

Section 1



Articles of Incorporation,
Constitution, and Bylaws
Bethel Assembly of God

2516 North "M" Street
Tulare, CA 93274-8339
Congregation Approved
February 10, 2008

Preamble

It is the express purpose of God our Heavenly Father to call out of the world a saved people who shall constitute the body of the church or our Lord Jesus Christ, built and established upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone.

God has ordained that His Universal Church should find its expression in and through local churches, enjoining them to assemble together for worship, instruction in the Word of God, fellowship and evangelism, for the work of the ministry, and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament.

To evangelize the unconverted to a saving faith in Jesus Christ; to apply the healing Gospel of Jesus Christ to all kinds of social and personal sins, diseases, and disorders; Matt. 28:19, Prov. 11:30, John 10:10.

To reproduce the life and character of the risen Christ in a growing congregational expression of the Body of Christ; to disciple participants, producing in them wholeness and maturity; to develop spiritual leaders who can reproduce themselves and meet the needs of others; Phil. 2:5-11, Matt. 28:19, II Tim. 2:2.

To adore and glorify God in the liberty of the Holy Spirit through public and private worship; and to administer the sacraments or ordinances; Rev. 19:10b, I Cor. 6:20, Isaiah 1:50, Matt. 28:19, I Cor. 11:23-24.

To experience and express love as the intended relationship of God and person, and person to person; John 13:34-35, Matt. 22:37-40.

To encourage and strengthen other expressions of the body of Christ, especially in the San Joaquin Valley and to promote unity and harmony in the body; I Cor. 14:12, Romans 14:19.

To discover, nurture, and commission people whom the Holy Spirit has called to ministry beyond Tulare, California. Matt. 28:19, Matt. 9:37.

Bethel Assembly of God (the “Congregation”) purposes to be an expression of the Body of Christ (the church), submitted to the Lord Jesus Christ in all things, patterned after the elements of the New Testament Church order that are reproducible in our context, and dedicated, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Articles of Incorporation

Article I

That the name of this corporation is:
Bethel Assembly of God Tulare, California.

Article II

That the principle office for transaction of business of this corporation shall be at 2516 North
“M” Street, Tulare, County of Tulare, State of California.

Article III

That the period of existence shall be perpetual.

Article IV

The corporation is organized exclusively for educational, charitable and religious purposes, within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding provision of any further United States Internal Revenue Law. Consistent with and subject to its qualifications under Section 501(c)(3), the corporation is organized to do any lawful activity permitted under the laws of the State of California.

Article V

The corporation shall have all powers granted by law necessary and proper to carry out its above stated purposes, consistent with its qualification under Section 501(c)(3).

Article VI

That the number of persons who shall act in the capacity of Directors shall be as specified by the bylaws.

Article VII

The property and assets of this corporation are irrevocably dedicated to religious or charitable purposes, and upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of this corporation, after providing for all debts and obligations thereof, the remaining assets will not inure to the benefit of any private person but shall be transferred to the Southern California District Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., a non-profit corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for religious or charitable purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and Section 23701d of the Revenue and Taxation Code. In the event

that the said Southern California District Council of the Assemblies of God is not then in operation, or declines to accept said property, the remaining assets after providing for all debts and obligations of this corporation, or other organization organized and operated exclusively for religious or charitable purposes, and which has established its tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and Section 23701d of the Revenue and Taxation Code. This corporation is organized pursuant to the General Nonprofit Corporation Law of the State of California.

Article VIII

Amendments to these Articles may be made by a two-thirds vote of the voting membership of the corporation at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made at least two (2) Sundays preceding the time of such meeting.

Constitution

ARTICLE I – NAME

The corporate name of this church shall be BETHEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD, TULARE, CALIFORNIA. The church shall be known as TULARE BETHEL ASSEMBLY.

ARTICLE II – PRINCIPLES

Section 1.

We hold the Bible, the Word of God, to be supreme in all matters governing the Assembly in keeping with the spirit of Christ.

Section 2.

We hold as Scriptural and fundamental that form of church government which is a voluntary fellowship, the local Assembly being sovereign under Christ.

Section 3.

We hold it basic that every Christian should endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace... “till we all come in the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

ARTICLE III – PURPOSE

Section 1.

Inasmuch as the Lord Jesus Christ came to glorify the Father (John 17:4), so the purpose of this Church shall be to glorify God. (Ephesians 1:12)

Section 2.

Inasmuch as the Lord Jesus Christ came to make disciples (Mark 1:17), so the purpose of this Church shall be to disciple persons in Christian belief and practice. (Matthew 28:18-20)

Section 3.

Inasmuch as the Lord Jesus Christ came to save sinners (Luke 19:10), so the purpose of this Church shall be to proclaim salvation through repentance, forgiveness, and faith in Christ. (Luke 24:47)

Section 4.

Inasmuch as the Lord Jesus Christ came to serve (Mark 10:45), so the purpose of this Church is to meet human need as resources are available. (Matthew 25:31-46)

ARTICLE IV – PREROGATIVES

Section 1.

