

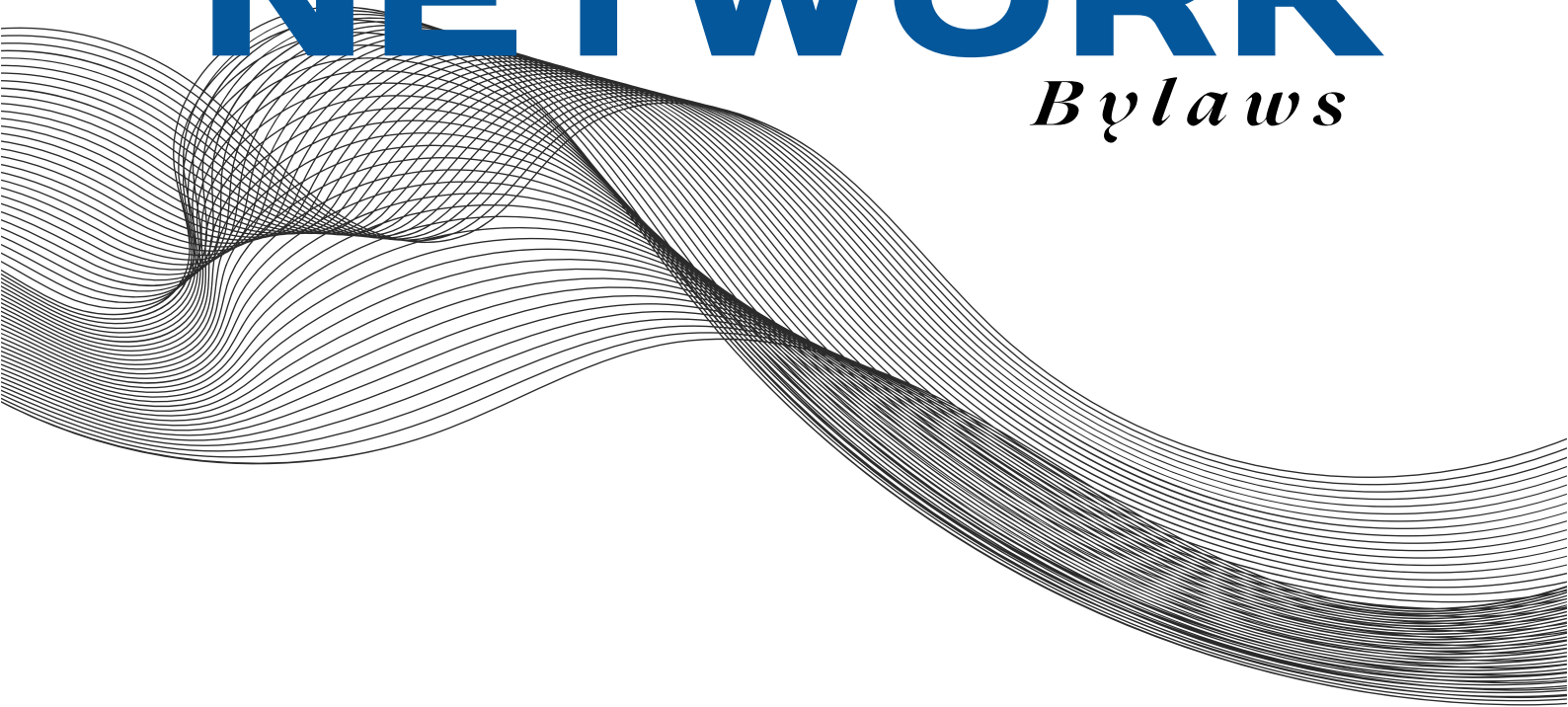
A D O P T E D

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# **SOUTH CAROLINA MINISTRY NETWORK**

*Bylaws*



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## **PREAMBLE**

WE BEAR WITNESS that we are a voluntary, cooperative fellowship of Pentecostal, Spirit-baptized ministers and adherents from local 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.

WE SHALL 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, 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.

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 shall be *South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God*.

### **Section 2. Common Use Name**

A. The common name shall be "South Carolina Ministry Network", "SCMN", or "Network", and will be referred to as "Network" through the remainder of this document.

B. This common name reflects the intended purpose of District Councils as set forth in the General Council Bylaws: "to facilitate a network of resources and relationships." (General Council (GC) Bylaws , ARTICLE V, Section 2)

## **ARTICLE II. TERRITORY AND REGIONS**

### **Section 1. Territory**

The Network boundaries shall be the geographical area of the State of South Carolina.

### **Section 2. Regions**

The Network shall be organized into six distinct geographical regions to promote ministry, fellowship, and collaboration among churches and ministers. These regions will be defined in the Network Operations Manual. Churches and ministers within the borders of a given region will be considered part of that region, with accommodations available for those wishing to affiliate with a bordering region.

## **ARTICLE III. RELATIONSHIP**

The principles of voluntary unity and cooperative fellowship as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council, are the principles which shall govern the Network.

