

**THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC DISTRICT
Constitution and Bylaws
2020-2024**

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Dr. Sergio Navarrete, District Superintendent

Rev. William Rodriguez, Assistant District Superintendent

Rev. Manuel Rodriguez, English Assistant District Superintendent

Rev. Silvia Carrizo, District Secretary-Treasurer

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EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS

Dr. Sergio Navarrete – General Presbyter

Rev. William Rodriguez – Executive Presbyter

Rev. Manuel Rodriguez – Executive Presbyter

Rev. Silvia Carrizo – General Presbyter

Rev. Daniel DeLeon – Non Resident Executive Presbyter

Rev. Joshua Canales – General Presbyter

Rev. Moises Quintana – Region I – Desert

Rev. Lalo Guerrero – Region II – Inland

Rev. Pedro Vega – Region III – Orange

Rev. Francisco Vasquez – Region IV – North

Rev. Jose Arenas – Region V – Los Angeles

Rev. Jack Miranda – Region VI – English

Rev. Jesús Campa – Region VII – San Diego

Rev. Marcos Donis – Region VIII Las Vegas

Rev. William Mendoza Jr. – Representative Youth Ministries

Rev. Lucy Saavedra – Representative Women in Ministry

DISTRICT PRESBYTERS

REGION I – DESERT

Imperial Valley – Rev. Mike Neciuk

Palm Springs – Rev. Blanca Castro

REGION II – INLAND

San Bernardino – Rev. Jose Salazar

San Gabriel – Rev. Josué Jordán

REGION III – SOUTH

Orange North – Rev. Saul Rios

Orange South – Rev. Elizabeth Baez

REGION IV – NORTH

East Los Angeles – Rev. Omar Dominguez

La Costa – Rev. Claudio Lapidus

San Fernando – Rev. Ana Rivera

REGION V – LOS ANGELES

Central Los Angeles – Rev. Eliseo Ruelas

Long Beach – Rev. Manuel Montes

REGION VI – ENGLISH

North – Rev. Freddie Espinoza Sr.

South – Rev. John Brito

East – Rev. John Perea

REGION VII – SAN DIEGO

San Diego South – Rev. Felipe Guiza

San Diego North – Rev. Edwin Mota

REGION VIII – LAS VEGAS

Las Vegas Section – Rev. Samuel Nevarez

HONORARY PRESBYTERS

Rev. Elías Fragoso

Rev. Daniel Tamara

Rev. Refugio Tejada

Rev. Simon Melendres

Rev. Maria Elia Guzman
Rev. Raul Castro

DEPARTMENT & MINISTRY DIRECTORS

Christian Education – Rev. Dr. Rodolfo Estrada III

Ministries for Pastor's Children – Rev. Caleb P. Vazquez

Coaching Ministries– Dr. Urias Mendoza

Women's Ministries - Rev. Nina Arroyo

Pastors Wives Ministries – Mrs. Janice Navarrete

Girl's Ministries – Teresita Goblirsch

Youth Ministries - Rev. Eli Vega

Retired Senior Ministries – Mrs. Anita Torres

Missions Ministries – Rev. Carlos Espana

Women in Ministry Ministries – Rev. Silvia Carrizo

Men Ministries – Rev. Pulciano Vasquez

King Castle Ministries – Rev. Luis Castro

Royal Rangers - Rev. Joel Romero

Pastoral Care – Rev. William Rodriguez

Church Planting – Rev. William Rodriguez

Prayer Ministries – Rev. Manuel Rodriguez

Discipleship – Rev. Claudio Lapidus

SOUTHERN PACIFIC DISTRICT SCHOOLS

LABI College

Latin American Theological Seminary

Latin American Bible Institute -Extentions

Dr. Martin Harris – President

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CONSTITUTION

OF

THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC DISTRICT

OF THE

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

REVISED AUGUST 2020
LA PUENTE, CALIFORNIA

**Constitution and Bylaws
of
The Southern Pacific District
of the Assemblies of God
in the
United States of America and
Selected Territories**

CONSTITUTION

A Religious non-profit corporation of California

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

WHEREAS, God having ordained that His Universal Church should find its expression in and through local churches, enjoining them to assemble together for worship, fellowship, counsel and instruction in the Word of God, and for the work of the ministry, and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this corporation is formed exclusively for religious purposes, to propagate the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in accordance with the Holy Bible, in customs and traditions of Evangelical Pentecostal Christianity, as an administrative unit of and a constituent division amenable to The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Missouri Nonprofit Corporation, and, in these premises, the following Constitution and Bylaws are adopted:

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this corporation is *Southern Pacific District of the Assemblies of God*.

Hereinafter referred to simply as “District Council” or “Corporation” though this corporation may by special resolution of its Board of Directors adopt other and fictitious names for the purpose of doing business through its various established divisions, ministries and programs, as deemed necessary, convenient or expedient, and in such manner as to be in compliance with law.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

Section 1. Legal Purpose

- a. This organization is a religious corporation and is not organized for the private gain of any person. It is organized under the Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law of California, covering also the states of Southern Nevada, and Hawaii, exclusively for religious purposes.
- b. The specific purpose of this corporation is to propagate the Gospel of Jesus Christ, according to the Holy Bible, in customs and traditions of Pentecostal Evangelical Christianity, as a church and a convention of churches, and as an administrative agency of and constituent division amenable to The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Missouri Nonprofit Corporation.

Section 2. Priority Reason for Being – Mission Statement

The Southern Pacific District exists to bring Glory to God through establishing places of worship, evangelize the lost, disciple the believers, serve and equip the ministry, and function as a resource center for all our ministers and churches.

a. Ministry to the Lord through Worship. It is the purpose and mission of this District Council to establish and maintain places of worship of Almighty God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, through the Holy Spirit, to conduct business as a church and a convention of churches.

b. Ministry to the Lost through Evangelism. It is the purpose and mission of this District Council through the work of evangelism, under the guidance of the Holy Scriptures to seek and save that which is lost, in both home and foreign fields, in obedience to the command of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in harmony with the teaching and practice of His servants, the Apostles.

c. Ministry to the Body of Christ through Fellowship. It is the purpose and mission of this District Council to build a body of believers in the image of His Son by promoting fellowship

with Almighty God and among believers, individuals, and group within our churches, and within our larger church community.

ARTICLE III. PRINCIPLES

Section 1.

It shall be a principle and responsibility of this District Council to maintain standards of scriptural order in all matters affecting its life and ministry within its churches, programs and membership.

It shall be a principle and responsibility of this District Council to promote and maintain standards of doctrine and conduct, and to apply discipline according to the Holy Scriptures and this Constitution and Bylaws and as hereinafter set forth.

Section 2.

The Assemblies of God shall represent, as nearly as possible in detail, the body of Christ as described in the New Testament Scriptures. It shall recognize the principles inherent in the body as also inherent in this Fellowship, particularly the principles of unity, cooperation, and equality. It recognizes that these principles will enable it to achieve its priority reason-for-being as an agency of God for evangelizing the world, as a corporate body in which man may worship God, and as a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.

Section 3.

This District Council holds its base that every born-again 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 of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

Section 4.

This District Council shall keep vigilant watch against any violation of the principles of spiritual unity and cooperative agreements to which the Assemblies of God Fellowship is unalterably dedicated.

ARTICLE IV. AUTHORITY, PREROGATIVES AND POWERS

Section 1. The Holy Bible as Supreme Authority

This District Council declares that the Holy Bible, the Holy Word of God, is supreme in all matters governing this corporation in keeping with the Spirit of Christ, and does hereby adopt same as the ultimate authority for this organization and the prosecution of its business.

Section 2. The General Council Government Superior Authority

This District Council hereby adopts and acknowledges as superior authority the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, as such is now or may from time to time be amended, hereinafter for simplicity occasionally referred to as “General Council Bylaws”, for conduct of all business and administrative regulation, and establishment of standards of doctrine and conduct, and this corporation is likewise subject to legislation and directives of that parent organization. In event of conflict, inconsistency or incompatibility of the following regulations with the letter or interpretation of same, this District Council shall be guided by such superior authority and legislation or directives of the General Council.

Section 3. Granted Prerogatives of Government

- a. Subject to and by virtue of the foregoing provisions of Sections One and Two of this Article, this District Council is empowered to conduct its own business, and by action of its membership, Executive Presbytery or District Presbytery as hereinafter in this Constitution and Bylaws provided, to elect its officers and directors, to arrange its own meetings and transact all other business pertaining to its status as a District Council provided for and described in the General Council Bylaws.
- b. Subject to and by virtue of the superior authority of the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and in accord with its mission, this District Council shall have the following further specific powers:
 1. To approve all scriptural teachings, methods, and conduct among the members of this District Council and those within its jurisdiction and to members of this disapprove unscriptural teachings, methods and conduct, and to provide a forum for review thereof and to impose discipline as shall be appropriate.
 2. To provide for and promote the evangelization of communities within the assigned sections of this District Council, including the establishment of churches and other programs, and to extend the Kingdom of Jesus Christ throughout our country and around the world.
 3. To provide for and promote fellowship among individuals and groups within the
 - i. membership of this District Council and throughout our church community.
 4. To supervise all activities of the Assemblies of God in the territory within the
 - i. assigned boundaries and jurisdiction of this District Council.
 5. To examine candidates for ministerial credentials, and issue or make appropriate recommendations for issuance of such credentials.

6. To establish and define further regulation and policy by which this District Council shall be governed, insofar as it shall not conflict with the General Council.

c. Subject to the District Organizational Manual, the District will function under the guidance of the organizational manual.

Section 4. Statutory Powers

This District Council shall have and is empowered to exercise all powers generally allowed to nonprofit corporations by the laws of the State of California and elsewhere that this organization might do business, including but not limited to the right and power to buy, take, receive by gift, lease or otherwise, own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise alienate or dispose of such property, real or personal, or mixed, tangible or intangible, legal or equitable interests, of whatsoever kind or description as may be useful for the prosecution of its work, and to enter into contracts of all description in these premises.

ARTICLE V. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Section 1. Description and Definition

This District Council is an administrative agency, an integral part of, and amenable to The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Missouri Nonprofit Corporation, hereinafter referred to simply as “General Council”; and, this District Council shall have supervision over all the activities of the Assemblies of God in its prescribed jurisdiction, except such as are agreed upon by this District Council and the officials of the General Council. The generic term “Assemblies of God” refers to the General Council and its entire constituency, including the various churches, ministries, and institutional constituent parts.

Section 2. Geographical Boundaries

Pursuant and subject to agreements with the General Council, saving and excepting other established geographical districts and other programs that may be designated or recognized by the General Council to function within the area assigned, not necessarily geographical, which may overlap into or coincide with the physical boundaries of this District Council, the geographical territory under supervision and jurisdiction of this District Council shall include the States of Southern Nevada, Hawaii and Southern California.

Section 3. Jurisdiction

a. Subject to the authority of the General Council, in addition to administration of its business within the physical boundaries herein above described, this District Council shall have jurisdiction over individual persons, ministries and programs conducted by or within the membership of this District Council as same may extend beyond such physical boundaries, including supervision of doctrine and conduct as shall directly or indirectly affect or reflect upon this District Council, and to make inquiry into and impose discipline as necessary in these premises.

b. Subject to authority of the General Council, in addition to administration of the business assigned to this District Council, it shall have further jurisdiction to make inquiry and investigation into any and all persons and programs within its physical boundaries as may be controlled or conducted or sponsored by credentialed ministers or other programs of the Assemblies of God, and to make appropriate reports and recommendations to the General Council or other District Councils.

c. Subject to authority of the General Council, as a feature of jurisdiction of this District Council, through directive of the District Superintendent or mandate of the District Presbytery, this District Council may govern or restrict, or for good cause, may disallow or terminate ministry or programs conducted within its assigned physical boundaries as may be controlled or conducted or operated or sponsored by any credentialed minister or program of the Assemblies of God.

Section 4. Divisions and Subdivisions of the District

a. The geographical territory of this Southern Pacific District shall be divided into regions, and the Regions shall be assigned Ministerial Groups.

b. The Executive Presbytery is authorized to determine and from time to time, make variations in the alignment of boundaries of Regions within the territory of this District Council, and to establish an official map of the District, which shall be published or otherwise made available to all members of this District Council, upon request.

c. Regions in this District:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Section</u>
1 – Desert	Imperial Valley Palm Springs
2 – Inland	San Bernardino San Gabriel Hawaii Fellowship
3. Orange	North Orange South Orange

4 – North	East Los Angeles La Costa San Fernando
5 – Los Angeles	Central Los Angeles Long Beach
6 – English	North English South English East English
7 – San Diego	North San Diego South San Diego
8. - Las Vegas	Las Vegas

ARTICLE VI. TENETS OF FAITH

As Tenets of Faith, this District Council accepts the Holy Bible as the inspired and revealed Will of God, the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopts The General Council of the Assemblies of God Statement of Fundamental Truths, as the same is now, and as recited in the true copy thereof which follows as an addendum to this Constitution and Bylaws.

STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

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

1. The Scriptures Inspired

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

2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed himself as embodying

the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

THE ADORABLE GODHEAD

(a) Terms Defined

The terms trinity and persons, as related to the godhead, while not found in the scriptures, are words of harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from “gods many and lords many.” We therefore may speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is One Lord, as a Trinity or as one Being of three persons, and still be absolutely Scriptural (examples, Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16,17).

(b) Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

Christ taught a distinction of persons in the godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).

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

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

(d) Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are never **identical** as to **person**; nor **confused** as to **relation**; nor divided in respect to the godhead; nor **opposed** as to **cooperation**. The Son is **in** the Father and the Father is **in** the Son as to relationship. The Son is **with** the Father and the Father is **with** the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is **not** from the Son, but the Son is **from** the Father, as to authority. The Holy Spirit is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation and authority. Hence, no person in the godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17-30, 32, 37; 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 Spirit. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God (Romans 1:1-3, 7; 2 John 3).

(f) The Lord Jesus Christ, God With Us

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

(g) The Title, Son of God

Since the name Immanuel embraces both God and man, in the one person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that the title Son of God describes His proper deity, and the title Son of Man, His proper humanity. Therefore, the title Son of God belongs to the order of eternity, and the title Son of Man to the order of time (Matthew 1:21-23; 2 John 3; 1 John 3:8; Hebrews 1:1-13; 7:3).

