

— BYLAWS —

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ARTICLE I. MINISTRIES NETWORK SUMMIT IN SESSION

Section A. Rules of Order

The work of this Ministries Network Summit shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised, and in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

Section B. Order of Business

The regular order of business for the Ministries Network Summit shall be:

- a. Appointment of committees
- b. Report of roster committee
- c. Report of network superintendent
- d. Report of network secretary
- e. Report of treasurer
- f. Committee reports
- g. Old business
- h. Election of officers
- i. New business
- j. Adjournment

All business sessions of the Summit shall begin with prayer.

Section C. Reports

1. Reports by the network superintendent, network secretary, network treasurer, presbyters, departmental heads, etc., shall be made in writing thirty days before the Ministries Network summit convenes. All reports of old business for Ministries Network summit action shall be in the hands of the constituency at least 30 days prior to the Summit convening.
2. These reports shall be duplicated and distributed to all delegates to the Summit in session.
3. These reports shall be read orally only at the discretion of the chair.

Section D. Resolutions

It is recommended that all resolutions should be submitted in written form to the chairman of the resolutions committee prior to the Summit. Said resolutions shall be printed and placed in the hands of the delegates on arrival at the Summit.

Section E. Voting Constituency

The voting constituency shall consist of the Ministries Network members present and registered. This shall include all credentialed ministers and delegates from churches duly set in order.

1. Any District-Supervised churches, church plants governed by the Ministries Network and Parent Affiliated churches with a membership of ten (10) or more shall be given the right of one delegate at district and geographical section caucuses.
2. All delegates shall be at least 21 years of age and must be duly certified in writing by the church board.
3. Whenever possible, delegates should be members of the church other than the minister's immediate family.
4. The expenses of a delegate and pastor should be paid by the church.

#### Section F. Quorum

All accredited ministers and delegates of the Ministries Network who are present and registered by the roster committee at a duly called meeting shall constitute a quorum.

### ARTICLE II. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

#### Section A. Nomination and Election of Network Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent

1. Nomination. Candidates for the office of network superintendent and assistant superintendent shall be nominated by secret ballot at the Ministries Network Summit in session. Any nominee receiving a two-thirds majority vote on the nominating ballot shall be declared elected. If no election is declared, only the 10 candidates who received the most nominations will be placed on the first electoral ballot. All candidates tied with the tenth candidate will be included.
2. Vote Required. A two-thirds majority is required for election of the network superintendent and assistant superintendent. If no such majority shall have been reached by the first three electoral ballots taken, the two candidates having the highest number of votes in the third electoral ballot shall be the only nominees to be further voted upon and all other names shall be eliminated.
3. Incumbent Superintendent. When an incumbent superintendent wishes to serve another term and a majority of the Network Presbytery concurs, the vote will be a "yes" or "no" ballot with a two-thirds majority of all votes cast needed for election.

#### Section B. Nominations by the Network Presbytery

1. Ministries Network Secretary

The Network Presbytery shall be entrusted with the responsibility to consider and interview qualified credential holders willing to serve as network secretary, and they shall place in nomination, one or more candidates for this office. Additional candidates may be nominated on the first ballot, which shall be a nominating ballot. Any nominee receiving a two-thirds majority of all votes cast on the nominating ballot shall be declared elected. A two-thirds majority of all votes cast constitutes an election.

2. Two Network candidates for General Council Non-Resident Executive Presbyter to be presented to the General Council.

The network superintendent and the pastor of a local church shall be nominated by the board of presbyters as the candidates from this District.

#### Section C. Elections

All Ministries Network officers shall be elected by secret ballot at the Ministries Network Summit.

Vote Required. A two-thirds majority of all votes cast is required for elections of all officers, unless otherwise designated. If no such majority shall have been reached by the first three elective ballots taken, the two candidates having the highest number of votes in the third elective ballot shall be the only nominees to be further voted upon and all other names shall be eliminated.

### ARTICLE III. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

#### Section A. Named

The Executive officers shall be the Ministries Network superintendent, Network assistant superintendent and the Ministries Network secretary.

#### Section B. Qualifications

The Executive officers of the WNMMN of the Assemblies of God shall be elected as provided. They shall be individuals of mature experience and ability, whose lives and ministry are above reproach, who have held credentials and served as ordained ministers for at least three consecutive years in our Assemblies of God fellowship and currently serve in good standing. Any variance from these qualifications would serve as grounds for immediate removal from this position by the decision of the Network Presbytery in accordance with bylaw Article IX. Candidates shall have been members of the Ministries Network for at least one year prior to their election and who fully cooperate with all its policies.

#### Section C. Term of Office

The Ministries Network superintendent, Network assistant superintendent and Ministries Network secretary shall be elected to serve four-year terms. Not more than one Executive office shall expire in the same year. The Executive officers shall take office within 60 days after election.