The South Carolina District Council's Bylaws, along with other legal documents—including the Bylaws of Network-affiliated assemblies—shall automatically conform to and comply with amendments made to the General Council's Constitution and Bylaws during its sessions. This alignment shall occur immediately, without delay, and without requiring formal resolutions or amendments at the annual Network Conference.

## **ARTICLE IV. FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS**

The Network shall adhere to a uniform set of beliefs, known as the "Statement of Fundamental Truths" as stated in the General Council's Constitution. (GC Constitution ARTICLE V)

## **ARTICLE V. PREROGATIVES**

### **Section 1. Evangelism**

The South Carolina Ministry Network is dedicated to promoting evangelization across South Carolina and around the world, by empowering individuals to fulfill their God-given potential, equipping churches to transform their communities, and advancing the Kingdom of God, reaching people both locally and globally.

### **Section 2. Supervision**

A. The Network shall have the authority to oversee all activities of the Assemblies of God within the state of South Carolina as described in ARTICLE II, and in alignment with the rights and responsibilities granted by the General Council Constitution. (GC Constitution, ARTICLE X)

B. The Network is responsible for evaluating candidates for ministry, assessing their qualifications, and recommending those who meet the established requirements for credentials to the General Council. Additionally, the Network shall uphold and adhere to the doctrinal standards of the General Council and ensure that ministers maintain compliance with these standards in their conduct and ministry practices.

C. The Network shall elect its officers, form committees, organize meetings, and manage its affairs in accordance with these bylaws.

D. The Network is dedicated to fostering meaningful connections among local churches and ministry leaders across South Carolina, promoting collaboration, growth, and impactful ministry.

E. The Network possesses the authority to acquire, hold in trust, manage, utilize, sell, transfer, mortgage, rent, lease, or otherwise administer real and personal property as necessary to fulfill its purposes and responsibilities.

## **ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1. Constituency**

The membership of the Network shall consist of all ministers holding a current fellowship card with the General Council and whose residence is in South Carolina. Exceptions to the residency requirement may be made for those affiliated as missionaries, evangelists, staff members of Assemblies of God colleges, institutions, approved agencies, or employees of the General Council. In addition, all members of duly affiliated Assemblies of God churches are considered to be adherents of the Network.

### **Section 2. Voting Constituency**

The voting constituency of the Network shall consist of the following:

1. All licensed or ordained members holding a current fellowship card.
2. Delegates present and registered, who have been chosen by their affiliated Assemblies, in accordance with Article XI, Section 5.
3. Department heads appointed by the Network Superintendent to oversee specific ministries within the Network.

The voting constituency must be present and registered at duly called network or regional business meetings. They have the right to speak at all meetings and are entitled to vote in the Regional Meetings with which they affiliate, as well as in the annual Network Conference and any Special Sessions.

## **ARTICLE VII. MINISTRY**

### **Section 1. Ministry Described**

Christ's gifts to the Church include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers (Ephesians 4:11), as well as exhorters,

administrators, leaders, and helpers (Romans 12:7-8).

The Network recognizes candidates for ministry who demonstrate evidence of a divine call to service, have been filled with the Holy Spirit according to Scripture (Acts 2:4), and meet the qualifications established by the General Council. Four classifications of ministry maturity are recognized: ordained minister, licensed minister, certified minister, and local church credential holders. (GC Bylaws, ARTICLE VII, Section 1)

### **Section 2. Qualifications**

The qualifications for ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God shall be determined by the General Council. (GC Bylaws ARTICLE VII, Section 2).

### **Section 3. Process**

The process for obtaining credentials through the Network is described in the General Council Bylaws (GC Bylaws ARTICLE VII, Section 2), and in the Network Operations Manual.

## **ARTICLE VIII. ASSEMBLIES**

### **Section 1. Organization of Assemblies**

Groups of believers that have assembled for the purpose of establishing a local church and are interested in affiliation with the Assemblies of God shall be encouraged to seek the help and counsel of the Network Presbytery in order to become affiliated with the Network in accordance with network policies.

### **Section 2. General Council Affiliated Assemblies**

Local assemblies, which have matured sufficiently to accept their full share of responsibility for the maintenance of scriptural order, and have met both the General Council and Network's standards for being, may make application for recognition as a General Council Affiliated Assembly. (GC Bylaws ARTICLE VI)

#### **A. Requirements of the General Council for Affiliation**

1. They shall accept the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God.
2. They shall adopt a standard of membership determined by the local assembly in agreement with the Network.
3. They shall have a minimum active voting membership of twenty (20) persons who shall accept their full share of responsibility for the maintenance of scriptural order in the local body.
4. They shall adopt Articles of Incorporation, a constitution, or bylaws aligned with models recommended by the Network or governance models approved by the Network.
5. They shall maintain a sufficient number of spiritually qualified members to fulfill the offices outlined in their bylaws.
6. They shall make provision for a pastor who holds credentials and is in good standing with both the General Council and the Network.
7. They shall actively engage in and support U.S. and World Missions initiatives of the Assemblies of God.