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

(i) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

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

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

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

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

- a. His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35).
- b. His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).
- c. His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
- d. His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- e. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4).

- f. His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, 11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Heb 1:3).

4. The Fall of Man

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

5. The Salvation of Man

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

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

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

6. 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 10:47,48; Romans 6:4).

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

7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

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

8. The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:4-10,28), but different in purpose and use.

9. Sanctification

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

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

10. The Church and Its Mission

The Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her Great Commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22,23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

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

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

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

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

11. The Ministry

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

12. Divine Healing

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

13. The Blessed Hope

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

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

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

15. The Final Judgment

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

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

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

ARTICLE VII. THE STATUTORY BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS

Section 1. Number and Name

The Statutory Board of Directors of this corporation shall be known as the Executive Presbytery, and shall consist of not less than ten nor more than fifteen persons, with the exact number to be established from time to time by special resolution of the District Presbytery, including the District Council Executive Officers hereinafter mentioned, the General Presbyters

(Article 11) hereinafter mentioned, and the Non-Resident Executive Presbyter of the General Council from the Language Area Spanish Region when that person is a resident member of this District Council (Article 12).

Section 2. Responsibility

The activities and affairs of this District Council shall be conducted and all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under direction of the Executive Presbytery, being at all times under the authority of the District Presbytery, and it may delegate the management of the activities of the corporation to any person or persons, divisions, ministry or committee, within the provisions of this Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 3. Extensive Authority

It shall act as the District Credential Board in review of applicants for ministerial credentials, and act as a judicial forum for hearing charges and imposing discipline against credentialed ministers and members, and shall have such other and further powers as set forth in this Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII. DISTRICT PRESBYTERY

Section 1. Composition

a. There is hereby established the board of district presbyters of this district council, to be known as the District Presbytery, which shall in concert consist of the District Executive Officers, all Regional Executive Presbyters, all District Presbyters, the Presidents of LABI and LATS, the Honorary Presbyters, the Non-Resident Executive Presbyter of the General Council from the language area Spanish region when that person is a resident member of this District Council and persons serving ex officio as hereinafter set forth.

b. The Executive Presbytery of Southern Pacific District will elect one woman with ordained credentials and one pastor 40 years of age or less to be representatives in the Executive and District Presbytery for a term of two years. In the event that they were not elected previously; the Executive Presbytery would elect them.

Section 2. Extensive Authority

The District Presbytery is the official legislative and policy-making body of this District Council when the membership is not in session.

ARTICLE IX. CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Section 1. District Council Executive Officers - Office and Term

- a. The four Executive Officers of this District Council shall be:
 - 1) A President, with the title District Superintendent;
 - 2) A Vice-President, with the title Assistant District Superintendent;
 - 3) A Vice-President, with the title English Assistant District Superintendent;
 - 4) A Secretary-Treasurer, with the title District Secretary-Treasurer.
- b. These four designated District Council Executive Officers shall serve as the District Council Executive Committee, having those certain powers and authority set forth in the Bylaws following.
- c. Without exception, no one person may at any one-time hold more than one of such District Council Executive offices, and any full-time official may not have another job such as Pastor or secular job that prevents him from performing his duties effectively unless otherwise specified by special resolution of the Executive Presbytery, or as otherwise determined by the membership in session.
- d. Unless otherwise specified by special resolution of the Executive Presbytery, or as otherwise determined by the membership in session, the terms of office of District Council Executive Officers shall commence sixty days following their election, and shall continue for a period of four years or until their successors are elected and qualify, unless sooner terminated by death, resignation, removal, disqualification or other incapacity, or otherwise. The three Executive Officers terms shall be staggered in such a way that all four officers are not elected at one time.

Section 2. Executive Presbyters - Election and Term

- a. Persons serving as Executive Presbyters shall be elected by the membership one or each existing region within the territory served by this District Council, as more particularly set forth in the Bylaws following.
- b. Unless otherwise specified by special resolution of the Executive Presbytery or District Presbytery, or as otherwise set forth in this Constitution and Bylaws or determined by the membership in session, the terms of office of members of the Executive Presbytery of this District Council shall commence immediately after their election, and shall continue for a period of two years or until their successors are elected and qualify, unless sooner terminated by death, resignation, removal, disqualification or other incapacity, or otherwise.

Section 3. District Presbyters - Election and Term

- a. Those persons serving as District Presbyters will be elected by the ministry and delegates of the Region, two for each existing Region within the District Council, as more particularly set forth in the Bylaws following.
- b. Unless otherwise specified by special resolution of the Executive Presbytery or District Presbytery, or as otherwise determined by the membership in session, the terms of office of individual District Presbyters of this Council shall commence immediately upon their election.

Their term of office will continue for two years or until their successors are elected and qualify, unless sooner terminated by death, resignation, removal, disqualification or other incapacity, or otherwise.

Section 4. Electoral Prerogatives

The membership of this District Council reserves the exclusive right to select the permanent District Superintendent, and, by action of its membership, regions, Executive Presbytery or District Presbytery as hereinafter in the Bylaws provided, to nominate and elect the Assistant District Superintendent and District Secretary-Treasurer of this corporation, and all other members of the Executive Presbytery and District Presbytery, and other designated officers and representatives, as more fully set forth in the following Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE X. MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING CONSTITUENCY

Section 1. Classification of Membership

The membership in this District Council consists of ordained ministers, licensed ministers, certified ministers, and a delegate from every sovereign affiliated church as follows:

- a. *Ordained Ministers* in good standing holding current ministerial credentials registered with this District Council;
- b. *Licensed Ministers* in good standing holding current ministerial credentials registered with this District Council;
- c. *Certified Ministers* in good standing holding current ministerial credentials registered with this District Council;
- d. *Delegates from churches* within the geographical territory of this District Council that have been issued a letter of affiliation from The General Council of the Assemblies of God, having current status as a sovereign Assemblies of God church.
- e. *District Pastors* in good standing holding a current ministerial recognition registered with this District Council.

Section 2. Voting Constituency

Each Ordained, Licensed, Certified or District Pastor credentialed minister and each affiliated registered sovereign church shall be deemed a voting member for business sessions of the membership of this District Council. One designated lay delegate shall represent each sovereign affiliated church in such sessions. Each member shall have one vote in respective matters of election or legislation, and as hereinafter in the Bylaws provided.

Section 3. Meetings of Membership

There shall be a Business Meeting of the membership every two years of this District Council, identified as the District Council Convention, to be convened at a date fixed by the District Presbytery, at which time reports shall be given and the election of officers and presbyters shall take place, and other business entertained as in the Bylaws following.

Section 4. Special Business Meetings of Membership

There may be Special Business Meetings of the membership of this District Council, as provided for hereinafter and in the Bylaws. Special Business Meetings of the membership may be called only upon vote of two-thirds of the District Presbytery.

Section 5. Right of Initiative

a. The right of initiative in the calling of a Special Meeting of the membership of this District Council shall be afforded to any ordained minister in good standing whose ministerial credentials are registered with this District Council, and as hereinafter set forth.

b. Initiative in calling of a Special Meeting of the membership of this District Council shall be by petition, presented by any ordained minister in good standing whose ministerial credentials are registered with this District Council, which petition is endorsed by signatures of at least fifty ordained ministers in good standing whose ministerial credentials are registered with this District Council, in which petition it shall be particularly set forth the reason and justification for such call.

c. Petition for initiative requesting a Special Meeting of the membership of this District Council shall be formally filed with the District Secretary, who shall in turn place the matter on the agenda to be considered at the next regular meeting of the District Presbytery. Upon determination of the validity and propriety of such petition by two-thirds affirmative vote, the District Presbytery shall order the call.

d. Upon a proper setting of time and place for a Special Meeting of the membership of this District Council, by the District Presbytery, the District Secretary shall give proper notice of meeting, as provided in the Bylaws following.

Section 6. Quorum For Business Meetings

A quorum for conduct of business at any District Council Convention or Special Business Meeting of the membership of this District Council shall be established by the presence of the accredited members present and registered.

Section 7. Proxy Voting and Absentee Balloting

Except as specifically allowed by provisions of this Constitution and Bylaws, particularly as it shall relate to affiliated member church representation by delegate, proxy voting and absentee balloting shall not be allowed in conduct of business at any meeting of the membership, nor

any sort of representation of absentees for purpose of establishing a quorum. Delegates may only act personally at a meeting or by written ballot and not act by proxy.

ARTICLE XI. GENERAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

GENERAL PRESBYTERY

Section 1. Authorized by General Council Bylaws

According to provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council, there is created the General Presbytery, composed of representative men of mature experience and ability whose lives and ministry are above reproach, who represent the Assemblies of God Fellowship in all phases of its work and interest in their respective fields. Pursuant to provisions of the General Council Constitution and Bylaws, this District Council shall have privilege of representation on the General Presbytery by three members, identified as General Presbyters.

Section 2. Designation of General Presbyters

This District Council shall provide for General Presbytery representation as follows:

- a. The District Superintendent and District Secretary-Treasurer of this District Council shall by virtue of their office serve as representatives of this District Council in the General Presbytery.
- b. The District Council membership in session shall elect one additional representative of this District Council to serve in the General Presbytery, identified as General Presbyters, whom shall be Ordained ministers in good standing whose ministerial credentials are registered with this District Council, of which shall be a senior pastor of a General Council affiliated assembly in this District.
- c. Nomination and election of such elected individual, General Presbyters shall be by secret ballot, and in accordance with the Bylaws following.
- d. The terms of office of individual General Presbyters elected by this District Council shall commence immediately upon being elected, and shall continue for two years or until their successors are elected and qualify, unless sooner terminated by death, resignation, removal, disqualification or other incapacity, or otherwise. In event of such early termination of office, the District Presbytery shall have authority to designate and elect persons to serve in such office for the unexpired term.

Section 3. Ex-Officio Participation of General Presbyters

Persons so serving as General Presbyters, by virtue of their offices, shall be members of the District Presbytery, and shall be entitled to notice and right of attendance and full participation in all meetings of the District Presbytery.

ARTICLE XII. NON-RESIDENT EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS

Section 1. Authorized by the General Council Bylaws

a. According to provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council, they created a General Council Executive Presbytery, which serves as the Board of Directors of the General Council, consisting of six officers of the General Council as are directly elected by the General Council in session at its biennial convention who actually reside in the headquarters city and are identified as resident officers, and an additional eight persons, each representing one of eight geographical sections, who are elected by the General Council in session and are identified as Non-Resident Executive Presbyters, and an additional nonresident officer elected from among the Language Districts.

b. According to provisions of the General Council Constitution and Bylaws, this District Council at its biennial meeting sufficiently prior to the General Council session shall nominate two ministers from this District, one of whom is not an elected full-time District official, to be presented to the General Council in session as nominees from this area to be considered for election as Non-Resident Executive Presbyter as a Language District candidate.

Section 2. District Council Nominees

a. Pursuant to authority of the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council, this District Council in session, at its meeting sufficiently prior to the biennial General Council Convention, shall nominate two ordained ministers in good standing whose ministerial credentials are registered with this District, at least one of whom is not an elected full-time district official, to be presented to the General Council in session as nominees from this area to be considered for election to serve as Non Resident Executive Presbyter.

b. Nomination and election of persons to be designated as nominees in this regard shall be by secret ballot, and in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council and this District Council.

ARTICLE XIII. LOCAL CHURCHES

Section 1. Identity by Name

a. This District Council recommends that churches in our fellowship shall include words in their official or corporate name that identify with the Assemblies of God, and that such churches use the Assemblies of God emblem.

b. This District Council recommends that churches in our fellowship, whether sovereign General Council affiliated or District Council affiliated, should not represent themselves or any of their ministerial departments or programs as being independent or non-denominational.

Section 2. General Council Affiliation

a. This District Council accepts it as doctrinal that the local church is recognized as being ordained by God, under the headship of Jesus Christ. It is fundamental with our fellowship that groups of believers associating themselves in local bodies for maintenance of scriptural order, and having a standard of membership in keeping with the scriptural principles and established policies of the Assemblies of God, should be considered as eligible for affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, as a sovereign local Assemblies of God Church.

b. By entering into voluntary cooperative fellowship and affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, as a sovereign assembly, each local church in this District Council assumes the burdens of and is entitled to the benefits attendant upon such affiliation, by virtue of which each sovereign church unconditionally agrees to be bound by the superior authority of the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and likewise agrees to conform to the Constitution and Bylaws of this District Council, and to comply with and conform to the policies and standards established by this District Council.

c. The governance model adopted by the local assembly shall conform to the guidelines of the Constitution, Article XI, and Section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (4) of the General Council.

d. Adopt Articles of Incorporation, a constitution, or bylaws compatible with models recommended by the District Council, or district approved governance models that provide for adequate accountability, amenability, and safeguards so that a pastor and/or governing board cannot directly or indirectly exert dictatorial control over a church.

e. The fact that a local Assemblies of God church is affiliated with the General Council shall in nowise destroy its rights as stated or interfere with its sovereignty as set forth in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 3. District Council Churches

District sponsored local churches shall be recognized as District Council affiliated churches, under the direct supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the authority of the District Presbytery. District Council affiliated programs may include home missions projects, pioneer churches, established church organizations entering into our fellowship from other affiliation or independent status, former sovereign Assemblies of God church programs that have surrendered their sovereignty temporarily or otherwise that seek District Council protection, and otherwise, as approved by the District Presbytery via special resolution.

Section 4. Cooperating Assemblies

Provision may be made by the District Council and the General Council Executive Presbytery for the status of a cooperating assembly, which would allow churches that subscribe to Article V. Statement of Fundamental Truths, of the General Council Constitution to enter into a cooperative status with a district and the General Council on a temporary basis (4-year term, renewable by the request of the local church congregation at the discretion of the District

Council in cooperation with the General Council Executive Presbytery) before officially affiliating with the District Council and the General Council.

ARTICLE XIV. DEDICATION AND DISSOLUTION

The property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to religious purposes and no part of the net income or assets of this corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer or member thereof or to the benefit of any private person. Upon the dissolution or winding up of this corporation, after paying or otherwise adequately securing or providing for the debts and obligations of this corporation, the remaining assets shall be distributed to The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Missouri Non-profit Corporation, which organization is formed and operated exclusively for religious purposes, if it is then in existence and exempt under provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or if it is not then in existence and exempt, then to a non-profit fund, foundation or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes, in harmony with the purposes of this corporation, and which has established its tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States of America.