#### Section D. Superintendent

##### 1. Duties

- a. To preside at the meetings of the WNMMN.
- b. To act as president of the corporation in all legal matters.
- c. To be the head of the Ministries Network office and to supervise the work of that office during the interim between sessions of the Ministries Network Summit.
- d. To preside at the meetings of the Network Presbytery and to receive all communications directed to that body.
- e. To preside in meetings of the credentials committee and to sign all District credentials.
- f. To be general superintendent of all the work in the Ministries Network and to administer discipline in all cases when requested to do so by the credentials committee.
- g. To perform any other function usual and customary for the presiding officer, such as directed by the Network Presbytery or the WNMMN. The superintendent shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- h. To represent the Ministries Network as general presbyter.
- i. The network superintendent shall devote full time to this office.

j. To actively participate in a ministry group.

2. Vacancy

- a. Should a vacancy occur through resignation, removal from the Ministries Network, death or disqualification the Network Presbytery shall appoint an acting superintendent until they can call a special Ministries Network summit for the purpose of electing a successor.
- b. This office may be declared vacant by a two-thirds majority vote of the Ministries Network Presbytery in accordance with Bylaw Article IX.

Section E Assistant Superintendent

1. Duties

- a. To assist the superintendent.
- b. To preside at meetings in the absence of the superintendent.
- c. To be a member of the Executive Presbytery.
- d. To be the ordained pastor representative on the General Presbytery.
- e. To assist the superintendent in the supervision of the work on the field, and to perform any other functions under the supervision of the superintendent, or such as may be directed by the Executive Presbytery or District Council.
- f. To act as vice-president of the corporate body and be ex-officio member of all committees.
- g. To assume the duties of the superintendent on an interim basis should a vacancy occur through resignation, removal from the district, death or disqualification until the Executive Presbytery can call a District Summit to elect a successor.
- h. To actively participate in a ministry group.

2. Vacancy

- a. Should a vacancy occur in the office of assistant superintendent through resignation, removal from the district, death or disqualification, power is vested in the Executive Presbytery to appoint one of its members to fill this office until the next meeting of the District Summit or a special District Summit called for this purpose.
- b. This office may be declared vacant by a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Presbytery in accordance with Bylaw Article VIII.

Section F. Ministries Network Secretary

1. Duties

- a. The Ministries Network secretary shall make and keep true records of the proceedings of the Ministries Network Summit, and shall publish the same as approved and directed by the Network Presbytery.
- b. Shall be the custodian of the official seal of the Ministries Network, and shall issue credentials under the direction of the credentials committee, and shall keep a record of all ministers

(ordained, licensed, and certified ministers) and assemblies in the Fellowship.

- c. Shall act as secretary of the meetings of the Network Presbytery.
  - d. Shall be a member of the Network Presbytery and the General Presbytery.
  - e. Shall be authorized to sign all official and legal documents and to perform such other functions as are customary, or as may be directed by the Ministries Network or presbytery.
  - f. Shall be considered ex-officio member of all committees.
  - g. Shall devote full time to this office.
  - h. Shall participate in a ministry group.
2. Vacancy
- a. Should a vacancy occur in the office of network secretary through resignation, removal from the Ministries Network, death or disqualification, power is vested in the Network Presbytery to appoint an interim secretary to fulfill the duties of secretary until the next Ministries Network Summit at which time they shall present nominees to be voted on for this office.
  - b. In the event the vacancy occurs more than five months before the next regularly scheduled Ministries Network summit, the Board of Presbyters shall call a special Summit for the purpose of filling this office.
  - c. The person elected to fill this office shall fill the remainder of the unexpired term.
  - d. This office may be declared vacant by a two-thirds majority vote of the Network Presbytery in accordance with Bylaw Article IX.

#### ARTICLE IV. MINISTRIES NETWORK PRESBYTERS

##### Section A. Sectional Presbyters

1. Geographical Sections. The Ministries Network shall be divided into eleven geographical sections. The designated sections shall be numbered one to eleven. The boundaries of the geographical sections shall be set or changed by the Network Presbytery as the need may rise. There shall be a Network Presbyter nominated from each geographical section.
2. Section Caucus Voting Constituency. The voting constituency shall consist of the section members present and registered. This shall include all ordained, licensed and certified ministers and one delegate from each General Council affiliated church.
  - a. Any District-Supervised church, church plants governed by the District and Parent Affiliated churches with a membership of ten (10) or more shall be given the right of one delegate at Network and geographical section caucuses.
  - b. All delegates shall be at least 21 years of age and must be duly certified in writing by the church board.
  - c. Whenever possible, delegates should be members of the church other than the minister's immediate family.
3. Quorum. The voting members present at the section caucus shall constitute a quorum.