#### **B. Expectations of the Network**

1. All General Council-affiliated local assemblies shall retain ownership of their properties and mortgages in the name of their respective churches.
2. Unified Ministries Fund: Local assemblies are strongly encouraged to contribute 1% of their general fund income monthly to the Network in support of the Unified Ministries Fund, which finances departmental initiatives.
3. Church Planting and Revitalization Fund: Local assemblies are strongly encouraged to contribute an additional 1% of their general fund income monthly to the Network to support Church Planting and Revitalization projects.

#### **C. Relationship**

The Network recognizes the autonomy of the local church subject to the General Council's Constitution and Bylaws.

#### **D. Privileges**

1. All General Council-affiliated local assemblies may seek the advisory support of the Network Presbytery on matters of significance affecting them. Additional assistance from the Network Presbytery may be provided upon request by the assembly.
2. In the event of a pastoral change, assemblies are encouraged to seek the advice and assistance of the Network Superintendent or their designee to ensure the well-being of both the local pastor and the assembly.

### **Section 3. Network Affiliated Assemblies**

A Network affiliated assembly is one that is still developing, maturing, and striving to meet the requirements to become a General Council assembly or one for which the Network holds a financial liability.

1. Requirements - Such assemblies are required to operate in accordance with the bylaws provided by the Network Presbytery.
2. Relationship - They shall be under the guidance and supervision of the Network Superintendent and the Network Presbytery, in accordance with the Network Operations Manual.

### **Section 4. Parent Affiliated Church**

Provision shall be made by the Network for parent affiliated assemblies which shall be under the supervision of a parenting church, in accordance with the parenting church's governing documents.

### **Section 5. Cooperating Assemblies**

Cooperating Assemblies are assemblies that subscribe to the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council and enter into a cooperative status with the Network and the General Council on a temporary, four year term basis. Additional details on application, establishment, and relationship for such assemblies are set forth in the General Council Bylaws ARTICLE XI, Section 4, and the Network Operations Manual.

### **Section 6. Duties of Assemblies**

All assemblies shall uphold scriptural order in both doctrine and conduct. Should challenges arise that threaten the peace and well-being of an assembly, the assembly shall seek guidance and support from the Network Superintendent or their designated representative.

## **ARTICLE IX. NETWORK LEADERSHIP**

### **Section 1. Leadership Structure and Function**

#### **A. Executive Leadership Team**

The Executive Leadership Team, composed of the Network Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Secretary-Treasurer are recognized as the officers of the Network. The members of the Executive Leadership Team shall also serve as General Presbyters for the General Council.

#### **B. Regional Network Presbyters**

There shall be a minimum of six Regional Executive Presbyters who shall serve on the Network Presbytery and who represent and serve local assemblies within their regions. The regions are defined in the Network Operations Manual.

#### **C. Non-Regional Network Presbyters**

Up to three Non-Regional Network Presbyters may serve on the Network Presbytery. They shall work in collaboration with the Regional Presbyters to support Network initiatives, as directed by the Executive Leadership Team.

#### **D. At-Large Network Presbyters**

There shall be three At-Large Network Presbyters who will collaborate with the Executive Leadership Team and Regional Presbyters to advance the Network's mission and objectives. To ensure diverse representation, At-Large Presbyters shall include one Female, one individual under the age of forty (40) (at the time of election), and one ethnic minority representative.

#### **E. Network Presbytery**

The Network Presbytery shall consist of the Executive Leadership Team, the Regional Network Presbyters, Non-Regional Network Presbyters, and the At-Large Executive Presbyters. The Network Presbytery is authorized to act on behalf of the

Network when the Network Conference is not in session.

## **F. Ministry Presbyters**

The Network shall have a minimum of twelve Ministry Presbyters, with no fewer than two from each region. These presbyters will oversee ministry initiatives and provide care and support to ministers and their families within their designated regions. They will serve under the leadership and direction of their local Regional Network Presbyter.

## **Section 2. General Council Nominations**

### **A. General Council Executive Presbytery, Non-Resident Nominations**

The General Council requires periodic nominations from regional networks for two national elections (GC Bylaws ARTICLE II, Section 2, c). The Network Presbytery shall nominate the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent for the positions of Non-resident Executive Presbyter, provided they meet the criteria outlined in the applicable General Council Bylaw. These nominations shall be subject to ratification by the Network Conference in session.

### **B. General Council Executive Presbytery, Additional Representation Nominations**

The General Council requires networks to periodically submit nominations for three national elections (GC ARTICLE II, Section 2, c) to provide candidates for the Under-40, Female, and African-American Executive Presbyters. These nominations are to be filled by the Network's At-Large Network Presbyters, specifically the Under-40 representative, the Female representative, and the Ethnic Minority representative, if applicable. If a current At-Large Presbyter does not meet the qualifications for Executive Presbyter, the Network Presbytery will select and nominate a qualified candidate.

