The decision of the General Presbytery shall be final.

Section 11. Publication of Dismissal

No publication of a dismissed minister's name shall be made until the District Council has been advised by the office of the General Secretary that such has been authorized by the General Council Credentials Committee. An additional thirty (30) days from the date of the notification shall be given the dismissed minister to exercise the right of appeal.

Section 12. Reinstatement of Credentials

A. Authorization. Application for reinstatement may be made through the District Council within the territory the applicant resides. The application shall be considered subject to the approval of the District Presbytery in which the termination was made.

B. Minimal time-lapse for dismissed ministers. The minimal time-lapse required before a minister who has been dismissed is eligible for reinstatement shall be 1 year, except it shall be 2 years for a minister who has been dismissed because of charges as stated in Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, paragraph a. The time-lapse shall be computed from the date of the District Presbytery action as it appears on the ministerial status report filed with the General Council Credentials Committee. (*cf*. General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 10, for other renewals and reinstatements.)

C. Restoration obligatory. When a minister has been dismissed from our Fellowship and applies for reinstatement, he or she shall comply with the procedures for restoration outlined in Article X, Section 8, paragraph c, of the General Council Bylaws.

D. Option to refer to General Presbytery. The General Council Credentials Committee may also hold the reinstatement of a minister's credentials in abeyance until the next session of the General Presbytery in order that the General Presbytery may have the opportunity to review the case, in which event the matter of reinstatement of such minister may be left entirely with that body.

E. Reinstatement fee. When applying for reinstatement the minister must include a $100 reinstatement fee with the application to be divided equally between the District Council and the General Council.

Section 13. Notice

Notice shall be deemed to have been given to a minister by certified mail from the District Credentials Committee or General Council Credentials Committee on the basis of the last address furnished to the District Council or General Council by the minister. In the event the certified letter is returned as undeliverable for any reason, notice will have been deemed to have been given in view of the fact it is

the minister's responsibility to furnish the District Council or General Council his or her address, and to accept lawful mail.

ARTICLE XIII. FINANCES

Section 1. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

All funds entrusted to the District Council shall be accounted for according to generally accepted accounting principles.

Section 2. Authorizations

The District Superintendent and the District Secretary-Treasurer shall be authorized to sign checks and other financial instruments and devices on behalf of the District Council. Others may be approved to be signatories to sign checks and other financial instruments and devices by the District Presbytery. In every case, two signatures shall be required with at least one being the District Superintendent's or District Executive-Secretary's signature.

Section 3. Audit

An annual audit of the financial records of the District Council shall be conducted prior to each annual District Council session and shall be presented to the voting membership at the annual District Council in a written report certified by a professional auditor.

Section 4. Financial Cooperation of Assemblies

Each assembly, on the basis of its cooperative agreement and certification with the General Council and District Council of the Assemblies of God, shall be expected to faithfully cooperate with the District Council and General Council financial services and programs.

Each assembly shall be encouraged to give at least one offering per year for District Council administration.

Each assembly shall be encouraged to give monthly to the District Council an amount equal to two percent (2%) or more of its general fund income to the District Council, one percent (1%) for the Unified Ministries Fund for departmental support, and one percent (1%) for new church planting and revitalization projects.

Section 5. Tithe and Financial Support by Credentialed Ministers

A. Entrustment of Ministers to Tithe. All ministers, by virtue of being granted credentials to the gospel ministry by the Assemblies of God, are entrusted to model obedience in honoring God with tithes and offerings to the District Council and in paying annual dues to the General Council (*cf*. General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 10f). If a minister, for any reason, experiences a serious reduction or loss of regular income, he or she should notify the office of the District Secretary-Treasurer for awareness and guidance.

B. Tithes and Offerings to the South Carolina District Council. Assemblies of God ministers shall support the District Council of the Assemblies of God as required by these bylaws.