ARTICLE XV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Amendments to this Constitution may be made at regular or special meetings of the District Council membership, only by vote of the active and registered voting constituency, provided the full text of same shall have been submitted in advance of the meeting for review by the District Presbytery, in accordance with procedures set forth in the Bylaws following. Notice of proposed amendments shall be given by the District Secretary to the membership in advance of such meeting, by circular letter, a true copy of which shall be sent to each credentialed minister and the secretary of record of each affiliated church in the District, at least thirty days prior to the District Council membership meeting. Voting on such amendments shall be by secret ballot, with affirmative vote of two-thirds majority of those present and lawfully voting required for adoption.

BYLAWS

OF

THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC DISTRICT

OF THE

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

la puente, CALIFORNIA

REVISED AUGUST 2020

BYLAWS OF THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC DISTRICT OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

ARTICLE I. PARLIAMENTARY LAW

Section 1. Parliamentary Procedure

In order to expedite the work of this District Council and to avoid confusion in its deliberations, all meetings of the Executive Presbytery and District Presbytery, all District Council Conventions and Special Business Meetings of the membership, shall be conducted under and governed by parliamentary authority and provisions of the current version of ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER NEWLY REVISED, subject to the foregoing Constitution and in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Section 2. Parliamentary Committee

The District Superintendent in consultation with the District Presbytery shall appoint a special committee, which shall be known as the Parliamentary Committee, consisting of qualified persons capable to act as parliamentarians for District Council membership meeting sessions. Such appointees shall be notified of respective appointment not less than sixty days prior to the District Council Convention. All members of such Parliamentary Committee shall be expected to attend all business sessions of the District Council Convention.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 1. Voting Constituency

- a. The voting constituency for all meetings of the membership of this District Council in session shall consist of all accredited members present and registered, and participating in the business being conducted.
- b. The term accredited members shall include the following:
 1. Ordained Ministers in good standing holding current ministerial credentials registered with this District Council;
 2. Licensed Ministers in good standing holding current ministerial credentials registered with this District Council.
 3. Certified Ministers in good standing holding current ministerial credentials registered with this District Council;
 4. Delegates from Churches within the geographical territory of this District Council that have been issued a letter of affiliation from The General Council of the Assemblies of God

5. District Pastors in good standing holding current “ministerial recognition” registered with this District Council
- b. All persons comprising the voting constituency shall have the right to be recognized by the chair, to bring motions and offer resolutions, to engage in debate and discussion, and to vote on elections and legislation and all other matters properly before the body in all business sessions of the membership of this District Council.
- c. A sovereign church shall be represented in meetings of the membership of this District Council, and in regional meetings, by its properly designated delegate, and as follows:
 1. Delegates may only act personally at a meeting or by written ballot and shall not act by proxy, and the delegate may not assign or transfer the delegacy.
 2. A member church delegate should be chosen well in advance of the District Council meeting in a regular or special business session, directly by the membership of the church which they represent, or they may be appointed by the church board when authorized by the governing documents or vote of the membership of the particular local church.
 3. A written report certifying the selection of the delegate by a member church should be sent immediately to the District Secretary at the District Office, for the record, and well in advance of the meeting of the membership of District Council.
 4. A lay delegate of a member church shall be at least 21 years of age, and must have written documentation to establish the delegate status, confirmed over the signature of the pastor or corporate secretary of the local member church. Such documentation establishes the power of the delegate to participate in membership sessions. The written documentation certifying a delegate to represent the member church shall be on forms provided by the District Council and shall not contain conditions or restrictions upon the delegate’s authority or right of participation in meetings of membership of this District Council.
 5. A delegate certified by a member church shall have no proprietary right or economic interest in the certification or status, and suffers no loss or injury of any kind upon termination or decertification. A delegate or proposed delegate accepts the appointment subject to these conditions.
 6. Accredited and registered members may only participate in business of the District Council membership in session as takes place subsequent to their being properly registered.

ARTICLE III. DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICERS

Section 1. Qualifications

- a. The District Executive officers and General Presbyters shall be Ordained ministers who have ample experience, sound judgment, recognized ability, read and speak both English and Spanish fluently, and Christian character according to 1 Timothy 3 and

Titus 1 They shall have been members of the Southern Pacific District for at least two full years.

- b. The Executive Presbyters shall be ordained ministers who have ample experience, sound judgment, recognized ability, and Christian character according to 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. They shall have been members of the Southern Pacific District and be of the region they represent for at least two full years.
- c. The District Presbytery shall be ordained ministers with mature experience, recognized ability, and Christian character according to 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. They shall have been members of the Southern Pacific District for at least one full year.

Section 2. Elections

- a. The District Superintendent, Assistant District Superintendent, Assistant English District Superintendent, Secretary- Treasurer, General, Executive and District Presbyters shall be nominated and elected by secret ballot.
 - 1. The District Superintendent, Assistant District Superintendent, Assistant English District Superintendent, District Secretary- Treasurer and General Presbyters shall be nominated and elected in the District Council by the ministers and delegates.
 - 2. The Regional Executive Presbyters of the District shall be nominated and elected by the credentialed ministers and delegates present in the region they represent one month after the District Council closing session.
 - 3. One District Presbyters shall be nominated and elected by the credentialed ministers and delegates present in the region they represent one month after the District Council closing session.
 - 4. The District Superintendent, Assistant District Superintendent, English Assistant District Superintendent, District Secretary-Treasurer or any other elected officer may serve other than time at the discretion of the District Council.
- b. A two-thirds vote shall be necessary to constitute an election. If no election has been declared after three electoral ballots, the two candidates having the majority of the votes in the last ballot cast shall continue on the ballot until one is elected.
- c. The District Council shall be represented in the General Presbytery, the official policy-making body of the General Council when it is not in session, by three members, persons of mature experience, and ability whose lives are above reproach. They shall represent the fellowship in all phases of its work and interest in their respective field. The District Superintendent, District Secretary-Treasurer and one minister, shall serve as General Presbyters. They shall commence immediately after their election at the District Council.

Section 3. Vacancies

- a. In the event there is a vacancy in the office of District Superintendent, the Assistant District Superintendent with most seniority shall immediately assume the authority, duties and responsibilities of the office in addition to the normal duties of the Assistant District Superintendent of the District and in the event of both the office of the District

Superintendent and Assistant District Superintendent are left vacant at the same time, the remaining District Assistant Superintendent shall assume immediately the authority, duties and responsibilities of the District Superintendent in addition to the normal duties of the District Assistant Superintendent, and in the event of all three, District Superintendent and both Assistant Superintendents are left vacant at the same time, the District Secretary-Treasurer shall assume immediately the authority duties and responsibilities of the District Superintendent in addition to the normal duties of District Secretary Treasurer until the next convening of the District Council where the membership shall elect a successor for the rest of the term of District Superintendent.

- b. In the event a vacancy occurs of an Executive Presbyter through resignation, removal from the District, transfer, disqualification or death, the office shall be filled by an election by secret ballot with a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Executive Presbytery to complete the rest of the term or they can determine if a special called meeting of the region shall be necessary.
- c. In the event a vacancy occurs of a General Presbyter through resignation, removal from the District, transfer, disqualification or death, the office shall be filled by an election by secret ballot with a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Executive Presbytery to complete the rest of the term or they can determine if a special called meeting of the District Council shall be necessary.
- d. In the event a vacancy occurs of a District Presbyter through resignation, removal from the district, transfer, disqualification or death, the office shall be filled by an election by secret ballot with two-thirds affirmative vote of the Executive Presbytery to complete the rest of the term.

Section 4. Term of Office

- a. The District Superintendent shall be elected to a four-year term.
- b. The Assistant District Superintendent, the English Assistant Superintendent and District Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected at the same time to a four-year term and alternate to the District Superintendent.
- c. The General and Executive Presbyters of the District shall be elected to a two-year term.
- d. The General Presbyters shall take office immediately upon the closing session of the District Council.
- e. The newly elected District Superintendent, Assistant District Superintendent, English Assistant Superintendent and District Secretary-Treasurer shall assume their position sixty days after the closing session of the District Council.
- f. The Executive Presbyters shall take office upon the closing session of the regional meeting where they were elected for a two-year term.
- g. The District Presbyters shall take office upon the closing session of the regional meeting where they were elected for a two-year term.
- h. The Mentors shall assume their position at the end of the regional meeting where they were elected for a two-year term.

Section 5. Honorary Officers

- a. There is hereby established the Roster of Honorary Officers. Recognition shall be given to persons who have served the District Council with distinction as an Executive Officer, or as a member of the District Presbytery or as Pastor or Mentor.
- b. To be eligible for enrollment on the Roster of Honorary Officers, a person shall have served an aggregate of at least ten years in respective position or shall have rendered comparable leadership or outstanding service to the District Council.
- c. Persons elected to and enrolled upon the Roster of Honorary Officers shall have the title of "Emeritus", which title shall be preceded by words designating and describing the highest position in which the person had served. For instance, the title "District Superintendent Emeritus", "District Presbyter Emeritus", and other such titles.
- d. Nomination for election to and enrollment on the Roster of Honorary Officers shall be by the Executive Presbytery and election by the membership of the District Council in session and shall be recognized.
- e. Election to and enrollment on the Roster of Honorary Officers of this District Council is strictly honorary and does not designate membership on any board or committee, nor shall it confer any authority or privilege within this District Council unless so authorized by the Executive Presbytery.
- f. The Official Honoraria shall be members of the District Presbytery.

ARTICLE IV. DUTIES OF OFFICERS-BOARDS AND COMMITTEE

DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Section 1. Duties of the District Superintendent

The duties of the District Superintendent shall include the following:

- a. Act as president of this District Council. Act as Chief Executive Officer and supervisor of all day-to-day business of this corporation, empowered to sign legal documents and official certificates on behalf of the corporation, and as required to certify the validity of same. Perform any functions customary for a corporation presiding officer and such as may be directed by the membership or the Executive Presbytery or District Presbytery.
- b. Be an ex officio member of all boards and committees established within this District Council.
- c. Supervise all the work of the District Council, its ministries and programs. All ministerial officers and directors within this District Council are under the District Superintendent's supervision.
- d. Supervise of all activities and business at the District Council office.
- e. Administer discipline among the membership of this District Council, and is empowered to impose restrictions on any minister whose ministerial credentials are registered with

this District Council when such person is under serious allegations or charges, pending determination of the District Executive Presbytery or eventual disposition by the General Council Credentials Committee or the General Presbytery.

- f. Preside as chair of all biannual District Council Conventions and Special Business Meetings of the membership.
- g. Preside as chair of meetings of the Executive Presbytery and District Presbytery of this District Council.
- h. Preside as chair of meetings of the Executive Committee of this District Council.
- i. The District Superintendent or the District Superintendent's designee shall be responsible for proper liaison between this District Council and its recognized domestic and military chaplains.
- j. Serve by virtue of his office as a General Presbyter to the General Council.

Section 2. Duties of the Assistant District Superintendent

The duties of the Assistant District Superintendent and English Assistant Superintendent shall include the following:

- a. Serve as vice-president of this District Council. Shall do and perform the functions customary for a corporation vice-president and such as may be directed by the District Presbytery or Executive Presbytery, and is amenable to the District Superintendent in all matters of work and policy.
- b. Be an ex officio member of all boards and committees established within this District Council.
- c. Preside as chair at all District Council Conventions and Special Business Meetings of the membership, meetings of the District Presbytery, meetings of the Executive Presbytery, and meetings of the District Executive Committee, in the absence of the District Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent with seniority in the position shall assume the duties of chair.
- d. Sign legal documents and as required certify to their validity when either the District Superintendent or District Secretary is absent, when a written request has been received from the absent executive to so do; or, when there is a vacancy or other incapacity in the office of either the District Superintendent or District Secretary such may be authorized by the Executive Presbytery, in order to provide for the necessary continuity in the work of this District Council.
- e. Assist in the operations of the District Council Office, and in supervision of the work on the field within the area served by this District Council, in cooperation with the District Superintendent.

Section 3. Duties of the District Secretary-Treasurer

The duties of the District Secretary shall include the following:

- a. Perform such functions as are customary to the office of a corporate secretary and as may be directed by the membership of the District Council or the District Presbytery or the Executive Presbytery, and is amenable to the District Superintendent in all matters of work and policy.
- b. Be the corporate secretary of the District Council corporation, and as such shall be the custodian of the corporate seal; and, shall sign, seal and deliver all legal documents as necessary, and when required shall certify the validity of same.
- c. Make and keep true record of proceedings of the District Council and publish same as required by this Constitution and Bylaws and as approved and directed by the membership of the District Council, District Presbytery or Executive Presbytery.
- d. Act as secretary of meetings of the Executive Presbytery, the District Presbytery, the Ministerial Relations Committee, and the Executive Committee, and shall make and keep records of the deliberations of such bodies.
- e. Be an ex officio member of all boards and committees within this District Council.
- f. Serve by virtue of his office as a General Presbyter to the General Council.
- g. Endorse and certify all applications for ministerial credentials approved by the District Credentials Board as authorized by the General Council Credentials Committee. Keep a record of the assemblies within this District Council, and shall maintain a continuing record of reception, transfer, discipline, dismissal or withdrawal, and demise, of all ministers whose ministerial credentials are or have been or shall in the future be registered with this District Council.
- h. Keep all essential records of membership within this District Council, and transactions between the District Council and local churches.
- i. Preside as chair at meetings of the membership and boards and committees in which such absent officers would otherwise preside, in the absence of both the District Superintendent and Assistant District Superintendent.

The duties of the District Treasurer shall include the following:

- a. Perform such functions as are customary to the office of a corporate chief financial officer and as may be directed by the membership of the District Council or the District Presbytery or the Executive Presbytery, and is amenable to the District Superintendent in all matters of work and policy.
- b. Be the custodian of all funds of this corporation and shall initially deposit such funds in the corporate name of the District Council in federally insured financial institutions designated by the Executive Presbytery.
- c. Keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements of funds of this District Council and administer the work of the office according to acceptable methods of business procedure.
- d. Be bonded by a good and sufficient employee's fidelity bond in the minimum amount of \$100,000.00, the cost of the bond to be paid from the general funds of this District Council.
- e. Make monthly reports of the business activity of this District Council to the District Superintendent and to the Executive Presbytery and quarterly reports to the District

Presbytery and make a biennial financial report to the membership at the District Council Convention which shall include a confirming report of a Certified Public Accountant, a copy of which shall be made available to each member and delegate then present.