### **C. General Council General Presbyter, Regional Representative Nominations**

The General Council requires networks to periodically submit nominations for additional representation on a rotating basis (GC ARTICLE II, Section 2, d). These include an Under-40 and Female representative. These nominations shall be filled (when required), by the Network's At-Large Network Presbyters, specifically the Under-40 representative, the Female representative, if applicable. If a current At-Large Presbyter does not meet the qualifications for General Presbyter, the Network Presbytery will select and nominate a qualified candidate.

## **Section 3. Qualifications for Network Leadership**

The Executive Leadership Team and Network Presbyters must be ordained ministers who demonstrate mature experience, sound judgment, recognized ability, proven accountability, and exemplary Christian character, as outlined in I Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9. They must demonstrate consistent faithfulness in meeting the requirements of Network support, specifically in the giving of tithe, as specified in ARTICLE XIII, Section 1, D, and maintain good standing with the Network. Eligible candidates must serve either as the lead pastor of an Assemblies of God church or as an ordained minister actively involved in an Assemblies of God ministry within the Network.

Members of the Executive Leadership Team must have served within the Network for at least two calendar years at the time of their election, while all other Network Presbyters must have a minimum of one year of service in the Network at the time of their election.

All members of the Network Presbytery shall be elected from the membership during a duly called meeting (as specified in Section 5, D).

## **Section 4. Composition, Duties, and Terms of Office**

### **A. Executive Leadership Team**

#### **1. Composition of Executive Leadership Team.**

The Executive Leadership Team is composed of the Network Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent, and the Secretary-Treasurer.

#### **2. Network Superintendent.**

The Network Superintendent shall serve as the full-time resident Network Pastor, providing both spiritual and administrative leadership to the Network. The Network Superintendent shall preside over all meetings of the annual Network Conference, the Executive Leadership Team, and the Network Presbytery, while also serving as an ex-officio member of all committees. The Network Superintendent will appoint and oversee department heads and other ministry leaders as necessary to fulfill responsibilities in governance, ministry, and leadership, tailored to reflect individual gifts, areas of interest, and the specific needs of the Network.



3. Assistant Superintendent

The Assistant Superintendent shall serve as a non-resident leader and preside over all Network meetings in the absence of the Network Superintendent. In addition to being a member of both the Executive Leadership Team and the Network Presbytery, the Assistant Superintendent will assume responsibilities in governance, ministry, and leadership, tailored to reflect individual gifts, areas of interest, and the needs of the Network.

4. Secretary-Treasurer

The Secretary-Treasurer shall serve as the full-time resident Secretary-Treasurer of the Network, keep official minutes of all Executive Leadership Team, Network Presbytery and annual Network Council meetings, and serve as the custodian of all records pertaining to credential holders and assemblies for the Network. The Secretary-Treasurer shall function as a General Presbyter by virtue of office, will issue credentials under the direction of the General Council Credentials Committee (GC Bylaws ARTICLE IV, Section 2) and will assume responsibilities in governance, ministry, and leadership, tailored to reflect individual gifts, areas of interest, and the needs of the Network.

**B. Executive Leadership Team Duties, Fiduciary Powers, and Terms of Office**

1. Executive Leadership Team Duties

The Executive Leadership Team shall act between sessions of the Network Presbytery in an advisory capacity to the Network Superintendent and shall have the right to make any necessary decisions deemed to be in the best interest of the Network, between meetings of the Network Presbytery. Executive Leadership Team actions are to be reported to the Network Presbytery at the next regular meeting.

2. Fiduciary Powers of Executive Leadership Team.

The Executive Leadership Team shall be entrusted with fiduciary powers by the members to conduct the business of the Network. The Network Superintendent, and one other executive officer, either the Assistant Superintendent or Secretary-Treasurer (depending on availability), is authorized to execute and deliver deeds, mortgages, encumbrances, or other instruments affecting real estate and chattel properties owned by the Network, as well as any other financial instruments or interests that may revert to or come into the possession of the Network.

3. Executive Leadership Team Terms of Office Terms.

The Network Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected to four-year terms, with each term to begin thirty (30) days after the election or earlier if the Network Presbytery deems necessary. The Network Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer shall serve as full time, resident officers. The Executive Leadership Team shall follow a structured election schedule to ensure continuity in leadership. The Network Superintendent shall be elected in even-numbered years, while the Assistant Superintendent shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The Secretary-Treasurer shall also be elected in even-numbered years, with their term beginning two years after the Network Superintendent's election. All officers of the Executive Leadership Team may serve successive terms without limitation.

**C. Regional, Non-Regional, and At-Large Network Presbyters**

Network Presbyters will represent the Network in fulfilling its mission, values, work, interests, and concerns, and they shall be members of the Network Presbytery. In this role, they will also undertake additional responsibilities in governance and ministry, aligned with their unique gifts, interests, and the needs of the Network. All Network Presbytery officers may serve consecutive terms without limitation.

1. The Regional Network Presbyter must be an affiliate of the region they are elected to represent. Presbyters will serve three-year terms, with two elections held each year. This staggered election cycle ensures continuity within the Network Presbytery and enhances its efficiency.