To establish and maintain a place of worship of Almighty God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, through the Holy Spirit.

Section 2.

To promote the evangelization of our community and the whole world by all scriptural means.

Section 3.

To set forth a basis of Christian fellowship and provide for counsel and cooperation among those of like precious faith.

Section 4.

To establish and maintain a standard of membership determined by its members and to discipline the members according to the Holy Scriptures and the Bylaws hereinafter set forth.

Section 5.

To elect its own officers and committees, to arrange for its own meetings and to govern itself.

Section 6.

To establish and maintain such departments and institutions as may be considered necessary for the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and for the work of this church.

Section 7.

To have the right to buy, lease, or otherwise acquire, own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of such property, real or chattel as may be useful for the prosecution of its work.

ARTICLE V – AFFILIATION

Section 1.

While recognizing its inherent right to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, this Assembly voluntarily enters into full cooperative fellowship with the Southern California District Council of the Assemblies of God, and with the General Council of the Assemblies of God with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri.

Section 2.

It shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by the above mentioned affiliations. It shall have the right to representation through its delegates at the District and General Councils.

Section 3.

Because this sovereign Congregation maintains the privilege of self-government, control and ownership of its own properties and affairs, and because it's affiliation with the Assemblies of God is based on a voluntary commitment, the Congregation reserves the rights to sever its affiliation with the Assemblies of God. Such a withdrawal must be with the Official Board's recommendation and confirmed by a two-thirds majority vote of a quorum of the Congregation's voting constituency present at a duly called meeting. In the event of withdrawal of affiliation, the Congregation will retain in whole all the Congregation's properties, assets, and liabilities.

ARTICLE VI – TENETS OF FAITH

This Assembly shall accept the Holy Scriptures as the revealed Will of God, the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice. For the purpose of maintaining general unity the Assembly adopts the Statement of Fundamental Truths approved by the General Council of the Assemblies of God, as follows:

Section 1 - The Scriptures Inspired

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

Section 2 - The One True God

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

THE ADORABLE GODHEAD

(a) Terms Defined

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

(b) Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

Christ taught a distinction of Persons in the Godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable, and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; I Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16-17).

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

Accordingly, therefore, there is that in the Son which constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Ghost which constitutes Him the Holy Ghost and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore the Father is the Begetter, the Son is the Begotten and the Holy Ghost is One proceeding from

the Father and the Son. Therefore, because these three persons in the Godhead are in a state of unity, there is by one Lord God Almighty and his Name One (John 1:18; 15:26; 17:11, 21; Zechariah 14:9).

(d) Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are never identical as to Person; nor confused as to relation nor divided in respect to the Godhead; nor opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son as to relationship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father, as to authority.

The Holy Ghost is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as 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 to the Holy Ghost. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God (Romans 1:1-3, 7; II 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; I 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; I John 3:8; Hebrews 7:3; 1:1-13; II John 3).

(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 (II John 9; John 1:1, 2, 14, 18, 29, 49; I John 2:22, 23; 4:10-5; Hebrews 12:2).

(i) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by Himself purged out sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him. And having been made both Lord and Christ; He sent the Holy Ghost that we, in the Name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the Glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God may be

all in all (Hebrews 1:3; I Peter 3:22; Acts 3:32-36; Romans 14:11; I Corinthians 15:24-28).

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

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

Section 3 - The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

- (a) His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35).
- (b) His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; I Peter 2:22).
- (c) His miracles (Acts 2:22, 10:38).
- (d) His substitutionary work on the cross (I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21).
- (e) His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; I 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).

Section 4 - The Fall of Man

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

Section 5 - The Salvation of Man

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

CONDITION OF SALVATION

- (a) Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 2:4-7; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).
- (b) 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).

Section 6 - The Ordinances of the Church

- (a) BAPTISM IN WATER

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47; 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 (II Peter 1:4), a memorial of His suffering and death (I Corinthians 11:26) and a prophecy of His coming (I Corinthians 11:26) and is enjoined on all believers “till He comes.”

Section 7 - The Baptism in the Holy Ghost

All Believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the Baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all 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; I 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 of the Holy Ghost come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

Section 8 - The Evidence of Baptism in the Holy Ghost

The Baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (I Corinthians 12:4-10, 28), but different in purpose and use.

Section 9 - Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (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 Ghost we are able to obey the command: “Be ye holy, for I am holy,” (I 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 the 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; I Peter 1:5).

Section 10 - The Church

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

Section 11 - The Ministry

A divinely called and Scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for a two-fold purpose: (1) The evangelization of the world, and (2) the edifying of the Body of Christ (Mark 16:15-20; Ephesians 4:11-13).

Section 12 - Divine Healing

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

Section 13 - The Blessed Hope

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

Section 14 - The Millennial Reign of Christ

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (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 7:25-26), and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalms 72:3-8; Micah 4:3, 4).