1. *Responsibility to tithe and support the District Council*. All ministers, except those otherwise excluded, shall contribute to the District Council on a monthly basis eighty-five percent (85%) of their tithes derived from any allowances, offerings or salaries from their ministries, and seventy-five percent (75%) of their tithes derived from any salaries or wages from vocational work outside a recognized ministry.
2. *Exceptions*. The following exceptions shall apply:
    a. Retired ministers who are classified as senior-retired or inactive, or ministers who are disabled or permanently ill, shall not be under obligation to financially support the District Council or General Council from any income, but may do so voluntarily.
    b. Certified ministers who are under the supervision of a pastor or assembly, and who are not in full-time ministry, are permitted to pay tithes monthly into the assembly rather than to the District Council, providing that the assembly is Assemblies of God. If the church is not Assemblies of God, the tithe shall be paid to the District Council.
    c. Evangelists shall pay fifty percent (50%) of tithes to the District Council from funds earned outside the South Carolina District.
    d. Appointed world Assemblies of God missionaries shall conform to the Assemblies of God World Missions Bylaws in tithing to the District Council.
    e. General Council appointed U.S. missionaries, Chi Alpha Campus Minisries personnel and chaplains shall conform to the corresponding standard of their governing bodies.
3. *Failure to comply*. If a minister should fail in honoring God through his or her entrustment to tithe to the District Council or pay annual dues to the General Council, the District Council Credentials Committee shall have authority to establish and administer any method of financial accountability that it deems by policy and guidelines to be just, fair and appropriate.
    a. Recommendations in advancements in credentials status shall not be granted.
    b. A transfer to another District Council shall not be granted until such obligation is met.
    c. Renewal of the fellowship certificate shall not be recommended to the General Council without review and approval by the District Council Credentials Committee.
    d. He or she shall be ineligible to serve any District Council, Regional Council, Sectional Council, department, committee or other District-related post at any level.

Section 6. Salaries and Allowances for Officers and Department Heads

Salaries, allowances and reimbursement policies for District Council executive officers and department heads shall be determined by the District Presbytery. They shall be increased annually at a percentage no less than the rise in the cost of living index when the District Council budget permits.

Section 7. Reimbursements

The reimbursement policy of the District Presbytery shall be stated in the *Organization and Operations Manual* to be reviewed annually. Officers, department heads, employees and volunteers shall be reimbursed promptly for approved expenditures done at personal expense.

Section 8. Offerings to Officers and Department Heads by Assemblies

When a District officer visits a local assembly on official District Council business at the invitation of the pastor, board or membership, a courtesy offering to defray travel and meal expense is recommended but not required.

When a District Council officer or department head is an invited guest minister in a local assembly his or her travel is at personal expense. In the spirit of hospitality and ministerial courtesy, the leadership of the assembly is encouraged to be generous with a love offering appropriate for guest ministers exceeding, if possible, travel and meal expenses incurred by the officer or department head.

Section 9. Financial Support of Southeastern University

The District Council shall support Southeastern University of the Assemblies of God, Lakeland, Florida, at an amount determined by the District Presbytery to be reviewed annually.

XIV. PROPERTY

Section 1. Property

All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the corporate name of the District Council.

Section 2. Authorization

A. District Council Authorization. No real property of the District Council held for use by the District Council such as the district office or camp properties shall be sold unless such sale shall have been authorized by a two-thirds majority of votes cast by the membership present at any duly called regular or special meeting of the District Council.

B. District Presbytery Authorization. Such property may be leased, rented, or mortgaged as need may arise when authorized by a two-thirds majority of votes cast by the District Presbytery present at any regular or special meeting.

Section 3. Properties of District Affiliated Assemblies

A. Holding Title of District Affiliated Assemblies. Real and chattel properties acquired for the purpose of promoting, establishing, maintaining and servicing a District Council affiliated assembly shall be held in the name of the South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God until such time the assembly qualifies for reclassification of status as a General Council affiliated assembly. Upon approval of the General Council for reclassification, subject to full satisfaction of any remaining liabilities and financial risks of the District Council, all properties, real and chattel, shall be transferred in full from the name of the District Council to the name of the local General Council assembly.

B. Limited Financial Exposure

1. The District Council shall refrain from entering into financial agreements, contracts or other binding instruments to finance real property for a District Council affiliated assembly that encumbers the District Council, in whole or part, where it does not possess title to the real

property of the District affiliated assembly. It shall not cosign with a District Council affiliated assembly on any loan agreement or related instrument whereby the local assembly holds title to the deed, in whole or part.

2. The District Council, subject to approval of the District Presbytery, may enter into a small business loan agreement with a District Council affiliated assembly secured by the title of the real property or other collateral in order to assist the assembly in a current need or request according to specified and written terms of agreement, including interest rate, terms of payment, late fees and duration of the note.

C. Prerogatives of the District Council Presbytery. Real properties of District Council affiliated assemblies may be sold, transferred, leased, rented, conveyed or mortgaged in the corporate name of the South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God when authorized by a two-thirds majority of votes cast by the District Presbytery.