- f. Act as chair in the meetings of the District Finance Board.
- g. Act as chair and be a member of the Insurance Board of this District Council and be responsible for development of comprehensive insurance programs for churches, ministers, affiliated organizations, and employees of this District Council.

Section 4. Composition and Duties of the District Executive Committee

The District Executive Committee shall be composed of the following and shall perform the following duties:

- a. Shall consist of four persons, which shall be duly elected and serving as District Superintendent, Assistant District Superintendent, English Assistant District Superintendent, and District Secretary-Treasurer of this District Council.
- b. Serve as and constitute the Board of Administration of this District Council, to manage the ongoing business of the District Council on a daily basis.
- c. Meet at least once a week, at a time and place mutually convenient for the conduct of its business.
- d. The District Secretary shall serve as secretary at such Board of Directors meetings, and shall prepare minutes and record of such meetings, which shall be made available for review at each meeting of the Executive Presbytery.
- e. Is authorized to approve expenditures on a day-to-day basis.

Section 5. Composition and Duties of the District Executive Presbytery

The District Executive Presbytery shall be composed of the following and perform the following duties:

- a. The Statutory Board of Directors of this corporation shall be known as the Executive Presbytery, and shall consist of not less than ten nor more than fifteen natural persons, with the exact number to be established from time to time by special resolution of the Executive Presbytery, including the District Council Executive Officers hereinafter mentioned, the General Presbyters hereinafter mentioned, and the Non-Resident Executive Presbyter of the General Council from the Hispanic Districts when that person is a resident member of this District Council, as such are nominated and elected to and serving for the terms and having powers and authority as herein set forth.
- b. Be responsible for the conduct of the business and affairs of this District Council and all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under direction of that board, and it may delegate the management of the activities of the corporation to any person or persons, divisions, ministry or committee, provided that the activities and affairs of the

corporation shall be managed and all corporate powers shall be exercised under the responsibility and authority of the Executive Presbytery.

- c. Execute policy established by the membership of this District Council as interpreted by the District Presbytery. It shall be empowered to make decisions on matters of business between meetings of the District Presbytery in accordance with the District Constitution and Bylaws; and, accordingly is authorized to edit and approve the minutes of the meetings of the membership of the District Council for publication.
- d. Is empowered to grant provisional Certified Minister certificates on behalf of the Executive Presbytery upon the recommendation of the District Credentials Committees.
- e. Function as the Ministerial Relations Committee of this District Council, shall investigate and report and make such recommendations as are deemed necessary to the District Presbytery.
- f. By virtue of their respective offices, they shall be members of the District Presbytery and some of them of the Finance Board of this District Council.
- g. Shall meet at least four times each year. Such meetings may take place at any location within or without the boundaries of this District Council, at the discretion of the Board.
- h. Act as a Mediation Board for the purpose of hearing disputes that might arise within the fellowship or it may delegate such responsibility to its members to act in such capacity.
- i. Act as the District Credentials Board for the purpose of examining applicants for the recommendation of ministerial credentials.

Section 6. Duties of the District Presbytery

The duties of the District Presbytery shall include the following:

- a. Serve as the official legislative and policy-making body of this District Council when the membership is not in session. In these premises, the District Presbytery is empowered to adopt and establish rules and regulations for conduct of all business of this District Council, particularly to establish fiscal policies for the corporation. Accordingly, the District Presbytery is empowered to interpret policy and mandates adopted by the membership of the District Council in session, and its decisions in this regard shall be final unless reversed or modified by the membership of the District Council in session. The District Presbytery is amenable to the membership in this regard, and shall make reports to the membership upon its request.
- b. Meet at regular intervals, at least once each year. Such meetings may take place at any location within or outside the boundaries of this District Council, at the discretion of the District Administrative Board, except that one meeting or special meeting be held to coincide with the District Council Convention.
- c. Special meetings may be held at the discretion and call of the District Administrative Board, or upon special resolution of the Executive Presbytery. When called by such special resolution, the District Superintendent shall determine a convenient time and place of meeting, and the District Secretary shall give notice of the meeting.
- d. All elected and ex officio members of shall be entitled to notice and right of attendance and full participation in all regular and special meetings of the District Presbytery.

- e. The District Superintendent or three Executive Presbyters shall determine the circumstances that constitute an emergency, the District Presbytery shall be authorized to conduct conference telephone meetings or telephone polling conducted by or under supervision of the District Superintendent or assigned District Executive Officer, and action taken shall be documented in written form, by written ballot or other confirmation over the signature of each respective participant. Under these action-by-mail votes, which may include electronic transmission, it shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of the entire membership of the District Presbytery to confirm. Such action and all related documentation shall be reviewed by the District Presbytery at its next regular or special meeting, and be entered into the minutes of that meeting.
- f. May preside at business meetings in a local church in their respective sections as assigned by the Executive Presbytery of this District Council, following the steps of procedures for District Intervention in Article 16, **Section 2. B.2.**

Section 7. Composition of Presbytery

- a. The Presbyters shall be a group that will meet with the Executive Officials on a regular basis.
- b. The guidelines will be in an Executive Presbyter manual.
- c. The group shall include the Presidents of LABI and LATs and the Honorary Presbyters.

Section 8. Duties Involving Oversight of Properties

- a. All real property belonging to this District Council or held by it in trust, or otherwise, shall be deeded to the District Council in its official corporate name.
- b. The Executive Presbytery shall have oversight and management control of all property belonging to or held in trust by this District Council, particularly to safely keep same, acquiring appropriate and adequate insurance against loss, with sufficient coverage to take care of replacement value, or in appropriate situations to cover at least the extent of this District Council's financial interest in the property.

Section 9. Duties In Acquiring or Conveyance of Property

- a. No real property of this District Council shall be purchased, taken by gift or trade, or otherwise acquired, sold, transferred, mortgaged, leased, assigned, conveyed or otherwise alienated, without the same shall have been first authorized by a two-thirds vote of the bodies authorized to conclude the transaction at a regular or special meeting called for that purpose as follows:
 - 1. Real property purchase or sale transactions by this District Council or any of its subordinate ministries or programs involving sums in excess of one million dollars shall require authorization of the membership of District Council at a regular meeting or special meeting duly called and noticed for that purpose

2. Real property purchase or sale transactions by this District Council or any of its subordinate ministries or programs involving sums of one million dollars or less may be negotiated and concluded by the District Presbytery.
 3. Real property purchase or sale transactions by this District Council or any of its subordinate ministries or programs involving sums of five hundred thousand dollars or less may be negotiated by the Executive Presbytery and concluded by the District Presbytery
- b. Conditional gifts or transactions to this District Council of personal property or real property valued in excess of one hundred thousand dollars by will or trust, by unitrust or other means, may be negotiated by the District Executive Committee, but such gift transactions shall not be concluded except by an authorizing special resolution of the District Presbytery. If it is the intent of the donor that such real or personal property so gifted is to be sold, or otherwise disposed of at option of District Council and to apply the proceeds to benefit ministries or programs of this District Council, and such intention or option is evidenced in writing signed by the donor, same may be subsequently sold or otherwise disposed of by the District Presbytery under such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate for any amount, without consent of the membership.
 - c. Conditional gifts or transactions to this District Council of personal property or real property valued at less than one hundred thousand dollars, by will or trust, by unitrust or other means, may be negotiated and concluded by acceptance of the District Executive Committee, but the gift or its proceeds may not be disposed of except through action of the District Presbytery. However, if it is the intent of the donor that such real or personal property so gifted is to be sold or otherwise disposed of at option of the District Council, and to apply the proceeds to benefit particular ministries or programs of this District Council, and such intention or option is evidenced in writing signed by the donor, same may be subsequently sold or otherwise disposed of by the District Executive Committee under such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate for any amount, without consent of the membership or the District Presbytery.
 - d. Transactions involving unconditional gifts to this District Council of personal property or real property, by will or trust, by unitrust or other means, for less than one hundred thousand dollars may be negotiated and concluded by acceptance of the District Executive Committee, with gifts of substantial amounts reported at intervals by the District Secretary to the District Presbytery. If such gift is a wasting or deteriorable item, and if it is the intent of the donor that such real or personal property so gifted is to be sold or otherwise disposed of at option of the District Council and to apply the proceeds to benefit ministries or programs of this District Council, and such intention or option is evidenced in writing signed by the donor, same may be subsequently sold or otherwise disposed of by the District Executive Committee under such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate, without consent of the membership or District Presbytery.
 - e. Unconditional donations of money to this District Council of any amount shall not require particular acceptance or concluding approval of any Board or Officer, and it shall be receipted accordingly and the funds placed in the general funds of the District Council.

- f. Gifts to this District Council of personal property of value less than fifty thousand dollars may be negotiated and concluded by acceptance of the members of the District Executive Committee under terms and conditions they find acceptable, and such property may be then sold or otherwise disposed of by that committee for consideration or terms it deems acceptable, and any funds thereby recovered shall be applied as designated by the donor under original terms of the gift, or if there be no such terms or conditions apparent the proceeds shall be deposited to the general funds of this District Council.
- g. Certification on Real Property Conveyance: The District Superintendent and the District Secretary shall certify in all conveyances, leases, mortgages, or other document affecting the real property of this District Council that such action has been authorized by proper vote of the authorizing Committee or Board, and such certificates shall be conclusive evidence thereof.

Section 10. Meetings

- a. Executive Officers, members of the Executive Presbytery and, in the event of an emergency or other sufficient cause, members of the District Presbytery and District Council, may participate and act at any meeting through the use of communications device or technology by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can communicate simultaneously with each other, upon such terms and in such manner as the Executive Presbytery shall determine. Participation in such meeting shall constitute attendance and presence in person at the meeting of the member or members so participating.

ARTICLE V. SECTIONS

- a. There will be two or more Sections within the Region whenever necessary.
- b. The District Presbyter will be in charge of supervising all events and activities of the Section.
- c. The Ministerial Groups will be directed by a Mentor as described in the SPD Bylaws, Article VI, Section 6.

ARTICLE VI. BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1. Establishment of Boards and Ordinary Committees

There shall be boards and ordinary committees established to function within this District Council by action of the membership or special resolution of the Executive Presbytery or District Presbytery, or by appointment of the District Superintendent with the approval of the District Presbytery, and as hereinafter set forth, having such duration, composition, authority and function, as is provided in the legislation, resolution or appointment by which they are created, or as follows, and further regulated by directive of the District Presbytery; and, the legislation,

resolution or appointment shall indicate the chair ship of such board or committee, and the chair shall be empowered to set the time and place of meetings of said board or committee and the agenda for business to be there considered; and, as follows:

Section 2. Qualifications for Boards and Ordinary Committees

- a. In order for a minister to be considered for election or appointment to serve or to continue in service on any board or ordinary committee of this District Council at District or General Council level, it is required that such minister be in good standing and have ministerial credentials registered with this District Council, and have manifested a genuine interest in District activities, and be current in financial responsibilities to both this District Council and the General Council.
- b. In order for a layperson to be considered for election or appointment to serve or to continue in service on any board or ordinary committee of this District Council, it is required that such layperson be in good standing with the local Assemblies of God church.

Section 3. Ex-Officio Board Members and Committee Members

- a. All ex officio members of boards and ordinary committees of this District Council shall serve in addition to the numerical complement comprising the board or committee.
- b. All ex officio members of boards and ordinary committees of this District Council shall have all the rights, and may be assigned responsibilities and duties, as any other member.

Section 4. District Council Boards

- a. Except as specifically provided herein, the Board of Directors with approval of the District Presbytery shall appoint members of the various boards within this District Council.
- b. Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, the terms for each member of the various boards within this District Council shall be two years. As possible and convenient, in order to provide continuity, the terms of board members shall be staggered in such a way that one-half of the complement of respective board shall be appointed each year.
- c. The scope of authority of each board within this District Council shall be in keeping with its particular mission and powers as delegated to that board pursuant to the legislation or special resolution by which it is created.
- d. There shall be an advisory board for each ministry of this District Council, as hereinafter provided.
- e. All members of boards, whether elected, appointed, or serving ex officio, are entitled to notice of meetings and right of participation in all respective sessions.
- f. Quorum for the conduct of business by a board shall consist of a simple numerical majority of the current full complement of the board.