Section 15 - The Final Judgment

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the book of life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone which is the second death (Matthew 25:45; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

Section 16 - The New Heavens and the New Earth

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

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be amended or changed by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at any regular or special meeting and provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made as required by the Bylaws and made available to each member at the church office.

Bylaws

ARTICLE I - PARLIAMENTARY LAW

Section 1 - Order of Business

In order to expedite the work of the church business meetings and the Official Board meetings and to avoid confusion in deliberations, all 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, Newly Revised*, and it shall apply when it is not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws or any special rules of order that this assembly may adopt in the future.

Section 2 - Minutes and Financial Reports

The minutes of all Board meetings and the monthly and annual financial reports presented to the Board shall be open for inspection during regular office hours by any voting member. In the event the Board meets in a duly called Executive Session, the minutes shall record the general topic of the Executive Session.

Section 3 - Membership Meetings

- (a) **Annual:** The annual meeting of the members of this corporation shall be the third week of February in each year unless otherwise decided by the Official Board.
- (b) **Special:** Special meetings of the members of this corporation may be called from time to time at the discretion of the Pastor, the Official Board, or by petition listing one-third of the active voting members of this assembly. No other business shall be considered at any special meeting other than that described in said notice.
- (c) **Notices:** Notice of all annual and/or special business meetings of the Assembly shall be verbally announced at least two Sundays prior to the date of said meeting(s). The meeting may be held on the Sunday evening of the second Sunday of notice. In addition, written notice shall be given in the church bulletin and/or posted in the church foyer during said notification time period.
- (d) **Voting Rights:** Each voting member shall be entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy or absentee ballot shall not be allowed.
- (e) **Quorum:** A legal quorum shall consist of the number of voting members present at any regular or special business meeting.
- (f) **Adoption:** The vote of a majority of those votes cast by the members present shall be necessary for adoption of any matter voted upon by the members unless a greater proportion is required by law, the Articles of Incorporation, or the Constitution and Bylaws.
- (g) **Order of Business:** The items for the annual business meeting of the Church may include the following, with the order as determined by the chairman:
 1. Devotional

2. Determination of a quorum
3. Approval of prior minutes
4. Report of the Pastor
5. Report of the Treasurer
6. Report of committees
7. Unfinished business
8. Election of officers
9. New business
10. Adjournment

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Membership Covenant

The Congregation will have members. Membership is an outward formalized sign of the commitment in an individual's heart. As members, we join together for God's glory and our mutual benefit. Membership is a covenant between the Congregation's members, one with another and between the Congregation's leaders and members.

Section 2 - Standard of Membership

- (a) Evidence of a genuine experience of salvation (John 1:12-13, 3:3-8; I Peter 1:18-25).
- (b) Evidence of a consistent Christian life (Romans 6:4, 13:13-14; Ephesians 4:17-32, 5:1-2, 15; I John 1:6-7). Any immorality condemned in Scripture, including the sexual immoralities of fornication, adultery, and homosexuality, shall be considered grounds for refusing membership until repentance is assured.
- (c) Agreement with the Tenets of Faith as set forth in Article VI of the constitution.
- (d) Agreement to give ten percent of income (the tithe) on a regular basis, as well as other contributions as the Lord enables, for the support of this Church in accordance with the Scriptures (Malachi 3:20, I Corinthians 16:2, II Corinthians 9:6-9).
- (e) Agreement to comply with and be bound by the constitution and bylaws.
- (f) Evidence of cooperative, submissive, humble and Christ-like spirit as the Scriptures enjoin.
- (g) Every minister, board member, employee or volunteer shall affirm their agreement with the Statement of Faith and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent thereto.

Section 3 - Human Sexuality

Legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Hence, sexual activities, such as, but not limited to, adultery, fornication, incest, homosexuality, pedophilia and bestiality are inconsistent with the teachings of the bible and the Church. Further, lascivious behavior, the creation and/or distribution and/or viewing of pornography, and efforts to alter one's gender, are incompatible with the biblical witness.

Marriage is an ordinance of the Church. This church recognizes marriage as exclusively the legal union of one man and one woman.

Section 4 - Obligation of Members

- (a) **Cooperative Action.** The membership of this church shall give consent to its forms of government, together with the policies mutually agreed upon, and agree to the policy of fundamental unity and agreement, alike in doctrine, and shall conform to the Scriptural injunction that there be no divisions in the body. They shall be subject to those who may be delegated to rulership as the Word of God plainly teaches, that the principle of Christian fellowship may be kept inviolate and perpetuated, recognizing its fundamental importance.
- (b) **Attitude Toward Strife.** Inasmuch as no Christian institution can comply with the plain teachings of Scripture unless unity and harmony predominate within its circle, no member of its body may use means to incite or engender strife, but shall work in harmony with the membership and its officers, as did the early church (Acts 2:42). If there is cause for dissatisfaction, it shall be called to the attention of the pastor and official board. At their discretion, necessary adjustments shall be made. (Acts 6:1-7; Matthew 18:15-18).
- (c) **Financial Support.** All members shall be supporting members in proportion, as the Lord shall prosper them (Malachi 3:10; I Corinthians 16:1, 2; II Corinthians 9:6-9), thereby acknowledging that any institution can stand or be full service only in proportion as all its members accept their responsibility in maintaining it.
- (d) **Unauthorized Activities.** No member of this church shall support private enterprises or activities which involve the membership of this church, and over which the church has no control, or which have not been sanctioned by the Pastor and Official Board. No member shall use his influence to draw other members of the church into such activities. If additional services are desired besides those provided for, such services must have the approval of the Pastor, and be under his general supervision. In the event the church is temporarily without a Pastor such services must have the approval of the Official Board.