2. Non-Regional Network Presbyters Terms of Office: Non-Regional Network Presbyters shall be elected to serve a three year term. Election Terms cycling with up to one election each year to facilitate continuity of the Network Presbytery and expediency at the annual Network Conference.

3. At-Large Network Presbyters Terms of Office: At-Large Network Presbyters shall be elected to serve a three-year term. Election Terms cycling with one election each year to facilitate continuity of the Network Presbytery and expediency at the annual Network Conference. These follow the following rotation; Under-40, Ethnic Minority, Female.

#### **D. Network Presbytery Duties**

Network Presbyters shall provide spiritual oversight and foster leadership development. They are to model spiritual maturity and exemplary leadership to all pastors, ministers, and churches within the Network.

1. The Network Presbytery serves as the official Board of Directors of the Network, and shall perform such functions as are usual and customary for a Board of Directors.
2. The Network Presbytery shall oversee the Network's activities between annual Network Conference sessions and is authorized to act on behalf of the Network in all matters affecting its interests and to implement decisions. It will arrange its own meetings, and decisions will be final and binding.
3. A majority of the Network Presbytery shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Network Presbytery.
4. The Network Presbytery shall act as the Network Credentials Committee.
5. The Network Presbytery shall serve as a Nominating Committee.
6. The Network Presbytery shall create, implement, and maintain both a Network Operations Manual and a Financial Operations Manual to ensure the efficient and effective functioning of the Network.
7. The Network Presbytery has the authority to edit the Network Bylaws and other similar legal or binding documents for the purpose of improving clarity, syntax, legal accuracy, and literary precision.

#### **E. Ministry Presbyters Duties, Qualifications, and Terms of Office**

Ministry Presbyters are responsible for serving pastors, ministers, and churches by providing spiritual guidance and fostering ministry development. They are called to exemplify spiritual maturity and strong leadership, as reflected in General Council Bylaws ARTICLE V, Section 5.

1. Ministry Presbyters shall represent the Network in the fulfillment of its mission, values, work, interests and concerns within a specified region of the network as defined by the Network Presbytery working in cooperation with and under the direction of their Regional Network Presbyter.
2. All Ministry Presbyters must be Licensed or Ordained ministers who reside in the region they are appointed to serve.
3. Ministry Presbyters shall be nominated for a term of one year by their Regional Network Presbyter and ratified by the Network Presbytery.

### **Section 5. Nomination and Elections of Network Leadership**

#### **A. Nominations of Executive Leadership Team**

1. Network Superintendent. Nominations shall be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer's office by ordained and licensed ministers within the Network. These nominations can be received through a physical, or electronic ballot postmarked no more than ninety (90) days and no less than thirty (30) days before the election. All nominees will be vetted by the Network Presbytery. The vetting process will assess the nominee's qualifications according to the bylaws (see ARTICLE IX, Section 3), and their willingness to serve. The vetted nominees will be presented at the Network Conference for election.
2. Assistant Superintendent. Nominations shall be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer's office by ordained and licensed ministers within the Network. These nominations can be received through a physical, or electronic ballot postmarked no more than ninety (90) days and no less than thirty (30) days before the election. All nominees will be vetted by the Network Presbytery. The vetting process will assess the nominee's qualifications according to the bylaws (see ARTICLE IX, Section 3) and their willingness to serve. The vetted nominees to the Network Conference for election.
3. Secretary-Treasurer. Recommendations shall be submitted to the Superintendent's office from ordained and licensed ministers within the Network. Recommendations shall not be considered nominees, but shall be considered potential nominees subject to the nominating and vetting process of the Network Presbytery. The Network Presbytery will present from one to three vetted nominees to the Network Conference for election.

#### **B. Nominations of Regional Network Presbyters**

1. Nomination Process. Nominations for Regional Network Presbyters shall be cast by secret ballot no earlier than thirty (30) days and no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the Regional Meeting. 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, and the name of the nominator. Only licensed, ordained ministers, Network Executive officers, and department heads within their respective sections shall be authorized to nominate.

2. Eligibility to Vote. Those eligible to vote shall be ordained and licensed ministers, and authorized church delegates (in accordance with Article XI, Section 5).
3. Regional Presbyter. At the biennial Regional Council, each council shall elect its own Regional Presbyter subject to ratification by the voting constituency at the annual Network Conference. The person elected shall be an ordained minister in good standing with the General Council of the Assemblies of God who has been an affiliate within the region for at least a year.

### **C. Nominations of At-Large and Non-Regional Network Presbyters**

At-Large and Non-Regional Network Presbyters shall be nominated by the Network Presbytery following a vetting process. These nominees will be presented at the annual Network Conference for ratification vote.