Section 5. Establishment of Boards

a. District Credentials Board

1. The Executive Presbytery of this District Council shall constitute the District Credentials Board, each member serving for the duration of his term on the Executive Presbytery.
2. The Executive Presbytery shall be responsible for examination of all applicants
 - i. for ministerial credentials to be issued through this District Council, and shall act as a judicial forum in matters of charges and discipline against credentialed ministers and members of this District Council, in accordance with criteria and policy adopted by this District Council and in keeping with standards and provisions of the General Council Bylaws.
3. All applications for ministerial credentials or certifications to be issued through
 - i. this District Council shall be filed with the Executive Presbytery through the office of the District Secretary, on forms approved by the Executive Presbytery. Procedure for processing such applications for ministerial credentials or certifications, interviewing applicants, and arranging interviewing committees, shall be as elsewhere provided in these Bylaws under caption of Ministry.
4. The Executive Presbytery shall ascertain that each candidate for ministerial credentials or certificate is adequately prepared for ministry.
 - i. The General Council Credentials Committee is authorized to issue Ordination Certificates, Licenses to Preach, and Certified Ministers Certificates, together with the accompanying annual fellowship card to all properly qualified candidates that have been approved by the District Executive Presbytery.
5. The Executive Presbytery shall have the prerogative to establish and implement procedural policies, in order to maintain a consistent high level of ministerial quality. These procedural policies may be amended from time to time by action of the Executive Presbytery.

b. District Church Affiliation Board

1. The Executive Presbytery is empowered to approve or disapprove all applications for recognition as District Council affiliated churches and ministries, and is empowered to disapprove and terminate the affiliation of any District affiliated church or ministry which ceases to qualify for such recognition and remove such disapproved churches from the roster of District Council affiliation.
2. The Executive Presbytery is empowered to endorse or withhold endorsement from local churches seeking General Council affiliation, and is empowered to request that sovereign churches that are disapproved be removed from the roster of General Council churches.

c. District Finance Board

1. There is hereby established the District Finance Board of this District Council, including members of the District Executive Presbytery and other persons selected and appointed by the Board of Directors, and approved by the Executive Presbytery.
 2. The District Treasurer shall chair the District Finance Board.
 3. The District Finance Board shall be responsible to assist the District Treasurer in his duties as chief financial officer of the corporation, aiding in coordination of financial programs of all ministries of this District Council and in preparation of a unified operational budget, including implementation of a program for fulfillment of the budget.
 4. The District Finance Board shall provide preliminary survey and advice on major projects undertaken by this District Council at district or ministerial level involving expenditure of funds
 5. All proposals for expenditure of funds of this District Council or any of its ministries shall be first presented to the District Finance Board for review and recommendation.
- d. District Fire, Liability and Property Damage Insurance Board.**
1. The District shall be authorized to enroll with an insurance provider for fire, liability and property damage insurance that will benefit the District.
- e. The Board of Administration.**
1. The District Executive Committee shall serve as and constitute the Board of Administration of this District Council, to manage the ongoing business of the District Council on a daily basis.
- f. Mediation Board.**
1. The Executive Presbytery may serve as Mediation Board to help in resolution of disputes between individuals, churches, or factions within the fellowship. In the event of failure of mediation then the Mediation Board may act as arbitrators to make finding and binding determination in such matters.

Section 6. Establishment of Ordinary Committees

Ordinary Committees shall be established within this District Council by appointment for purposes within which the appointing authority has power to act or explore. Committees are responsible to inquire, examine, explore, evaluate and report findings and recommendations to the appointing power that creates it. Ordinary Committees shall be standing committees or special committees, and as follows:

a. Standing Committees - Composition, Appointment and Term

- 1) Standing committees established within this District Council should have a continuing existence. The duration of term of persons to serve on Standing Committees shall be two years or until appointment of their successors.

- 2) As possible and convenient and in order to provide continuity, the terms of committee members shall be staggered in such a way that one-half of the complement of respective committee shall be appointed each year.
- 3) The membership of the committee and the chair of such shall be appointed biennial at the conclusion of the District Council Convention by the District Superintendent with approval of the District Presbytery, and such committees Are hereby established as follows:

b. Resolutions and Revision Committee. There shall be established a Resolutions and Revisions Committee, consisting of seven or more members, meeting at least once a year, having responsibility as follows:

- 1) Reviewing all proposed resolutions to be considered by the voting constituency at the District Council Convention.
- 2) Responsibility in determining the propriety in content and form of proposed resolutions to be submitted to the membership of the District Council in session at any District Council Convention or special meeting of the membership.
- 3) Determining whether a proposed resolution is or otherwise unacceptable, it shall be in writing inform the author of the details of impropriety or other reason explaining why the proposal is not acceptable to the committee, and in such writing, inform the author of the right to present the proposal to the voting constituency for determination of propriety, with copies of such writing provided for the District Secretary.
- 4) Shall be responsible for putting acceptable proposed resolutions into a proper order and logical sequence, and in proposals affecting this Constitution and Bylaws, shall provide indication of which parts of the code are so affected.
- 5) Resolutions and revisions should be in conformity with the regulations set forth hereinafter at Article XIV. Resolutions and Article XVII. Amendments.
- 6) Shall review and edit the Constitution and Bylaws of this District Council, for clarity, simplicity and continuity.
- 7) Has authority to edit and align the entire text for grammatical constructions and consistency on all revisions adopted by the membership in session.
- 8) Shall assist the District Secretary in preparation and publication of the biennial yearbook of this District Council.

c. Follow-up Committee

- 1) The Follow-up Committee shall have a quarterly revision and evaluation of the financial cooperation to the District of every minister and church.
- 2) The Follow-up Committee shall give recognition of the financial cooperation of ministers and churches.
- 3) The Follow-up Committee shall take into consideration every case when applying the agreements established.

d. Ministerial Relations Committee. There shall be established a Ministerial Relations Committee within this District Council consisting of the members of the Executive

Presbytery. The membership of the committee may from time to time be augmented by the addition of the Pastor/Mentor of the affected section. The committee shall investigate all charges brought against any minister of this District Council and shall receive the reports from other duly appointed committees or officers authorized to investigate allegations and complaints against such minister. The Ministerial Relations Committee shall present a report of its findings and recommendations to the Executive Presbytery for any disciplinary action deemed necessary. The District Superintendent is authorized to appoint special committees from the members of the Executive Presbytery and District Presbytery to assist with an investigation when appropriate.

e. Benevolence Committee. There shall be established a Benevolence Committee within this District Council consisting of at least five persons, whose responsibility shall be to investigate applications for financial assistance for minister members of this District Council, and may administer funds made available by the District Presbytery for such assistance. This committee is empowered, as funds and facilities are available, to arrange for financial and material aid to affiliated Assemblies of God churches in event of disaster. This committee shall act as liaison in this District Council for the General Council Benevolence Department and administer that part of its activities as directed by the General Council. The District Presbytery will set all policies of this committee.

f. Special Committees. Special Committees and the respective chair may be appointed by the District Presbytery or District Superintendent with approval of the District Presbytery between sessions of the District Council Convention as occasion may require, and including the following:

- 1. The Parliamentary Committee** shall consist of qualified persons capable to act as parliamentarians for District Council membership meeting sessions. Such appointees shall be notified of respective appointment not less than sixty days prior to the District Council Convention. All members of such Parliamentary Committee shall be expected to attend all business sessions of the District Council Convention.
- 2. The Convention Roster Committee** shall consist of at least three capable and mature ordained ministers designated to act as a committee for review of the credentials or certification of members and delegates seeking registration or continuing their respective registration at a District Council Convention or other meeting of the membership of this District Council, to report same to the chair of such meeting, to be made a part of the permanent record of the meeting. Such committee members shall be expected to be a part of all of the meetings of the membership.
- 3. District Council Convention Committees** may be appointed in anticipation of events of the biennial District Council Convention, to aid in the smoother flow of business conducted in each session, and special committees may be so appointed under this designation as need shall arise, including Program Committee, Tellers Committee, etc.

4. Augmenting and Miscellaneous Committees.

- a. As need arises, there may be additions to standing and independent committees for special purposes and limited duration, and when its purpose is fulfilled, the committee ceases to exist.
- b. All members of committees, including ex officio members, are entitled to be given notice of meetings and right of participation in all respective sessions of the committees.
- c. A quorum for the conduct of business by a committee shall consist of a simple numerical majority of the current full complement of the committee.

ARTICLE VII. MINISTERS AND MINISTRY

Section 1. Ministry Described

Christ's gifts to the Church include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (Ephesians 4:11), exhorters, administrators, leaders, and helpers (Romans 12:7, 8). We understand God's call to these ministry gifts is totally within His sovereign discretion without regard to gender, race, disability, or national origin.

All Ordained, Licensed, and Certified ministers holding current ministerial credentials are authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church, and those holding a local church credential or a ministerial recognition of the District as provided below.

Three classifications of ministry are recognized and transferable among all Assemblies of God Districts and a two more classification of a local church credential and a ministerial recognition as follows:

a. Certified Ministers. Those persons who show promise of usefulness in Christian service, who measure up to scriptural standards, and who have met the necessary requirements and have received divine confirmation of their call to actual service.

b. Licensed Ministers. *License to Preach.* Those persons who have a divine call and have had some experience in the work of the Lord and purpose to give themselves wholly to the ministry. They shall prove this purpose by making such preparation as may be required by the Executive Presbytery and be actively engaged in some recognized aspect of full time ministry.

c. Ordained Ministers. Ordained ministers are those persons 23 years of age or older who have met the necessary requirements, have been actively engaged as a Licensed Minister in some recognized aspect of full time ministry for at least two full consecutive years just prior to ordination, and who have appeared and proven themselves before the Executive Presbytery.

d. Local church minister. A local church credential may be provided by a local General Council affiliated and incorporated church under basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines adopted by this District. The local church credential shall be non-transferable (limited to the issuing local church) and shall be limited to two years (renewable by the local church for an additional two-year-term). A person holding a local church credential may perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church if authorized in writing by the senior pastor of the local church issuing the credential.

e. District Pastors. Are those persons who have a divine call and have had some experience in the work of the Lord and purpose to give themselves wholly to the ministry, being lead Pastors of a District Council church and being actively committed to the work of the Lord.

Section 2. Basic Qualifications

The following qualifications pertaining to all applicants for ministerial recognition:

- a. Salvation.** Testimony to having experienced the new birth (John 3:5).
- b. Baptism in the Holy Spirit.** Testimony to having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues according to Acts 2:4. The Spirit-filled life will enable a minister to fulfill the threefold mission the church.
- c. Evidence of Call.** Clear evidence of a divine call to the ministry, evidenced by a personal conviction, confirmed by the work of the Spirit and the testimony of fellow ministers.
- d. Christian Character.** A blameless Christian life and a good report of those who are with outsiders (Titus 1:4; 1 Timothy 3:7).
- e. Doctrinal Position.** A thorough understanding of an agreement with our doctrinal position as contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.
- f. Assemblies of God Polity.** A satisfactory working knowledge of the principles, practices, and purposes of the Fellowship through a study of the General Council and District Council Constitution and Bylaws.
- g. Commitment to the Fellowship.** An active loyalty to our constitutional agreements, a cooperative spirit, and a readiness to seek and receive the counsel of an older mature Christian and those in position of authority.
- h.** Other qualifications as prescribed in the General Council Bylaws.

Section 3. Specific Qualifications

a. Authority. The Southern Pacific District is amenable to the General Council of the Assemblies of God, the credentialing authority, and qualifications and procedures detailed in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws.

b. Certified Minister Applications

1. Shall be secured from the District Secretary and when properly filled out shall be returned together with the required fee to the District Secretary. Certified Minister Certificates with the accompanying fellowship cards shall be issued by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.
2. Shall be active members in good standing in a local assembly.
3. Certified ministers desiring the renewal of their credentials for the following year shall be active members in good standing of a local assembly or shall be pastors of a local assembly
4. Students enrolled in an Assemblies of God college who feel called to the ministry may apply for a Certified Minister Certificate when they have met the requirements

of the policies established by the General Presbytery and the General Council Credentials Committee.

c. Licensed to Preach and Specialized Ministries License Applications shall be secured from the District Secretary and when properly filled out shall be returned together with the required fee to the District Secretary. Licensed to Preach and with the accompanying fellowship cards shall be issued by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

d. Ordination Applications.

1. Shall be secured from the District Secretary and when properly filled out shall be returned together with the required fee to the District Secretary. The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall issue the Ordination Credential with the accompanying fellowship cards.
2. Licensed ministers desiring ordination shall notify the District Secretary who shall advise the minister concerning basic requirements for ordination. When basic requirements have been met the Southern Pacific District Credential Committee shall make an evaluation and arrive at a decision in the matter of the ordination of the applicant. If a favorable decision is reached the Committee shall recommend to the General Council Credentials Committee that the minister be approved for ordination.

e. Screening. All ministers receiving credentials shall have mandatory screening thorough a designated credit and criminal screening agency as approved by the General Council Executive Presbytery.

f. Written Examination. Each applicant for credentials is required to pass a written Bible examination before receiving a Certified Minister permit and before advancement to License and/or Ordination. The examinations will be standardized for all applicants. The degree of Bible knowledge required to pass the examination will be determined by the classification of credential for which application has been made.

g. Interviews. All applicants for credential, candidates for advancement of credentials, and candidates for reinstatement must appear before the Credentials Committee upon a date and at a place designated by the committee before action can be taken on their applications. Students of Assemblies of God colleges who have completed their first year of studies, the Southern Pacific District Credentials Committee shall have their interviews waived.

h. Local Church Credential shall be administered by the local church pursuant to basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and each additional guideline adopted by this District. It shall be non-transferable (limited to the issuing local church.)

i. Ministerial Recognition

The District Council shall administer a ministerial recognition to pastors who are currently pastoring a district council church and because of their immigratory status they do not qualify

for a credential from the General Council. To obtain this ministerial recognition the applicant must acquire an application y must comply with the following requisites;

1. The applicant must make an appointment with the Executive and District Presbyter of his region for an interview.
2. The applicant must have taken the class History, missions and government of the Assemblies of God.
3. If the applicant lacks theological studies, is asked to enroll in a Bible Institute and take the necessary classes to graduate.
4. The applicant must submit himself to a criminal background check based on his digital fingerprints.
5. The applicant should be aware that at all times he must have a behavior worthy of the Lord when using this ministerial recognition.
6. The applicant is encouraged to actively work to obtain their legal status in the country.

Every pastor who receives this ministerial recognition from the District shall have the following privileges:

1. You may use this ministerial recognition from the District as an ID.
2. You will have a vote and say in all business sessions in the District at any level.
3. You can be elected as a Mentor of your section.
4. You may officiate all priestly sacraments including ecclesiastical marriage, but you will not be able to sign the state's marriage license.

Section 4. Reinstatement of Lapsed Ministerial Credentials

a. Ministerial Credentials that are not renewed by the minister in a timely fashion may be subject to lapse. Ministerial Credentials registered with this District Council are subject to the provisions of the General Council Bylaws regarding lapsed credentials and such procedures and penalties as may apply because of such authority, and as such regulations may from time to time be amended. Reinstatement in this regard may be accomplished by filing the necessary documentation on forms approved by the General Council Credentials Committee.

b. Reinstatement of Ministerial Credentials that have been terminated for other reasons.

1. Persons who have had their ministerial credentials terminated for reasons other than lapse, are subject to all provisions of the General Council Bylaws in regard to reinstatement, and such a person may not seek reinstatement through this District Council without first having conformed to such authority, and in no event may application for reinstatement be entertained by this District Council until the prescribed period of time for reinstatement fixed by the General Council Bylaws have expired.
2. Application for reinstatement of ministerial credentials that have been terminated by action of this District Council or by resignation of the minister, rather than lapse, shall be made in writing on forms approved by the Executive Presbytery and filed with the District Secretary. The Executive Presbytery may require special conditions

for each particular application, as it deems appropriate, and reinstatements are further subject to specific regulation hereinafter following.