Section 5 - Categories of Membership

- (a) **Voting Members:** Members 18 years of age or older who meet all the requirements of Article II: Membership, Section 2 Standards of Membership, and whose names are on the current membership roll approved by the Official Board.
- (b) **Associate Members:** Members composed of those who for various reasons do not wish to be a voting member but who desire the fellowship of the Church. They may not be fulfilling all the requirements of Article II Section 2, but wish to remain active in the church. They shall have no voting privileges, right to address the church at business meetings, or voice in the church's vision and ministry.
- (c) **Junior Members:** Members below eighteen (18) years of age, who have sufficient spiritual and mental maturity to freely give of themselves to the commitments stated in Section 2 of this Article. Junior members shall have no voting privileges, right to address the church at business meetings, or voice in the church's vision and ministry. When a junior member reaches the age of

eighteen (18), the Board shall have the prerogative to change his membership to another appropriate category.

- (d) **Honorary Members:** Members who no longer can attend this church because they have entered ministry as District Officers, Pastors, Evangelists, Missionaries or Religious Educators may be made Honorary Members. Also, members not able to attend because they are students, shut-ins or are serving in the Armed Services may be made Honorary Members. Honorary membership recognition shall continue as long as the member maintains a consistent Christian life and remains sound in doctrine and maintains a cooperative attitude toward this Church. An honorary member shall have no voting privileges, right to address the church at business meetings, or voice in the church's vision and ministry.
- (e) **Inactive Members:** Any voting or associate member may be declared an inactive member by majority vote of the Official Board who:
 - 1. Absent themselves from the Congregation's services for a period of three consecutive months or more;
 - 2. Cease to contribute to the Congregation's support for a period of three consecutive months;
 - 3. Have violated Section 2 or 3 of this article.They shall have no voting privileges, right to address the church at business meetings, or voice in the church's vision and ministry.
- (f) **Under Discipline Members:** Any member who departs from the Tenets of Faith or Standards of Membership shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Official Board. All discipline shall be prayerfully administered according to the Scriptures (Matthew 18:15-17; I Corinthians 5:9-13; II Thessalonians 3:11-15; Romans 16:17). The Official Board is empowered to suspend from active voting membership and place on discipline status those members who are under charges for violating Section 2 or 3 of this Article. The Official Board is likewise empowered to remove from discipline those who it finds are not guilty as charged, and those who through repentance and adjustment have again attained to the standard for voting or associate membership.

Section 6 - Reception of Members

- (a) Persons desiring to become members of this church shall make their desires known to the Pastor, who shall interview the applicant. This may take the form of a membership class.
- (b) The Pastor shall present all applications for membership to the Official Board together with his recommendation. The Official Board shall consider the applications and render a final decision concerning their acceptance or non-acceptance. All applicants who are accepted shall have their names placed on the roster.
- (c) It shall be the Official Board's prerogative and responsibility to determine the active or inactive status of members in all categories of membership for the purposes of establishing a membership roll for business meetings.

Section 7 – Letter of Transfer

Letters of transfer to another church will not be given. Letters of transfer received will be acted upon as a request for membership.