D. Proceeds from Sale of a Closed District Affiliated Assembly. Proceeds received from the sale, lease, rent or other means of financial gain that inures to the benefit of the District Council, excepting costs and fees incurred by the District Council general fund, shall be placed in a separate fund designated for (1) establishing and maintaining new assemblies and (2) for approved revitalizations of older assemblies for the furtherance of the gospel of the Kingdom of God in the State of South Carolina. Exceptions to this rule on a case-by-case basis may be made by a two-thirds majority of votes cast by the District Presbytery.

Section 4. Properties of General Council Assemblies

The District Council Presbytery may approve specified, written loan agreements with General Council affiliated assemblies within the district only. Such agreements shall be secured by collateralization at an acceptable risk level reflected in the interest rate, terms of payment, late fees and duration of the note.

Section 5. Reversion of Properties

A. Properties of Closed Assemblies. In the event that a General Council affiliated assembly ceases to function, unwinds or, otherwise, closes, the dissolution of the local assembly shall be followed in accordance with its bylaws according to the Internal Revenue Service's statute 501(c)3 for religious, non-profit corporations.

In the event that a District Council affiliated assembly ceases to function, unwinds or, otherwise, closes, all property, real and chattel, and all assets remaining shall revert to the South Carolina District Council, a not-for- profit corporation. The District Council shall have full authority to use or sell such property and to use the proceeds therefrom for the furtherance of the gospel in the State of South Carolina. Sale of such property shall require authorization by a two-thirds majority of votes cast by the District Presbytery.

B. Reversion of General Council Assemblies. In the event that the General Council of the Assemblies of God reverts an assembly to the District Council, the District Council shall possess full legal rights to all properties, real and chattel, until such time the assembly shall qualify and be approved by the General Council for General Council affiliated status or, otherwise, ceases to function as a valid and sanctioned church body.

Section 6. Certified Authorization

When required to do so, the District Secretary-Treasurer shall provide a certified resolution of authorization, or if needed, a certified copy of the minutes of the meeting in which action was taken for the conveyance, sale, lease, contract or mortgage of property showing that the act was duly authorized by the required vote of the District Council, or by the required vote of the District Presbytery, or the required vote of the District Executive Presbytery or District Executive Leadership Team, as the particular transaction may require, and such action was taken at a duly called meeting with a quorum being present. Such certification shall be held to be conclusive evidence of the authorization given.

Section 7. Authorized Signatories for Legal and Property Transactions

The District Superintendent shall sign all legally binding agreements, contracts and other legal documents, instruments or devices in conducting business, including real estate transactions, on behalf of the District Council along with a second signature by an executive officer, either the Assistant Superintendent or District Secretary-Treasurer.

ARTICLE XV. DISSOLUTION

The assets of the South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God, a not for profit corporation, are irrevocably dedicated to religious and/or charitable purposes, the same being set forth in its articles of agreement and heretofore in the articles of these bylaws. In the event of liquidation, dissolution, or the revocation of its charter or abandonment of its stated purpose, 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 revert to its parent body THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, a Missouri not for profit corporation, with national office at Springfield, Missouri, said corporation being organized and operated exclusively for religious and/or charitable purposes which are exempt under the Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, under which section said corporation has established exempt status. In the event said General Council shall sell the property so obtained, all proceeds derived therefrom shall be used in the furtherance of the gospel of the Kingdom of God.

ARTICLE XVI. INDEMNIFICATION

The South Carolina District Council has the power to defend, indemnify and hold harmless, including the power to advance funds for expenses, to its executive officers, other officers, employees, and agents made a party to a proceeding as defined in South Carolina laws and statutes, provided, however, that no such indemnity shall indemnify any such executive officer, other officer, department head, employee, or agent from or on account of: (1) acts or omissions of such executive officer, other officer, department head, employee, or agent finally adjudged to be intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law; (2) conduct of an executive officer, other officer, employee, or agent finally adjudged to be in violation of federal or state law; or (3) any transaction with respect to which it was finally adjudged that such executive officer, other officer, employee, or agent personally received a benefit in money, property, or services to which such person was not legally entitled. Indemnification shall include any and all assessed legal fees, court costs and any other unforeseen liabilities.

ARTICLE XVII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these bylaws may be made at any regularly called meeting of the District Council, or

at any special called meeting thereof, provided that the proposed amendments shall have been submitted at least ninety (90) days prior thereto in writing to the District Presbytery. Resolutions proposing such amendments shall be submitted through the office of the District Secretary-Treasurer to the voting constituency at least thirty (30) days prior to the session of the District Council. Amendments to these bylaws shall require a two-thirds vote of all members present and voting.