3. Reinstatement of credentials terminated through another District Council shall be arranged through the District Officers of such other District, unless it is by directive from the General Council Credentials Committee .

Section 5. Responsibilities and Requirements

a. Ministerial Relations

- 1) *Amenability:* All credentialed ministers with this District Council shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery on all matters of doctrine and conduct.
- 2) *Perceived Conflict of Pastoral Ministry:* This District Council is opposed to any credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God serving in a ministerial capacity as a senior pastor or staff member of any Assemblies of God church in this District moving from one church to another church in the same general area without having first obtained the approval of the District administration after they have consulted with the churches involved. Unless such approval is obtained, it is the policy of this District Council to impose discipline on such ministers who continue their efforts to establish a pastoral or staff ministry in that area where they have formerly ministered in an Assemblies of God church, including discipline in which their respective ministerial credentials may be revoked.

b. Ministerial Courtesy. This District Council disapproves of all discourteous conduct, and all ministers are advised against interfering with pastors in charge of the local Assemblies of God church or program, whether it be by going in upon their work without consent or by communications that might adversely affect the work of the pastor.

- 1) We discourage ministers who are not the pastor of a local church to hold any elective office in a local church.
- 2) All correspondence, which concerns the local Assemblies of God church as a whole shall be addressed to the one in charge, and not to individual members. Where there is no pastor, letters concerning the work should be addressed to the church board.
- 3) It is considered improper and unethical for ministers or missionaries to solicit funds within the local church, by letter or otherwise, for anything or any reason whatsoever without proper authority by the pastor or where there is no pastor, the church board.

Section 6. Ministry Groups

- a. The Office of Pastoral Care with its Director will be under the direction of the Superintendent.
- b. The Ministers within the Section will elect the Mentor for a period of two years.

- c. The Ministers with credentials are eligible to be nominated as mentor no matter if he already occupies an official position.
- d. The Minister's will attend the Ministry Group within their Region.
- e. The Office of Pastoral Care will provide materials for the Ministerial Groups.
- f. That there be a Mentor and Ministerial Group Manual stipulating the requirements, qualifications, and responsibilities of the mentor as approved by the District Presbytery.

ARTICLE VIII.THE LOCAL CHURCH

Section 1. The Sovereign Church

This District Council accepts it as doctrinal that the local church is recognized as being ordained by God, under the headship of Jesus Christ. It is fundamental with our Fellowship that groups of believers associating themselves in local bodies for maintenance of scriptural order, and having a standard of membership in keeping with the scriptural principles and established policies of the Assemblies of God, should be considered as eligible for affiliation with The General Council, as a sovereign local Assemblies of God Church.

Section 2. The Sovereign Local Church

The church affiliated with the General Council is one that has applied and received the certificate of affiliation of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, commonly and here it refers as a sovereign church.

a. A General Council affiliated church is one that has applied for and received a Certificate of Affiliation from the General Council of the Assemblies of God, commonly and herein referred to as a sovereign church.

b. The sovereign local Assemblies of God church within this District Council shall have the right of self-government under our Lord Jesus Christ, the right to choose or call its Pastor, and, by action of its membership or Church Board as in its own Bylaws provided, to elect its officers and directors, administer discipline to its members, and transact all other business pertaining to its life and ministry as a local church, including the right to own and dispose of its property.

c. The sovereign local Assemblies of God church shall be separately incorporated, with its own Federal Employers Identification number and have its own separate Determination of Tax Exemption under Internal Revenue Code 501©(3).

d. The governance model adopted by the local assembly shall conform to the guidelines of Article XI, Section 1; paragraph a, subparagraph (4) of the General Council Constitution.

e. It is the responsibility of the Executive Presbytery of this District Council to determine when a local church has reached a state of growth, stability, and maturity qualifying it for affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God as a sovereign local church.

Section 3. General Council Affiliation

a. The General Council has established standards for affiliation of the sovereign Assemblies of God local church, which are endorsed and adopted by this District Council within the territory of this District Council, by virtue of which each sovereign church and each church that seeks to become sovereign must abide by the following requirements:

- 1) Accept and endorse the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God Fellowship, as such are set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of both The General Council of the Assemblies of God and this District Council.
- 2) Adopt a standard of membership, which is compatible with the standards and policies of this District Council.
- 3) Have and maintain an active voting membership of at least twenty-five persons, at least eighteen years of age or older, each of whom shall accept their fair share of responsibility for the maintenance of scriptural order in the local church body.
- 4) Have a Constitution and Bylaws in form compatible with those recommended by this District Council.
- 5) Have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of that local church as called for in its Constitution and Bylaws, and must be regular and sound in its fiscal responsibilities as supported by financial statements for the two previous years.
- 6) Have senior pastor who is a credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God in good standing whose credentials are registered with this District Council.
- 7) Have at least three functioning church ministries, one of which shall be a Christian Education Ministry.
- 8) It is recommended that the sovereign church shall have words in its official or corporate name that identifies with the Assemblies of God, and it is recommended that such churches use the Assemblies of God emblem.
- 9) Adopt Articles of Incorporation, a constitution, or bylaws compatible with models recommended by the District Council, or district approved governance models that provide for adequate accountability, amenability, and safeguards so that a pastor and/or governing board cannot directly or indirectly exert dictatorial control over a church.

b. The fact that a local Assemblies of God church is affiliated with the General Council shall in nowise destroy its rights above stated or interfere with its sovereignty as set forth in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 4. Responsibilities of the Sovereign Affiliation

a. By entering into voluntary cooperative fellowship with The General Council of the Assemblies of God each sovereign local church within this District Council has agreed to abide by and be in cooperation with the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the

Assemblies of God, as such is now or may from time to time be amended, hereinafter for simplicity occasionally referred to as “General Council Bylaws”, for establishment of standards of doctrine and conduct and related regulation as a sovereign local church. In the event of conflict, inconsistency or incompatibility of the local sovereign church’s Constitution and Bylaws with the letter or interpretation of the General Council Bylaws, the General Council Bylaws shall prevail.

b. By entering into voluntary cooperative fellowship and affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, as a sovereign Assemblies of God church it becomes a member of this District Council, and so assumes the responsibilities of and is entitled to the benefits attendant upon such membership including the right to be represented through its duly appointed delegates at the General Council and the District Council membership meetings, through its delegates who have been selected by the membership of such church or its Church Board. Each such church member agrees to abide by provisions of this Constitution and Bylaws and to comply with and conform to the policies and standards established by this District Council.

c. By entering into voluntary cooperative fellowship and affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, as a sovereign Assemblies of God church, that local church is bound by provisions of General Council Constitution Article XI, and Bylaws Article VI, in that each sovereign local church within this fellowship must have a form of Constitution & Bylaws compatible with the form recommended by SOUTHERN PACIFIC DISTRICT OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, and maintain such document in conformity with contents of such recommended form, as it is now and may from time to time be altered. This District Council as a statement of binding policy, binding upon each local church within this fellowship, adopts such recommended form and it may be altered in minor detail to honor local church membership sentiments or practices, but it must not be altered in any material way so as to conflict with District Council policies. In event a local sovereign church should neglect to adopt such form, or fail to maintain same in conformity with such form as it may be from time to time amended, then that recommended form shall be deemed to be a superior regulatory document, superseding any form that such local church may heretofore or hereafter adopt, and such recommended form shall be for all purposes the governing document for that local church, in all matters pertinent to its contents.

d. Change of Status of a Sovereign Church

- 1) *Number of members drop to below 20.* The District Superintendent shall send a written notification to the Pastor and the congregation as to the change of status. If necessary, the Presbytery authorizes a revision of the list of membership of the sovereign church to determine the names and number of members. The Executive Presbytery is authorized to request from the pastor and/or secretary to provide names and addresses of each voting member. By not complying with this request within two weeks, that could be considered as evidence that the church has less than 20 members. No members can be added during an investigation procedure. If the Executive Presbytery determines that the church has less than 20 in its membership, the church will be declared as a district affiliated church. The church may appeal the decision to the District Presbytery and their decision would be final. Such church can affiliate again as a

General Council church once it meets the required criteria of the General Council according to the Bylaws; Article VII, Section 3.

- 2) *District Affiliation petition.* The active members of a church affiliated with the General Council, for whatever reason, can elect to change the status to a District affiliated church by a majority of votes in a meeting with the necessary quorum. Such meeting to take a vote can be done in the following ways: (1) a provision of the bylaws of the church, or (2) by District Superintendent by petition of no less than 20% of the voting membership. The District Superintendent or designated person shall preside the meeting. When a General Council church appeals the District for help, by the pastor, board members, or no less than 20% of the voting membership, no names can be added or removed from the membership list from the date of the letter of petition of appeal to the District Superintendent until the matter is resolved and the decision is approved by the Executive Presbytery.
- 3) *Suspension of Sovereignty.* When the situation is one of crisis or disorder with legal implications that requires immediate action the District Superintendent after consulting with the Executive officials, can suspend the sovereignty of a church. After order has been restored and the situation has normalized the District will return the sovereignty to the church.

Section 5. District Council Assistance

When the membership of a General Council affiliated church falls below 20 active voting members, it should seek the assistance of the District officers for help in maintaining the minimal requirement for General Council affiliation. If after 1 year the minimal number of 20 members is not attained the church shall revert to District affiliated status. The church shall remain in a District Council affiliated status until it again meets the standard for affiliation as a General Council affiliated church as provided for in Article XI, Section 1, of the Constitution of the General Council. An application for it shall be filed with the District Secretary and approved by the Executive Presbytery.

Section 6. Pulpit Ministry

a. In view of the affiliation of the sovereign Assemblies of God church with the General Council and this District Council, and in the interest of maintaining general unity and harmony, the Senior Pastor of such sovereign church must have and maintain current proper ministerial credentials issued by the Assemblies of God.

b. It is recommended that the sovereign Assemblies of God church adopt provisions that Associate or Assistant Pastors and other personnel of the Ministerial Staff of the sovereign church should have and maintain current proper ministerial credentials issued by the Assemblies of God, as a condition of continued association with that church.

Section 7. Sovereign Church – District Cooperation

- a. It is expected that each sovereign Assemblies of God church within this District Council shall file two copies of its Constitution and Bylaws with the District Secretary, and shall likewise file two copies each of all amended Constitution and Bylaws within ninety days of amendment.
- b. It is expected that the local sovereign Assemblies of God church within this District shall cooperate in the programs of the District, and each local church is expected and encouraged to develop and promote good stewardship within the local assembly and in support of the General Council and this District Council, including participation in the Unified Operational Budget, Home and Foreign Missions, Latin American Bible Institute, and other projects in which this District is engaged.

Section 8. Right of Appeal of the Sovereign Local Church

- a. When in need of counsel and advice in administrative or other matters, the local sovereign church may appeal to the District officers.
- b. When there is a question concerning the appropriate response or lack of attention to requests by the local sovereign church for District Officers assistance, that local church may appeal to the General Council Executive Presbytery.
- c. When exceptions are taken by the local sovereign church to the decision of the General Council Executive Presbytery, that sovereign church may appeal to the General Presbytery of the General Council.

Section 9. Preservation of Affiliation

In the event the termination of affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God is under consideration by an affiliated assembly, the pastor and/or the board shall invite the District officers to participate in a specially called business meeting for the express purpose of giving the District officers the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation. Final disposition of the matter may then proceed in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the local church.

Section 10. District Council Churches

- a. **Affiliation with the District Council.** District sponsored local churches shall be recognized as District Council affiliated churches, under supervision of the District Council Bylaws. District Council affiliated programs may include home missions projects, pioneer churches, and established church organizations entering into our fellowship from other affiliations or independent status, former sovereign Assemblies of God churches that have surrendered their sovereignty temporarily or otherwise that seek District Council assistance, approved satellite church programs initiated by sovereign assemblies that come under the administration of the Executive Presbytery.
- b. **Establishment of New Churches.** The District at all times will promote the following three ways to initiate new works, commonly known as “missions”.

1. *By the Initiative of a Church:* When a church births a mission, the church should be in charge of it. The pastor will see to placing a person in charge, or will direct it through the church leadership.
 2. *By Self-Initiative:* A worker may start a mission, and will then assume the obligations related with preaching, pastoral care, personal evangelism, and the necessary finances.
- b. Independent or other Churches Seeking Affiliation.** Independent churches or established congregations that have been affiliated with other denominations may make application for recognition by and affiliation with this District Council. Such applications shall be considered for approval in the same manner and applying the same criteria as that of new church programs seeking approval. Additionally, the following requirements shall be applied:
1. Accept and endorse the Tenets of Faith of the Assemblies of God Fellowship, as such are set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of both The General Council of the Assemblies of God and this District Council.
 2. Adopt a standard of membership that is compatible with the standards and policies of this District Council.
 3. Should have a pastor in good standing whose credentials are registered with this District Council.
- d. Incorporated Incoming Churches**
1. If the applicant church is incorporated and seeks General Council affiliation, it must have special resolutions of both its Church Board and its membership, in accord with its Constitution and Bylaws, approving the affiliation, and upon such affiliation being granted, the Articles of Incorporation shall be amended, its Constitution and Bylaws shall be amended to conform to the format recommended by this District Council after which a letter of affiliation is issued by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.
 2. This District Council requires that churches entering into this Fellowship shall have words in their official or corporate name that identify with the Assemblies of God, and recommend that such churches use the Assemblies of God emblem.
- e. New Church Programs Resulting from a Division**
1. Disputes between factions within the local church should be resolved by mediation. The Executive Presbytery sitting as a Mediation Board in this regard may entertain negotiations.
 1. Groups within the local church or identified with factions of that church, upon refusing mediation of their disputes, or rejecting the recommendations of the Executive Presbytery, jeopardize their status of affiliation with the Assemblies of God.
 2. When efforts to maintain unity and harmony in an assembly have failed, and a division results in a new congregation being formed, the District should exercise strong and wise leadership in ascertaining the facts and seek to preserve Assemblies of God adherents for the Fellowship. Within the bounds of ethical principles, sound doctrine, and District policy, this District should seek to retain any meritorious group within the Assemblies of God.