Section 8 – Discipline

- (a) Causes for Discipline - Discipline will be exercised by the pastor together with the Official Board. Grounds for discipline include the following, but are not limited to:
1. Living an immoral and sinful life, refusing to conform to Scriptural conduct. (Ephesians 5:3-7; I Corinthians 5:11-13; II Thessalonians 3:6-10; Galatians 5:19-21).
 2. Promulgation of erroneous, inconsistent, and false doctrine. (Romans 16:17; I Timothy 6:4,5; II Timothy 1:13).
 3. Persistence in those things which the Scriptures forbid, such as: Being habitual busy-bodies (II Thessalonians 3:11; I Timothy 5:13; I Peter 4:15); Unbridled tongue (James 1:25,26); Evil speaking (Matthew 12:33, 37; Ephesians 4:31); Backbiting (Romans 1:30; II Corinthians 12:30); Talebearing (Leviticus 19:16; Proverbs 17:9); Slander (Psalms 101:5; 50:19, 20; Luke 7:33, 34); Bitterness (Ephesians 4:31, 32; James 3:14,16); Murmuring (John 2:14); Engendering division and schism (Romans 16:17; I Corinthians 1:10, 11; 3:3).
- (b) Right of Appeal - Any member whose membership has been altered or terminated by the Official Board has the right to appeal. Appeal is first to be made to the Official Board of the church. If the appeal to the Official Board for reconsideration and reinstatement is denied, then the affected member may appeal through the Board Secretary for a regular or specially called business meeting to consider the issue. This action, by a majority vote of the votes cast, shall be final. They shall have no further right of appeal or redress in this assembly, the civil courts or elsewhere.
- (c) Resignations - Members who are under discipline forfeit and waive the right to resign from membership in the Congregation. Only members who are not under any disciplinary action may resign from membership.
- (d) Notice of Discipline - Notice of discipline and the reasons therefore shall be sent by mail to the affected member's last known address as noted in the church files, requesting they meet with the Official Board if they desire to remain active. It shall be each member's responsibility to keep the church notified of his/her current address.
- (e) Discipline Procedure
1. **Request for Hearing:** Any member whose membership has been altered or terminated and notified in the manner as delineated above has thirty days from which to file a written request with the Official Board Secretary for a hearing (and an opportunity to be heard) with the Board of Directors. If the Official Board Secretary fails to receive said request, the affected member shall automatically have no further right of review or appeal.

2. **Notification:** Upon receipt of a request for an opportunity to be heard, the affected member shall be notified by mail of his/her hearing date. Receipt of said notice shall be presumed on the third day following the letter being posted. Said hearing shall not be conducted for at least fifteen days following receipt of the notice.
3. **Hearing:** The affected member has no right to the presence of an attorney at said hearing but does have a right to present his/her defense and cross examine witnesses who testify against him/her.
4. **Removal:** If guilt is established the Pastor and Board shall decide what disciplining action shall be taken. The official board is empowered to remove from membership those members under discipline who consistently refuse to be restored. Whenever any disciplinary action has been taken it should be considered remedial and every effort made to restore the offender.

Section 9 - Waiver of Claim

Notwithstanding the provisions herein before contained, Certificates of Membership of this local church, shall be issued upon the condition that suspension of the member, and withdrawal of the Certificate of Membership in the manner herein provided, shall not give the suspended member cause for legal action against the pastor, or any member, taking part in the suspension proceedings; and the acceptance of the Certificate of Membership or fellowship in this local church shall be evidence of a waiver by the member, of all rights of action, causes of action, and all claims and demands against the local Church, or any member or officer of The Assemblies of God, by virtue of suspension proceedings and withdrawal of the Certificate of Membership or fellowship in this local church under the foregoing provision.

Section 10 – Review of Membership Roll

The Pastor and Official Board shall review and revise the membership roll within ninety (90) days of the annual business meeting and at such other times as they deem necessary. The review preceding the annual business meeting shall be completed not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting. It shall be their prerogative and responsibility to determine the active or inactive status of members in all categories of membership for the purposes of establishing a membership roll for business meetings. The roll shall accurately reflect the category of membership of each member.

ARTICLE III – RIGHT OF INITIATIVE

Section 1

A member in good standing may originate a petition requesting consideration of a matter. Prior to circulation, the petition shall be filed with the Board for its consideration of the matter raised. If the member in good standing desires to appeal the decision of the Board as to the matter raised he must notify the Board and only then may the petition be circulated.

If the petition requests a special business meeting of the church membership, or District intervention, the petition must be signed by at least one-third of the voting members to

require the calling of the special business meeting or intervention by the District Superintendent. When intervention is sought by the District Superintendent he will have the right to speak to the Pastor, Board and Church at a specially called business meeting. Violation of this procedure will be seen as causing division and worthy of discipline.

Any voting member requesting intervention by the District Superintendent must follow the above procedure.

Section 2

The circulation of the petition shall be as follows. The petition shall be placed in a folder on a podium or stand in the church foyer where it shall remain for a reasonable time during and after two consecutive Sundays and midweek services. Signatures shall be invalid if added at any place or time other than that which is provided for above. The custodian of the petition shall be a member appointed by the Board. The petition shall be delivered to the Board by its custodian for consideration by the Board.

Section 3

Any member who circulated a petition in violation of the above sections of this Article shall be considered as having violated the membership requirement of Article II, Sections 1 and 2, and therefore shall be subject to the provisions of Article II, Section 7 “Discipline”.

ARTICLE IV – MANAGEMENT OF CORPORATION

Section 1 – Board of Directors

This church shall be governed by a Board of Directors which shall be known as the Official Board or Board of Directors and who shall be the executive body in the conduct of the functions and privileges of the Assembly, both as a church and as a legal entity.

Section 2 - Composition

The Official Board shall consist of the Pastor and six voting members of the church.

Section 3 - Qualifications

The members of this Official Board shall be mature men or women full of the Holy Spirit, who have experienced the Baptism in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues, whose faithfulness shall have been in evidence and whose lives and conduct shall conform to the following Scriptures: Acts 2:4; Acts 6:3; I Corinthians 12:4-10, 28; I Timothy 3:8-12.