### **D. Elections**

1. All votes for the Executive Leadership Team and Network Presbytery offices shall be conducted by secret ballot. However, if there is only one nominee, the vote may be expedited through a vote of acclamation, following the procedure for Ratification Votes as outlined in Article IX., Section 5, Paragraph E.
2. Any candidate intending to withdraw their nomination must do so prior to the first electoral ballot.
3. Nominees shall be balloted upon until one candidate shall have received two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of all votes cast.
4. If an election is not declared by the third ballot, the three candidates with the highest number of votes on the third ballot shall advance to subsequent ballots.
5. If an election is not declared after the fourth ballot, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes on the fourth ballot shall be the only nominees considered in all subsequent ballots until an election is declared.
6. If a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority of votes cast is not achieved by the fifth ballot, the sixth ballot shall determine the election by a simple majority of votes cast.

### **E. Ratification Votes**

Ratification votes may be conducted to affirm nominees for Regional, Non-Regional, and At-Large Network Presbyters during a business meeting or when a single nominee is under consideration. When deemed appropriate, the process may be expedited through a vote of acclamation. A nominee must receive a two-thirds majority of all votes cast to be successfully ratified.

1. If a vote by acclamation is divided or fails to clearly affirm the election, a secret ballot shall be conducted to confirm or deny the election outcome.
2. If there is only one nominee and the nominee fails to achieve ratification for any reason, the office shall be declared vacant and filled in accordance with the procedures outlined in ARTICLE X, Section 5.

## **Section 6. Vacancies**

### **A. Reasons for Vacancy**

A vacancy may occur, but is not limited to, the following occurrences: death, resignation, disability, removal for a cause, dereliction of duty, or failure to receive ratification.

### **B. Declaration of Vacancy in Office by Network Presbytery**

Any office in the Network may be declared vacant by an act of a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority of the Network Presbytery. Grounds for such action shall include unscriptural conduct, doctrinal departure from the faith, or incompetency in office, as further defined in detail by the General Council Bylaws ARTICLE IX.

### **C. Executive Leadership Team Vacancies**

If the vacancy occurs within ninety (90) days of the annual Network Conference, a Special Session may be called at the discretion of the Network Presbytery. If the vacancy occurs more than ninety (90) days of the annual Network Conference a Special Session shall be called to fill the vacated position using normal nomination and election process described in

## ARTICLE IX, Section 5, D.

1. In the event of a vacancy in the Network Superintendent's office, the Assistant Superintendent shall assume the responsibilities of the office until a successor is elected.
2. In the event of a vacancy in the Assistant Superintendent's office, the Secretary/Treasurer shall assume the responsibilities of the office until a successor is elected.
3. In the event of a vacancy in the Secretary-Treasurer's office, Network Superintendent's Assistants shall assume the responsibilities of the office until a successor is elected.

### **D. Network Presbytery Vacancies**

If a Regional, Non-Regional, or At-Large position becomes vacant, the Network Superintendent, or their designated representative, shall temporarily assume the responsibilities of the position. The Executive Leadership Team will nominate a candidate to fill the vacancy, subject to approval by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Network Presbytery, to complete the unexpired term.

### **E. Ministry Presbyter Vacancy**

If a Ministry Presbyter position becomes vacant, the Regional Presbyter for that region shall temporarily assume the responsibilities of the position. A new Ministry Presbyter will be chosen and elected following the normal process outlined in ARTICLE IX, Section 5, D.

## **ARTICLE X. COMMITTEES**

### **Section 1. Authorization and Amenability**

Committees within the Network: The Network may establish committees, as necessary to fulfill its mission and vision. All committee details can be found in the Network Operations Manual.

### **Section 2. Special Committees**

Special committees may be appointed by and report to the Network Superintendent.

### **Section 3. Standing Committees**

1. Credentialing Committee. The Network Presbytery shall serve as the Credentials committee.
2. Disciplinary and Restoration Committee. The Executive Leadership Team shall develop and oversee the Disciplinary and Restoration Committee, managing the process of review and investigation, and determining the need for any corrective discipline (GC Bylaws, Article X). Appeals may be made to the Network Presbytery.
3. Resolutions Committee. The Resolutions Committee shall be established annually, chaired by the Assistant Superintendent. Its members shall be appointed by the Network Presbytery.
4. Finance Committee. Shall be chaired by the Secretary-Treasurer, and shall function according to guidelines set forth in the Network Organization Manual, and Finance Manual.
5. Parliamentary Committee. Shall be provided by the Secretary-Treasurer, and shall function according to guidelines set forth in the Network Organization Manual.
6. U.S. and World Missions Committee. Shall be appointed by the Executive Leadership Team, and shall function according to guidelines set forth in the Network Organization Manual.

## **ARTICLE XI. BUSINESS MEETINGS**

### **Section 1. Network Conference**

The annual meeting of the Network, known as the annual Network Conference, shall be held at any time after the close of the fiscal year. The time and place of said meeting shall be determined by the Network Presbytery, and a thirty (30) day notice shall be given to the members defined under ARTICLE VII. The annual meeting shall serve as the South Carolina District Council (referenced throughout the General Council Bylaws), and shall satisfy all of the said requirements.