3. Meet with the District Presbyter in their respective section and with the Regional Executive Presbyter to express their desire to affiliate.
 - a. **The Presbyters will consult with the affected pastor for their approval.**
 - b. **The Pastor and the group will be put under the supervision and**
 - c. **investigation of the District Presbyter and the counsel of the Regional Executive Presbyter for a period of 12 months. At the end of the established period their approval will be decided.**
 - d. **The Pastor and the group shall not proselytize the affected church.**
 - e. **If the pastor or leader of the new group does not have credentials, they need to be under the direction of the District Presbyter to evaluate their case and guide him/her through the credential process.**
 - f. **The church and the Pastor should comply with the required dues established by the District. If members of the affected group visit the new church on more than three occasions, this should be reported to the respective pastor.**
4. Circumstances of the occasion would determine whether the minister should be disciplined or denied ministry in either the original church or the dissident group, or even residency in the section where the division occurred. If a minister is guilty of wrong conduct and wrong attitudes resulting in a split, the Executive Presbytery shall deal appropriately with the minister as provided in Article X., Section 3, of the General Council Bylaws. In situations where there has been a division within the church, the Executive Presbytery may determine that under unique circumstances this rule may be waived, subject to approval of the Executive Presbytery.
- 5.

f. Establishing Sovereignty of the Local District Affiliated Church. District affiliated local churches may become affiliated with the General Council as sovereign operations, upon approval by the Executive Presbytery and issuance of a Certificate of Affiliation by the General Council. Procedure and policy for establishing General Council affiliation status is the province of the Executive Presbytery, and this District Council has adopted standards in this regard, as follows:

- 1) The local applicant church shall submit to the Executive Presbytery a written application for sovereignty on approved forms provided by the District Secretary, after having shown that it has met the requirements for affiliation as a sovereign Assemblies of God church in this District, including the following:
 - a. Accept and endorse the Tenets of Faith of the Assemblies of God Fellowship, as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council and the District Council.
 - b. Adopt a standard of membership that is compatible with the standards and policies of this District Council.
 - c. Have and maintain an active voting membership of at least twenty-five persons, at least eighteen years of age, each of who shall accept their fair share of responsibility for the maintenance of scriptural order in the local church body.

- d. Have a Constitution and Bylaws in form compatible with that design recommended by this District Council.
 - e. Have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of that local church as called for in its Constitution and Bylaws, and must be regular and sound in its fiscal responsibilities.
 - f. Have a senior pastor who is a credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God in good standing whose credentials are registered with this District Council.
 - g. Have at least three functioning church ministries, one of which shall be a Christian Education Ministry.
 - h. This District Council requires that such churches shall have words in their official or corporate name that identify with the Assemblies of God, and recommend that such churches use the Assemblies of God emblem.
 - i. There shall be a business meeting of the congregation of the local church presided over by a constitutional officer or designee of this District Council, at which time the local church shall be set in order
 - j. It is the policy in this District Council that the sovereign local church shall be formally incorporated, and shall not conduct its business as an unincorporated association. Upon approval for sovereignty by the Executive Presbytery, if the local applicant church is not already legally incorporated as a Nonprofit Religious Corporation, it shall be formally incorporated, and shall as appropriately acquire tax exempt status from state administrative agencies and from the Internal Revenue Service under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3).
- 2) Upon notification received by the District Executive Officers that the incorporation and tax exempt qualification is completed, the District Secretary shall transmit the documentation relating to approval for sovereignty for further action by the General Secretary of the General Council. The General Secretary as a General Council affiliated assembly regards sovereign status as complete upon receipt by the local church of an official Certificate of Affiliation
- 3) When the District Council affiliated local church becomes sovereign, where real and personal property are held by District for that church, it is generally the policy of this District Council to convey and/or sell to the sovereign church corporation the land and improvements acquired and developed through the mutual endeavor of the congregation and other programs within the District. However, it is generally required that there be specific conditions of such conveyance, providing as follows:
- b. It is required that there be specific conditions contained in legal documents stating that the property of the sovereign church corporation is irrevocably dedicated to religious purposes and no part of the net income or assets of the corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer or member thereof or to the benefit of any private person, and in event that church shall cease to exist and upon the dissolution or winding up of that corporation, after paying or otherwise adequately securing or providing for the debts and obligations of that corporation, the remaining assets shall be

distributed to this District Council; and, further providing the condition that all equity in the property by this District Council or any of its ministries or ministries shall be wholly recovered.

Section 11. New Assemblies

The planting of new churches shall be a priority goal for The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Resources at all levels shall be aligned to accomplish this purpose. Initiative for establishing new churches and the oversight of those churches may emanate from local assemblies, and district councils. The District Presbytery or the authorities within a district charged with the responsibility of approving new churches shall not prohibit the planting of new churches unless a compelling reason exists. If it is determined that a compelling reason exists, a minister or local church desiring to plant the church shall have the right to appeal the decision with the District Director for Church Planting, and the decision of the District may be appealed to the General Council Executive Presbytery, whose decision shall be final.

Section 12. Procedures for Closing District Council Affiliated Churches

No District Affiliated church can be closed or their members be directed to other churches by the pastor without seeking the advice and approval of the District Officials.

Section 13. Emphasis for English Ministries

The Southern Pacific District shall emphasize the use of English and Spanish at every level of ministry. Local churches shall commit to create English ministries that embrace the reality of the English language in Hispanic cultures within the United States.

ARTICLE IX. ESTABLISHMENT OF MINISTRIES

Section 1. Responsibility of Executive Presbyters

The activities and affairs of this District Council are conducted and all corporate powers are exercised by the Executive Presbytery, and they with the membership and District Presbytery have delegated a portion of the work of this District Council in the management of certain ongoing activities of the corporation to various established ministries; however, each of such ministries and all activities and affairs of the corporation as may be assigned to such ministries shall be managed and all corporate powers shall be exercised under the ultimate direction and responsibility of the Executive Presbytery, being at all times under the authority of the District Presbytery.

Section 2. Ministries Authorized and Established

The District Presbytery with the initiative of the District Superintendent can approve, restructure, and develop new ministries and in addition can restructure existing ministries according to the need of the District.

Section 3. Organization of Ministries

- a. There shall be a ministerial Director to manage the affairs of each ministry of this District Council.
- b. The Director shall be appointed by special resolution of the District Presbytery, serving for a term at the pleasure of the District Presbytery.
- c. The Director shall be amenable and subject to directives and regulation of the District Presbytery, under the supervision of the District Superintendent.

Section 4. Qualification of Officers

- a. A candidate for appointment to serve as Director of a ministry within this District Council shall be a person of proven executive ability, of good report, having such further qualifications established by special resolution of the District Presbytery as may be applicable to each ministry.
- b. All candidates for appointment to serve in any office in a ministry of this District Council shall be persons of mature experience and sound Christian character, having made an open subscription to the Tenets of Faith of this Fellowship, and shall have testimony of having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.

Section 5. Operations

Each ministry will be under the supervision of the Board of Directors of the Southern Pacific District.

Section 6. Operations Scope and Policy

The District Presbytery shall establish and adopt the operations policy and regulation for each Ministry, and shall publish an operations manual describing its mission and operation. The mission of each ministry shall be consistent with the purposes for which this District Council is formed and operated, and by the regulations adopted by the District Presbytery.

Section 7. Responsibilities of the Directors

- 3. The Director shall be responsible to preside over all meetings held under the auspices of this ministry.
- 4. The Director shall be responsible to preside over all meetings of the Advisory Board of the ministry.

5. The Director shall be responsible for supervision and promotion of all work of the ministry.
6. The Director shall be responsible for preparation of an edited work for publication in the Ministers Newsletter.
7. The Director shall be responsible for supervision of personnel within the respective ministry.

Section 8. Auxiliaries

Auxiliary programs for each ministry may be established pursuant to the directive of the District Presbytery or the membership of the District Council.

Section 9. Deposit and Disbursement of Funds

- a. All general funds of each ministry shall be deposited in a single separate District account, separate from the general fund. Those authorized to sign checks will be the three District Executives.
- b. Such funds shall be disbursed only in accordance with the conditions of the designated gift. In event circumstances interfere with disbursement under the stipulated conditions, the matter shall be referred to the District Presbytery, which by its special resolution may authorize disbursements contrary to conditions fixed, but with respect for the general intent of the donor.
- c. The ministry and the Director shall be responsible for administration of all funds from all sources set apart that ministry.

ARTICLE X. AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1. Affiliated Organizations

This District Council may accept into affiliation other corporations, which are formed and operated for charitable, educational or religious purposes, their missions being similar to the purposes and missions of this corporation. They shall be accepted by receiving a two-thirds vote of the District Presbytery. It is required that as conditions of affiliation those affiliated organizations meet the following criteria:

- 1) Be formally incorporated under laws of a state of the United States and have a current certificate of authority to do business as appropriate, and that their corporations and authority to do business be continued and maintained current and in good standing. Upon such corporation becoming defunct or decertified the affiliation automatically and immediately ceases.
- 2) Have similarity in purpose to the purposes and mission of this District Council and provide for a membership in good standing with churches of the Assemblies of God.

- 3) This District Council assumes no liability or continuing responsibility for operation of any affiliated corporations by virtue of affiliation in these premises.
- 4) That there be an added condition in the written confirmation of affiliation, providing that such affiliated organization shall give this District Council at least ninety days advance notice prior to dissolution of the corporation.

Section 2. Latin American Bible Institute

a. Organization

- 1) Latin American Bible Institute is an affiliated organization, recognized by this District Council and the Northern Pacific Latin American District as its official institution of higher learning. Latin American Bible Institute is not a division or ministry of this corporation.
- 2) Latin American Bible Institute is separately incorporated as a California Non-Profit Religious Corporation.
- 3) The activities and affairs of the school are conducted and all corporate powers are exercised by or under direction of the Board of Directors of the school.
- 4) The business and other affairs of Latin American Bible Institute are conducted pursuant to authority of its own separate Constitution and Bylaws.
- 5) The officers and directors of Latin American Bible Institute provide information to its constituency at intervals, for their business, conducted separate and apart from this District Council. Though Latin American Bible Institute operates under auspices of these organizations, this District Council assumes no liability or continuing responsibility for operation of Latin American Bible Institute or any of its ministries or programs by virtue of such affiliation in these premises.

b. Officials

1. The President of the Institute shall send an annual report to the District office concerning the activities and financial state of the Institute.
2. The Institute report shall be distributed together with other materials from the District, at the time of registration at the District Council.

c. Essential Recommendations

1. Every church in this District shall include the Bible Institute in their annual budget, and shall send their monthly offering directly to the District office.
2. There shall be a day designated for the Bible Institute called "The Good Samaritan", and this day shall be promoted by the District Missions Director.
3. The first Sunday of May shall be designated to promote the Institute in our churches and special offerings shall be collected.
4. There shall be a District Day called "L.A.B.I. Scholarship Day" this day shall take place the same day as College Commitment Day in September.

Section 3. Latin American Theological Seminary

a. Organization

1. Latin American Theological Seminary is an affiliated organization, recognized by this District Council and the Northern Pacific Latin American District Council as an official institution of higher education. Latin American Theological Seminary is not a division or ministry of this corporation.
2. Latin American Theological Seminary is incorporated separately as a Non-Profit Religious Corporation of California.
3. The activities and matters of the school are conducted and all corporate powers are exercised by or under the direction of the Board of Directors of the school.
4. The business and other matters of Latin American Theological Seminary are conducted pursuant to the authority of its own Constitution and Bylaws.
- 5) The officials and directors of Latin American Theological Seminary periodically provide financial information to its constituents, of its business, conducted separate and apart of this District Council. Although, Latin American Theological Seminary functions under the auspices of this organization, this District Council assumes no responsibility in the functioning of Latin American Theological Seminary or any of its ministries or programs by virtue of such affiliation in these premises.

b. Officials

- 1) The President of the Seminary shall send an annual report to the District office of the activities and financial status of the Seminary.
- 2) The report of the Seminary is to be distributed along with other materials of the District, at the time of registration of the District Council.

c. Essential Recommendations

- 1) Every church in our District is to include the Theological Seminary in their annual budget and send a monthly offering directly to the District office.
- 2) The District Missions Director shall promote throughout the churches to collect offerings for the Theological Seminary.

ARTICLE XI. BENEFITS AND BENEVOLENCES

This District Council has established common benefits and benevolence for the ministers holding current credentials registered with this District Council, and otherwise, including the following:

Section 1. Common Benefits

a. Insurance

1. This District Council shall cooperate in life insurance programs provided through the General Council, including life insurance and other casualty or indemnity programs.
2. Such insurance programs so provided shall be made generally available to all ministers in good standing whose credentials are registered with this District Council, subject to such exceptions or restrictions as are generally applied by the carrier or carriers of such programs.

b. Complimentary Benefits

1. The Southern Pacific District Directory.
2. The Southern Pacific District Newsletter.
3. The Ministers Group Life Insurance Basic Benefit.
4. Complimentary registration in SPD ministerial schools.

Section 2. The Minister's Benevolence Fund

Every minister should participate in the Benefits and Benevolence Plans offered by the General Council.

Section 3. Institutions Benefits

The District Council may establish and maintain homes for children, for the superannuated, for retired ministers and missionaries. Such benefits as are made available to ministers of this District and their families shall be made available without prejudice.

ARTICLE XII. FINANCES

Section 1. Contributions

a. Cooperation essential. All credential holders affiliated with this District Council are expected to give evidence of cooperation by contributing from their tithes and/or dues as follows:

1. To the ministries of the General Council executive offices according to the provisions of the General Council Bylaws, Article XIII, Section 1, and c.
2. To the ministries of the District office according to the following scale:
 - a. Active Ordained Ministers, a minimum of \$162.00 per month.
 - b. Active Licensed Ministers a minimum of \$151.00 per month.
 - c. Active Certified Ministers, a minimum of \$147.00 per month
 1. Those ministers whose tithes exceed their dues can voluntarily contribute all their tithes or half of the amount that exceeds the dues required.
 - d. All senior retired credential holders shall contribute voluntarily.
 - e. Those "in charge" of a work, a minimum of \$110.00 per month.