Section 4 – Nominations

The members of the Official Board shall be chosen from the voting membership of the Assembly. The Board together with the Pastor, shall serve as the nominating committee and screen the candidates to establish eligibility. The Board shall attempt to present at least two candidates for each vacancy. This shall be completed not less than two weeks prior to the annual business meeting. The slate of candidates shall be posted at that time.

Section 5 – Election

The election of officers for position of Board member shall be from a single nominating ballot. They shall be elected at the properly called annual business meeting. Members shall be elected to serve terms of three years each and then shall be ineligible to serve on the Board for one year. A Board member shall be declared elected upon receiving a majority of the votes on the first ballot cast by the voting members present. If all Board vacancies are not filled on the first ballot, the remaining candidates receiving the most votes on the next ballot shall be elected, and shall assume office at the conclusion of the annual business meeting.

Section 6 – Duties

The Board shall act in an advisory capacity with the Pastor in all matters pertaining to the Assembly. They shall transact the business of the Assembly and perform other duties as defined in this Constitution and Bylaws. The Board shall be the trustees of the corporation and the custodians of all the property of the Assembly.

- (a) To fix compensation of all Pastors, Pastoral staff, officers, agents and employees of the church.
- (b) To conduct, manage and control affairs and business of this church, and to make rules and regulations consistent with law, the Articles of Incorporation of this corporation and its Constitution and Bylaws.
- (c) To borrow money and incur indebtedness in the course of business of this church and for that purpose to cause to be executed and delivered in the name of this corporation promissory notes, bonds, debentures, deeds of trust, mortgages, pledges, hypothecations, or other evidences of indebtedness or securities, subject to pertinent law and regulations, further subject to the provisions of these Bylaws.
- (d) To take and hold as custodians and trustees for the use and benefit of the church all of its property, being responsible for the maintenance and cleanliness of same for the comfort of the congregation.
- (e) To receive and hold as custodians and trustees any gifts from members or third parties, on such conditions and restrictions as the Official Board deems reasonable, and to dispose of same pursuant to such conditions, exempted from and free of any restrictions that might otherwise appear in provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws. In order to qualify for such exemption, the conditions and restrictions must be clearly stated in writing by the donor, and filed with the regular minutes of meetings of the Official Board, which conditions may include provisions for nondisclosure of the name of the donor.

Section 7 – Resolutions Committee

The Board shall act as the Resolutions Committee examining proposed resolutions and revisions. It shall be the responsibility of the resolutions committee to:

- (a) Examine proposed resolutions and revisions to the work of the Church and compatibility with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Church. Members wishing to submit proposals for consideration at the Annual Business Meeting shall do so no later than December 15th.

- (b) Prepare, in writing, proposed resolutions and revisions in clear language to be presented for consideration at the next Annual Business Meeting with appropriate reference by Article, Sections, and paragraphs of the Constitution and Bylaws.
- (c) It shall be the prerogative of the Resolutions Committee, upon a two-thirds vote, to decline to present proposed resolutions they deem frivolous, irrelevant, or otherwise unacceptable for consideration. If the Resolutions Committee declines to support a proposed resolution, the Chairperson of the committee shall, in advance of the Annual Business Meeting, so advise the sponsor.
- (d) It shall be the prerogative of the Church membership in session, upon appeal by the sponsor, to reverse, by a two-thirds vote, the decision of the Resolutions Committee not to present a proposed resolution.

Section 8 – Removal for Cause

A member of the Official Board, with the exception of the Pastor, may be removed from office before the end of his term, for cause or without cause, by a majority vote of the membership of the Official Board with the Pastor voting. Any removal by the Official Board must be ratified by a majority vote of the membership of the church at a regular or special meeting of the membership to be held within three months of such removal. The individual so removed shall have no right to appeal.

Section 9 - Corporation Officers

- (a) Board Chairman – The Pastor shall be President of the corporation and shall act as Chairman of meetings of the Assembly and of the Official Board. He shall, with the Secretary of the Board, sign all official papers for the corporation. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and departments. The Pastor may appoint someone to act as Board Chairman in his absence.
- (b) Vice-Chairman – The Vice-Chairman shall be an officer of the corporation selected by the Board from amongst its membership for a term of office of one year. If the office of Pastor is vacated he shall chair the Board while the Board is acting as the Pulpit Committee.
- (c) Secretary – The Secretary shall be an officer of the corporation selected by the Board from amongst its membership for a term of office of one year.

He shall preserve proper records of the membership of the Assembly and all communications and proceedings of this Assembly. Proper records shall include the annual, regular, and special meetings of the Assembly, the records of the proceedings of the Official Board; and of all committees submitted to him.

He shall maintain an official copy of the Church Constitution and Bylaws. When amended, he shall so certify together with the Pastor.

He shall sign, together with the President of the corporation, the official and legal documents of the corporation, and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of his duties.

He shall be the custodian of all legal documents and shall be in charge of the corporate seal.