### **Section 2. Regional Meetings**

Regional meetings shall be held at least annually for purposes of conducting business and more frequently for purposes of fellowship and instruction.

### **Section 3. Network Presbytery Meetings**

The Network Presbytery meetings shall be held at least annually and as needed, at the discretion of the Executive Leadership Team. Meetings may be held in person or through other technological means to address urgent business or ensure mutual convenience.

### **Section 4. Special Sessions**

Special sessions may be convened to address urgent matters within the Network. The Secretary-Treasurer shall issue the call for a special session only after the urgency has been thoroughly evaluated and approved by a majority vote of the Network Presbytery. Written notice of the meeting shall be provided to all members, as defined in ARTICLE VII of the Bylaws, no less than seven days in advance. This notice shall include a brief summary of the business to be addressed. If the meeting involves an election, it must be scheduled to allow sufficient time for the nomination and vetting processes to be completed.

### **Section 5. Voting Constituency**

The voting constituency at business meetings shall consist of the members present along with the delegates from the assemblies (as defined in ARTICLE VI), who are properly registered. Assemblies with fewer than fifty (50) members shall be entitled to one certified delegate. Assemblies with more than fifty (50) members shall be entitled to two certified delegates.

### **Section 6. Electronic Meeting**

A meeting of the Network Council may be called and conducted virtually, or through the use of appropriate technology, when deemed necessary by the Executive Leadership Team or the Network Presbytery. Such meetings must ensure fairness and adhere to proper parliamentary procedure, as outlined in ARTICLE XI, Section 7. The decision to utilize technology for a meeting rests solely with the leadership and does not permit individual members to opt for remote participation in an in-person meeting without prior approval.

### **Section 7. Action by Consent without Meeting**

Any action by the members, board, or committees can be taken without a meeting, with the same effect as an in-person meeting. Consent can be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer in writing, fax, email, text, or via website. The action is adopted when the required number of consents is received, as outlined in the Bylaws.

### **Section 8. Quorum**

All registered credential holders and delegates present at the annual Network Conference, regional meetings, or any other business sessions shall constitute a quorum.

### **Section 9. Parliamentary Order**

Unless another procedure is specified in these Bylaws, all business sessions shall be conducted in accordance with parliamentary procedure as outlined in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, while maintaining the spirit of Christian love and fellowship. A parliamentarian, appointed by the Executive Leadership Team, will be provided for all Network-wide meetings. The agenda shall follow the recommended order of business as outlined in *Robert's Rules of Order*, though the Chair reserves the right to adjust the sequence of items to ensure an efficient and effective meeting.

## **ARTICLE XII. MINISTRIES**

The South Carolina Ministry Network shall establish and maintain the necessary departments, ministries, boards, teams, and work groups to effectively serve its purposes and meet the needs of its constituency. The leadership of these ministries shall be appointed by, and accountable to, the Network Superintendent in collaboration with the Network Presbytery. Detailed qualifications, funding, structure, policies, and procedures for these entities are outlined in the Network Operations Manual.

## **ARTICLE XIII. FINANCES AND PROPERTY**

### **Section 1. Finances**

#### **A. Financial Philosophy**

All funds, real or contingent, real estate holdings, or liabilities, shall be utilized for the express purpose for the furtherance

of the Prerogatives of the Network found in ARTICLE V. Specific accounting guidelines shall be detailed in a Financial Operations Manual implemented by and maintained by the Network Presbytery.

#### **B. Network Funds**

The Network's unrestricted funds shall be available to support the Network officers, headquarters operations, travel, and other necessary expenses. Restricted funds received by the Network headquarters shall be used for their designated purpose whenever possible. All funds shall be disbursed under the supervision of the Network Presbytery.

#### **C. Salaries and Allowances**

All salaries and allowances for the Executive Leadership Team, administrative, departmental, and office personnel shall be determined by the Network Presbytery.

#### **D. Credential Holders' Tithes**

All credential holders, except those otherwise excluded, shall contribute monthly to the Network headquarters eighty-five percent (85%) of their tithe from all sources of income. 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 Network, providing that the assembly is an Assemblies of God church. If the church is not an Assemblies of God church, the tithe shall be paid to the Network.

1. Exclusions include ministers who are classified as senior-retired or inactive, or ministers who are disabled or permanently ill. These ministers shall not be under obligation to financially support the Network or General Council from any income, but may do so voluntarily.
2. Assemblies of God World Missionaries, U.S. Missionaries, and Chaplains shall conform to the corresponding standard of their governing bodies.
3. Each year, the Secretary-Treasurer will send a financial statement detailing contributions made by each credential holder over the past year. Meeting these requirements will be necessary in order to renew the credentials of all ministers. If there are any outstanding contributions, credential holders will be given an opportunity to address these arrears prior to their renewal.

#### **E. Assumption of debt, credit or liabilities**

1. Any increase of liabilities by the Network, real or contingent, including real estate, must be approved by at least a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Network Presbytery.
2. Any loans to churches and institutions by the Network must be approved by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Executive Leadership Team (as defined in the Financial Operations Manual).