- f. Credentialed spouses of ministers, a minimum of \$75.00 per month.
- g. SPD missionaries that are in the foreign field, a minimum of \$300.00 a year and \$50.00 a month while they are itinerating.
- h. District pastors who possess ministerial recognition should contribute in the following way; 1st year \$50 per month. 2nd year \$90 per month and on the 3rd year a minimum of \$147 per month.
- i. If the tithe of the minister's income is less than the dues established, the minister should pay the monthly tithe, but no less than \$90.00 per month unless it can be verified that the earnings are less.
- j. Credential candidates under of forty years old who are full time students and/or candidates who are planting new works, the following dues" 1st year – 0% dues; 2nd year – 25%; 3rd year – 50%; 4th year – 100%.
- k. Ministerial credentials will be granted to candidates under forty years old who are active in a local ministry (associate pastor, music minister, youth pastor, or other ministry) and a 50% discount will be given for the first three years in ministerial dues.
- l. Ministerial credentials will be granted to active women in a local ministry (associate pastor, music minister, youth pastor, or other ministry) the ministerial dues applied are the following: 1st year – 0%, 2nd year – 25%; 3rd year – 50%; 4th year – 100%.

3. Church Contributions

- a. New Works – PAC churches - 1st and 2nd year \$0.
- b. Sovereign churches – District and New Works with 3 years or more of existence shall contribute according to attendance.
- c. Affiliated churches to our District Council, shall start contributing from the time of affiliation according to attendance.
- d. Monthly contributions according to attendance are as following;
 - 1. Attendance 99 or less shall contribute \$50 monthly.
 - 2. Attendance of 100 and less than 200 shall contribute \$100 monthly
 - 3. Attendance 200 + shall contribute \$150 monthly.
- e. These contributions are in effect as of January 1, 2019.

b. Schedule Review and Adjustments. All dollar amounts in the schedule above may be increased periodically as deemed necessary and as approved by the assembly.

c. Individual Review and Requests for Adjustments. Failure to cooperate with the fiscal policies adopted by the District and General Council will result in a minister's credential being called into question or revoked until the matter is resolved. In instances of extreme circumstances or cases of hardship, the minister so affected may appeal to the Executive Presbytery.

Section 2. Forwarding Funds

Ministers' tithes and offerings, contributions from individuals, offerings from local assemblies, and all other funds intended for the work and ministries of the District shall be forwarded to the District Treasurer's office for official receipting.

Section 3. Distributions

- a. The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to supervise District funds as may be necessary to maintain the District administrative office and pay all salaries and wages of District officials.
- b. The Executive Presbytery is authorized to arrange travel expenses to enable the Executive Officers and General Presbyters to attend General Presbyter's meetings and the General Council sessions. It is further authorized to provide for reimbursements for mileage and incidental expenses for the Executive Officers, Presbyters, and others employed on District work assignments.

Section 4. Banking of Funds

- a. All funds of the District Council shall be initially deposited in federally insured financial institutions approved by the Executive Presbytery. The funds shall be deposited in the name of the SOUTHERN PACIFIC DISTRICT OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD.
- b. The individual signatures of the District Superintendent, the Assistant District Superintendent, and the District Secretary-Treasurer shall be the authorized signatures on all accounts held in the corporate name of the District.
- c. The establishment and maintenance of accounts and the investment or other use of the funds of this corporation shall be the exclusive province of the Executive Presbytery and District Presbytery.

Section 5. Auditing

- a. A public accountant prior to the District Council meeting shall audit the financial records at the close of each calendar year. The auditor shall give the District Treasurer a certificate in duplicate attesting the correctness of the financial records. The District Treasurer shall retain one copy, and one copy shall be filed with the District records.
- b. In the event of a change of District Treasurer during the calendar year, the District financial records shall be audited, as provided above, at the time of transfer of responsibilities.
- c. Periodically and as deemed necessary, the District Secretary-Treasurer will keep the District Superintendent and Assistant District Superintendent informed of all the District accounts.

ARTICLE XIII. ENDORSED PUBLICATIONS

Section 1. General Council Publications

- a. The General Council of the Assemblies of God publishes and distributes its authorized publications through the Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, Missouri. It is recognized that this District Council recommends these publications.
- b. The General Council of the Assemblies of God prepares and distributes various materials of a confidential nature, including such things as the official list of ministers and missionaries of the Assemblies of God, and ministerial list changes from time to time. These items are not for general dissemination or presentation to the media. Furthermore, such official and confidential publications that might not be so sensitive, such as the Church Directory of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, are yet deemed to be restricted for distribution, so that commercial sources might not use them to solicit funds or other things from our constituency.

Section 2. District Council Publications

This District Council publishes and distributes many materials only for distribution and use among its credentialed ministers and member churches.

1. The District Newsletter of this District Council is intended for restricted distribution, to credentialed ministers only, and not for circulation to the public or to the various public media. It contains confidential information.
2. The directory of this District Council, which contains the official list of all the
3. ministers and churches of this District, is intended for restricted distribution, to credentialed ministers and affiliated churches of this District Council, and not for circulation to the public or to the various public media. It contains confidential information.
4. This District Council shall prepare and publish and make restricted distribution of the District Administrative Procedures Manual, which shall set forth the adopted operating procedures for programs within this District Council, administrative boards and committees, ministries and advisory boards, in accord with the policy established by the District Presbytery and the Constitution and Bylaws of both the General Council and this District Council.

ARTICLE XIV. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1. Commencement of Business

In keeping with our purpose and mission, honoring the source, foundation and cornerstone of all our reason and authority for conduct of the business of this District Council, at any District Council Convention or special meeting of the membership of this District Council, all meetings of boards or subordinate committees, the chair shall determine a quorum and call the meeting to order, and the first order of business shall be prayer to call upon our Lord, seeking His divine direction, blessing and influence upon all such business, deliberations and resulting elections or legislation.

Section 2. Regular Order of Business

District Council Conventions or special meetings of the membership of this District Council shall observe the following Order of Business:

- a. Announcement and Confirmation of Committee Appointments
- b. Report of the District Superintendent
- c. Report of the Assistant District Superintendent
- d. Report of the District Secretary-Treasurer
- e. Report of Committees
- f. Report of the Roster Committee
- g. Unfinished Business
- h. Election of Officers
- i. New Business
- j. Reports of the Resolutions Committee
- k. Adjournment

ARTICLE XV. RESOLUTIONS

Section 1. Presentation of Resolutions

- a. Any member of this District Council shall have the privilege of presenting a proposed resolution to the Resolutions Committee for consideration by the voting constituency at the District Council Convention.
- b. Proposed resolutions shall be in written form, filed with the District Secretary with sufficient time allowed so that such shall be in the hands of the Resolutions Committee at least ninety days prior to the District Council Convention. The Resolutions Committee shall provide the District Secretary with copies of the approved proposed resolutions at least sixty days before the District Council Convention, and the District Secretary shall be responsible for distribution of copies thereof to the membership of this District Council at least thirty days prior to the meeting of the District Presbytery that convenes coincidental to the District Council Convention. All proposed resolutions that are to be entertained by the membership at any special meeting shall be set forth in writing as part of the notice of time and place of such meeting.
- c. Criteria to be used by the Resolutions Committee in determining the propriety of proposed resolutions shall include determinations of whether or not the proposed resolution is in conflict with the statutes and other laws of the State, whether the proposed resolution is compatible with the Constitution and Bylaws of other directives of the General Council, whether the proposed resolution is incompatible with the Constitution and Bylaws and policies of this District Council, and whether such proposals are for other unacceptable reasons.

- d. Notwithstanding the foregoing rules, Emergency Resolutions may be presented in writing to be considered by the Resolutions Committee for presentation to and at the pleasure of the voting constituency by its simple majority vote.

Section 2. Author Subscription

The author of any resolution submitted for adoption by the membership at any District Council Convention shall personally sign the resolution and is expected to open discussion of it on the convention floor.

ARTICLE XVI. EDUCATION MINISTRIES NON- DISCRIMINATION POLICY

There may be Educational ministries or programs established within or under supervision of this District Council, by special resolutions of and under direct administration or supervision of the District Presbyters or their designees, having name or names assigned to such ministries or programs, and officers and subordinate administrators for the conduct of their respective business, as the District Presbyters shall authorize by such special resolutions, for the operation of pre-school, grammar school and high school, college or other educational programs; and, there shall be a policy of nondiscrimination within these ministries, admitting students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the schools. This organization shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship or loan programs, or athletic and other school-administered programs.

ARTICLE XVII. RESOLUTION AND ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES

It is the policy and standard of this District Council, applying also to every local church and program within this District Council, to avoid conflicts involving hostile confrontations and judicial proceedings in secular courts, and to resolve disputes in the way provided by the Scriptures, and in following manner:

Section 1. Disputes between Individuals

- a. Grievances or disputes between individual members of a local church, or involving a member of a local church within this District Council, shall be first negotiated between the disputants in good faith and Christian deportment. For failure of satisfactory negotiation between them, the matter should then be submitted to the Pastor of that local church for mediation or decision. If the Pastor is unable to resolve the matter

between the parties, at request of either or any of them the matter shall be heard before the Church Board, or a panel of spiritually qualified people chosen by the Church Board (hereinafter referred to as the Panel) with both parties being given equal opportunity to present their respective positions to the Panel.

- b. In event the matter is taken beyond mediation with the Pastor, the Church Board shall fix such reasonable rules and procedural guidelines as they deem just and proper for the parties to present their respective positions before the Panel, so that good manners, propriety and prudence be preserved. Each party should be allowed to have the assistance of a layperson from the membership to assist in presentation of respective positions. In matters resolved by the Panel without further action, it shall be treated as privileged, and any record of such proceedings shall be sealed and not available to any third party or otherwise except upon written mutual consent of the disputants. These proceedings are binding arbitration, and there shall be no other remedy between the parties beyond those herein provided. It is intended that these provisions will resolve misunderstandings and help to quiet personal grievances, so to promote peace and harmony within the church. Domestic relation matters or disputes between immediate family members should not be entertained beyond mediation through the Pastor. It is not contemplated that these procedures apply to legitimate claims for physical injuries, or in lieu of civil remedies arising out of accidents, or in cases of child abuse.

Section 2. Disputes between Individuals or Factions and the Church or Church Board

- a. Disputes involving individuals or factions within or outside the church against the Church Board or the entire membership of the church, or the church corporation, shall be resolved by binding arbitration.
- b. The forum for arbitration of disputes concerned in this section is the District Council; and, the arbitration panel shall be comprised of three disinterested persons, which three persons shall be appointed by the District Superintendent, preferably from among the District Council Executive Officers and/or the District Presbytery. The following procedures should be followed in order to solicit District intervention:
 - 1. By invitation of the Senior Pastor in charge, or signatures of two-thirds of the Deacon Board, with the pastor's knowledge of such, or signatures of twenty percent of the members, whose membership has been verified by the secretary of the local church with the pastor's knowledge.
 - 2. Once the case has come to the office of the District Superintendent, the District Superintendent will notify the Pastor concerned of the charges. The District Superintendent will have the option to look after the case personally or refer it to the Executive Presbyter and/or District Presbyter where the complaint was presented. Everything must be in writing.
 - 3. A detailed investigation shall be initiated by the District Superintendent or by the District Credentials Committee with the objective of finding a possible solution.
 - 4. This procedure will not extend more than thirty days after having informed the District office.

5. Any complaint or serious incident which arises against a Pastor by members of the church relating to events that have taken place during the previous ninety days, or other things which may come to light.
6. the Arbitration Panel shall set a time and place for a hearing of the dispute between the parties, with proper notice and opportunity for each to be heard and present their respective positions, and shall fix reasonable procedural guidelines for presentation thereof by the parties, as the Panel deems just, proper and fair. The determination and award, or other disposition made by the Arbitration Panel, shall be final and conclusive, and binding upon the parties, from which there shall be no appeal.

Section 3. Disputes between Factions and the District Council

Disputes and grievances by any local church or any minister, member or faction within the local church against the District Council or any of its constitutional officers, or otherwise adversely affecting this District Council, shall be resolved by binding arbitration, by submitting same to the General Secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, Springfield, Missouri, for resolution according to such rules and regulations as he may set, and in accordance with the Bylaws of the General Council, as such Bylaws are now or from time to time may be amended. The determination made by the General Secretary or his designees shall be final and binding between the parties, from which there shall be no appeal.

Section 4. Alternative Resolution

In event the District Superintendent or General Secretary cannot resolve the disagreements, or is unwilling or unable to appoint a panel to hear and determine the matters in dispute, as indicated in Section Two and Section Three above, the matter shall be heard before an Arbitration Panel selected as follows: each disputant faction shall select a single arbitrator, and the arbitrators together shall then select a single separate and wholly neutral arbitrator to serve on the Arbitration Panel. In event such arbitrators are unable to agree upon the neutral arbitrator, then such third arbitrator shall be determined under procedures provided in the Uniform Arbitration Act. All persons serving on such Arbitration Panel must be born-again Christians. The Arbitration Panel shall set a time and place for hearing of the dispute between the parties, with proper notice and opportunity for each to be heard and present their respective positions, and shall fix reasonable procedural guidelines for presentation thereof by the parties, as the Panel deems just, proper and fair. A final determination and award may be made by decision of any two of such arbitrators.

ARTICLE XVIII. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF DISTRICT COUNCIL

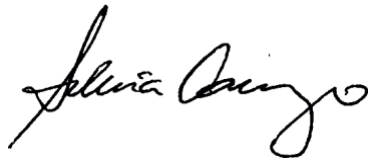
Amendments to these Bylaws may be made at any regular or special meeting of the District Council membership, only by vote of the active and registered voting members, provided the full text of same shall have been submitted in advance of the meeting for review by the District Presbytery, in accordance with procedures set forth in the Bylaws, with an affirmative vote of two-thirds majority.

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS BY MEMBERSHIP

This is to certify:

That I am the duly elected, qualified and serving District Secretary of **SOUTHERN PACIFIC DISTRICT OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD** and that the above and foregoing code of Constitution and Bylaws was submitted to the membership and was ratified and adopted as the Constitution and Bylaws of the corporation by the required vote of membership entitled to exercise the voting power of said corporation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal this date:
November 2020



Rev. Silvia E. Carrizo
Secretary of the District Council Corporation