- (d) Treasurer – The Treasurer shall be an officer of the corporation, selected by the Board from amongst its membership for a term of office of one year. He shall be responsible for all financial records of the corporation to determine that they are kept in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws, and as directed by the Official Board. He shall keep the Pastor and Official Board informed of all financial matters.

He shall be one of the signers on all primary church accounts. The Official Board may authorize other signatures on those accounts. He shall also be available to sign documents in the absence of the Corporate Secretary or as directed by the Official Board.

Section 10 – Vacancies

In the event of a vacancy due to the resignation, death, or removal of a Board member, the Pastor shall nominate one or more candidates. The Board by majority vote shall fill the vacancy until the next annual business meeting when the position will be filled by election.

A Board member shall have vacated his office when he submits a written resignation or when he verbally resigns to the Pastor in the presence of at least one credible witness or at a regular or specially called meeting of the Board, or when he ceases to be a member in good standing.

Section 11 – Public Worship

- (a) Meeting for public worship will be held on each Sunday and during the week as may be determined by the Pastor and the Official Board.
- (b) Revivals, rallies, missionary services, conventions, and other special services shall be planned by the Pastor. The Pastor may counsel with the Official Board in such planning; he shall keep them informed of such plans.

Section 12 – Official Board Meetings

The Official Board shall meet monthly or as the need may require. Official Board meetings may be called by the Pastor or by a majority of the officers of the Board. Meetings may be held when every officer and Board member shall have received proper notification of the time and place of meeting. A quorum of the Board shall consist of four members including the Pastor or in his absence his designated appointee.

Members in good standing may attend any Board meeting except for executive sessions.

Minutes of Board meetings shall be available in the church office for review by members in good standing.

ARTICLE V – PASTORAL MINISTRY

Section 1 – The Pastor/President/Board Chairman

- (a) **Qualifications:** Because the Assembly recognizes the leadership of the Pastor under the Lord Jesus Christ, and because it is considered that he is, in a peculiar sense, a representative of our organization, he shall be a person of good report, shall so manage his personal affairs, financial and otherwise, so that no discredit

shall come to the cause of Christ through his actions. His life and conduct should conform to the following Scriptures: I Timothy 3:2-7; Titus 1:6-9; I Peter 5:2-3.

- (b) **Duties:** The Pastor shall be general supervisor of all the activities of the Assembly. He shall provide for all the services of the Assembly and shall arrange for all special meetings. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the Assembly without his approval.
- (c) **Ministerial Activities:** The pastor shall endeavor to represent the church in Sectional, District, and General Council activities. The Church shall accept its financial responsibilities, as far as possible, for the Pastor's attendance at these workshops, seminars, and conventions which are to the benefit of the Assembly.
- (d) **Manner of Election:** The Official Board, acting as a pulpit committee with the vice-chairman chairing it, after prayerfully seeking to know the mind of God and carefully choosing the best counsel available, shall select a qualified Assemblies of God minister as a nominee to the office of Pastor and present his name for the vote of the Assembly. Any member of the Assembly may suggest the name of an Assemblies of God minister to the committee. The counsel of the District Superintendent the Sectional Presbyter and the retiring Pastor may be considered.

The Pastor shall originally be elected by secret ballot of the Assembly. It shall require a two-thirds vote to elect. The Pastor shall be confirmed by a majority vote of the Assembly at the next annual business meeting which is more than eleven months after the original election. The vote shall be by secret ballot.

The Pastor shall continue to serve an indefinite term at the pleasure of the Official Board. A majority vote of the Board, with the Pastor not voting, shall terminate the Pastor's tenure of office. The Pastor may appeal the action of the Board at a specially called business meeting.

The decision of a two-thirds majority of the voting membership shall override the action of the Board.

- (e) The Board by majority vote, with the Pastor not voting, may request the Pastor's resignation at any time for the following reasons: (1) Departure from the Tenets of Faith; (2) Immoral conduct; (3) Offensive deportment; (4) Official incompetence; (5) Unfaithfulness in office. If such resignation is refused, the pastorate shall not be deemed vacant until a special meeting of the Church is called, said meeting to be presided over by an officer of the Southern California District Council. A two-thirds majority vote by secret ballot shall be required to continue the Pastor's tenure in office.
- (f) The voting members of the Church may call for a vote on the Pastor through submission of a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the Church. Upon receipt of any such petition, the Vice-Chairman of the Official Board shall be required to call a special business meeting of the Church to determine by secret ballot whether the Pastor's tenure in office shall be terminated. This meeting shall be presided over by an officer of the Southern California District Council. A two-thirds majority vote by secret ballot shall be required to continue the Pastor's tenure in office.

(g) **Vacancy:**

1. The tenure of office of the pastorate shall be terminated by death, resignation, or removal. When a vacancy in the pastorate shall occur, a temporary supply shall be arranged for by the Official Board to serve while a pastor is being chosen.