### **Section 2. Property**

#### **A. Property Acquisition and Management**

All real and personal property shall be acquired, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the corporate name of the Network. The Network Presbytery shall have the authority to buy, sell, transfer, lease, mortgage, and exchange such property. Any sale of property shall require authorization by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority vote of the Network Presbytery.

#### **B. Other Properties**

Church buildings, parsonages, and other properties, including land, that are purchased or donated for the work of God and held in the name of the Network shall be administered by the Network Presbytery. The Network Presbytery shall have the authority to buy, sell, transfer, lease, mortgage, or exchange these properties. When a church becomes sufficiently self-sustaining and is fully incorporated, the property may be conveyed by the Network to the church.

#### **C. Maintenance and Improvement of Network Properties**

All maintenance and improvements to Network properties that are deemed necessary or beneficial for the ongoing operations and ministry functions shall be overseen and carried out by the Network Presbytery.

#### **D. Properties of General Council Assemblies**

The Network Presbytery may approve specified written loan agreements with General Council-affiliated assemblies within the Network. These agreements shall be secured by appropriate collateral and reflect an acceptable risk level, which will determine the interest rate, payment terms, late fees, and duration of the loan.

#### **E. Dissolution and Reversion of Properties**

1. If a General Council-affiliated assembly ceases to function or closes, the dissolution process and disbursement of all property shall follow the assembly's bylaws and comply with the Internal Revenue Service statute 501(c)(3) for religious, non-profit organizations.
2. If a Network Council-affiliated assembly ceases to function or closes, all remaining property, both real and personal, along with all assets, shall revert to the South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God, a not-for-profit corporation. The Network will have full authority to use or sell such property and to apply the proceeds to advance the gospel and fulfill the prerogatives of the Network.
3. In the event either a General Council-affiliated assembly or a Network-affiliated assembly closes or ceases to function, the Network Executive Leadership Team shall automatically become the officers of that assembly.
4. Reversion of General Council Assemblies. In the event that the General Council reverts an assembly to the Network, the Network 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.

#### **F. Certified Authorization**

When required to do so, the Network 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. Such certification shall be held to be conclusive evidence of the authorization given.

#### **G. Authorized Signatories for Legal and Property Transactions**

The Network 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 Network along with a second signature by an executive officer, either the Assistant Superintendent or Secretary-Treasurer.

### **ARTICLE XIV. EMERGENCY POWERS**

#### **Section 1. State of Emergency**

A state of emergency is a situation of danger or disaster in which a government or organization suspends normal constitutional procedures in order to regain control. It may be declared by the federal, state, county or city governments in a time of regional or national danger or disaster. Under such conditions, the Network shall cooperate and act according to the examples set in Daniel 6:4, Romans 13:1-7 and Titus 3:1.

#### **Section 2. Powers of the Executive Leadership Team and Network Presbytery**

During a declared state of emergency, the Executive Leadership Team in consultation with the Network Presbytery shall suspend Bylaw procedures as necessary on behalf of the Network to preserve, stabilize, maintain, and restore order.

#### **Section 3. Matters of Conscience**

##### **A. Civil Obedience**

Network officers and leaders should comply with laws and maintain a good reputation. They shall guide churches to follow government and Network directives for health and safety.

##### **B. Conscientious Objection**

If laws or mandates unjustly target churches and faith-based organizations, the Network respects conscientious objection. Organizations may practice non-violent disobedience against discrimination, while honoring differing views of other believers.

## **ARTICLE XV. FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of this corporation shall be from January 1 to December 31.

## **ARTICLE XVI. INDEMNIFICATION**

The Network shall have the power to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless its executive officers, officers, employees, and agents, including advancing funds for expenses, in connection with any proceeding as defined under South Carolina laws and statutes. However, no indemnification shall be provided for any executive officer, officer, employee, or agent for acts or omissions that are:

1. Intentional Misconduct or Knowing Violations of Law: Acts or omissions finally adjudged as intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of the law.
2. Violations of Federal or State Law: Conduct finally adjudged to be in violation of federal or state law.
3. Personal Benefit: Transactions where it is finally adjudged that the individual personally received money, property, or services to which they were not legally entitled.

Indemnification shall cover all assessed legal fees, court costs, and any other unforeseen liabilities arising from the proceeding.

## **ARTICLE XVII. SEVERABILITY**

In the event any article, section, provision, sentence, clause, or part thereof of these bylaws is held to be invalid, illegal, unconstitutional, inapplicable, or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such ruling shall not affect or impair any of the remaining articles, sections, provisions, sentences, clauses, or parts thereof.

## **ARTICLE XVIII. DISSOLUTION CLAUSE**

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 XIX. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to these bylaws may be made at any regularly called meeting of the Network Conference, 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 Network Presbytery. Resolutions proposing such amendments shall be submitted through the office of the Secretary-Treasurer to the voting constituency at least thirty (30) days prior to the session of the Network Conference. Amendments to these bylaws shall require a two-thirds vote of all members present and voting.