If the Pastor makes a decision to resign, the resignation shall be in writing addressed to the Official Board and the District Superintendent. He shall read his resignation to the congregation at the Sunday morning service or any of the regular or specially called meetings of the Assembly. This action shall be considered legal and final by the Assembly.

In the event the Pastor does not follow the above, but gives his resignation orally at any Sunday service or specially called meeting of the Assembly, such resignation shall be considered legal and final. The District Superintendent shall be notified of his resignation.

2. In case of the resignation or removal of the Pastor, the Official Board shall be empowered to determine who shall fill the pulpit and severance pay.
3. Before leaving the Church, he shall notify the District Superintendent of his desire to vacate and shall cooperate with the Church and the District Superintendent in securing candidates for the pastorate. The Church shall not be left in the hands of a novice, nor a layman, except such arrangement is under the supervision of the District Superintendent.

Section 2 – Other Pastors and Staff

- (a) The Assistant and/or Associate Pastors and any other members of the pastoral or church staff shall be selected by the Pastor and approved by the Official Board. They shall be hired by a two-thirds majority of the Official Board. There shall be a yearly review of ability, salary, etc. of these positions and persons.
- (b) Such assistants shall cooperate with and support the Pastor in all his duties and responsibilities, and if unable to do so shall immediately tender their resignation to the Pastor.
- (c) The initiative of terminating the term of office for any Associate and/or Assistant pastor or other members of the pastoral or Church staff shall be the prerogative of the Pastor. When a Pastor resigns, it is understood that his ministerial associates shall submit their resignations also so that the newly elected pastor may establish a staff of his own choice. In this case, the Official Board shall be empowered to determine the length of ministry and severance pay.

ARTICLE VI – CHURCH OPERATIONS

Section 1 – Operating Budget

The Church staff, in consultation with the Official Board, shall prepare an annual operating budget for the Corporation which shall be reviewed and approved by the

Official Board. This projected budget shall be summarized and presented to the membership at the Annual Business Meeting for ratification. The income and expenditures of each department shall be compared against the budget by the Church staff and Board. The staff will submit recommendations to the Official Board and the budget may be adjusted as deemed necessary by the Official Board in consultation with the staff.

Section 2 – Review of Financial Records

The accounts and financial records of the corporation shall be reviewed annually at the end of each calendar year under the direction of the Pastor and Official Board. The reviewer shall not be the Treasurer or Bookkeeper who has maintained the records. Financial records shall be available in the church office and in the presence of the Church Treasurer to members in good standing upon adequate notice.

Section 3 – Employee Salary Review

Annual salary adjustments of employees, made by the Official Board, are to consider cost of living changes and performance against established objectives, as well as the financial strength of the Church.

Section 4 – Employee Handbook

The Church staff shall periodically revise, and the Official Board shall approve, an Employee Handbook to facilitate the smooth administration of standards of conduct, benefits, vacations, and other employee related matters. Employees shall sign an employment agreement which recites that they have read and understand the handbook and its underlying authority in the Church Constitution and Bylaws, and that they accept each and every part of the same as conditions of employment.

Section 5 – General Policies and Procedures Manual

The Church staff shall prepare and the Official Board will approve an Administrative Manual including General Policies and Procedures. The manual shall list all the Church departments, ministries, committees, including their functions and responsibilities and shall define, as appropriate, the working relationship between these various groups. Job descriptions and responsibilities of the Pastoral and Administrative staff shall be detailed in this manual.

Section 6 – Copies

Copies of the Employee Handbook and the Administrative Manual shall be available in the Church office for review by members of the Church.

ARTICLE VII – DEPARTMENTS

Section 1 – Supervision

All auxiliary organizations shall be departments of the Assembly and shall function under the supervision of the Pastor and the Official Board. The Pastor shall be an ex-officio officer to all departments.

Section 2 – Departments and Committees

Departments and Committees of the Assembly shall be established by the Church Board as needed.

Section 3 – Operating Procedures

Each department may develop its own operating procedures as needed and approved by the Official Board.

Section 4 – Subsidiary Non-Profit Corporations

There may be subsidiary non-profit, self-financed and governed corporations established by the Official Board to function as distinct ministries of the assembly. They shall be established and function under regulations and bylaws, set and/or approved by the Official Board, and under the general oversight of the Pastor.

ARTICLE VIII – PROPERTY

Section 1

All property of the Assembly shall be deeded to the Assembly in its corporate name.

Section 2

No real property of the Assembly shall be bought, taken, or otherwise acquired, sold, transferred, mortgaged, leased, assigned, conveyed, encumbered, or otherwise alienated, unless the same shall have been authorized by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at a regular or special meeting called for that purpose. Exception is made for Article 4 Section 6 Paragraph e.

Section 3

The Pastor (President) and Corporate Secretary of the Assembly shall certify that the same has been authorized by a vote of the membership. Such certificates shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

Section 1 The Bylaws may be amended or changed by a majority vote of the active members present at any regular or special meeting provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made as required by the Bylaws and made available to each member at the church office.