4. Qualifications. The network presbyters shall be individuals of mature experience and ability whose lives and ministry are above reproach, and who fully cooperate with all Ministries Network policies. They shall have held credentials and served as ordained ministers for at least one year in the Assemblies of God fellowship and shall have been members of the Ministries Network for at least one year and of the geographical section for at least six months prior to their election.
5. Nomination and Election. Nomination for each office shall be by secret ballot at a section caucus prior to the Ministries Network Summit. The electoral voting will follow the nominating ballot. The majority of the ballots cast shall constitute an election for the office of network presbyter. If there is no election after three electoral ballots, the top two names will be voted upon for an election. Sectional Presbyter shall take office immediately upon election.
6. Term of Office. The Ministries Network presbyters shall take office immediately upon election. The term of office shall run for three Ministries Network years. The terms for network presbyters shall be arranged in such a way that approximately one third of the positions are voted on at each Ministries Network Summit. No network presbyters shall succeed themselves after serving two consecutive terms. If a presbyter fulfills an unexpired term, they serve out that remaining term and are eligible for 1 additional 3-yr. term. If a presbyter fulfills a 1-yr. unexpired term, they serve out that term and are eligible for 2 additional 3-yr. terms.
7. Quorum. A majority of network presbyters assembled for a network presbyters meeting shall constitute a quorum.
8. Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy in the office of a network presbyter, the office shall be filled by nomination at a special called caucus of the geographical section, chaired by the network superintendent or his designee. The Network Presbyters at their next meeting shall vote to ratify the nominee. The newly ratified presbyter shall serve until the next Ministries Network Summit. He/she will be eligible to serve two consecutive full terms.
9. Duties in relation to the Ministries Network
  - a. The Ministries Network Presbytery shall promote the Ministries Network in its departmental activities.
  - b. They shall act as trustees of this Fellowship and shall have the general oversight of the activities of the same during the interim between Summit sessions.
  - c. They shall make plans for time and place of the Network Summit, camp meeting, ministers' retreat, and any other meetings deemed necessary in their respective section or ethnic/language fellowship.
  - d. They shall be authorized to act for the Fellowship in all matters that affect their interest while the Summit is not in session and shall make a report to the Ministries Network Summit as requested.
  - e. They shall provide for their own meetings and their decisions shall be final unless reversed by the Ministries Network Summit.
  - f. They shall annually review all salaries and expense support of the Network officials and those elected or hired to serve our constituency.
  - g. They shall arrange for vacations and Social Security benefits of the full-time Network officials and those elected or hired to serve our constituency.
  - h. The Network Presbytery shall fill all vacancies in accordance with the guidelines set forth in Bylaws Article III, Section D, 2 and Section E, 2 and Article IV, Section A, 8 and Section C, 3.
  - i. The Network Presbytery shall approve the minutes of Ministries Network Summit meetings before they are published.
10. Duties in relationship to the geographical section. They shall:
  - a. Provide opportunities for communication, encouragement and fellowship within their respective geographical sections.

- b. Call for section caucuses.
- c. Arrange and oversee the annual appointment interviews of Network affiliated church pastors.
- d. Serve as a member of the board of the Network affiliated churches within their section.
- e. Be available to assist, counsel and minister to the churches and ministers of the section.

### Section B. Non-geographical Presbyters

1. Staff Pastor Presbyter: There shall be a staff pastor presbyter elected from among the staff pastors of the Ministries Network.
  - a. Qualifications. Qualifications and term of office for this position shall be the same as Network Presbyters, with one additional qualification, that this presbyter be a pastor on staff at an established church in the Network.
    1. Staff pastors shall meet the same qualifications as geographic presbyters and shall have held credentials and served as ordained ministers for at least one year in the Assemblies of God fellowship and shall have been members of the Network for at least one year and a staff pastor for at least six months prior to their election.
    2. A staff pastor is not eligible for election if ~~the geographic presbyter is~~ *another minister from the same church where he/she serves is already a presbyter.*
    3. A senior pastor is not eligible for election if one of his/her staff is already serving as a presbyter.
    4. Non-geographical credential holders must be present at their caucus to be elected.
  - b. Quorum. The voting members present at the staff pastors group caucus shall constitute a quorum. The staff pastor caucus will include all ordained, licensed and certified staff pastors of the Network but will not include delegate voters.
  - c. Nomination and Election. Names of all ministers qualified to serve shall be presented at the caucus. Nominations shall be by secret ballot. The electoral voting will follow the nominating ballot. The majority of votes cast shall constitute an election. If there is no election after three electoral ballots, the top two names will be voted upon for an election. The Staff Pastor Presbyter shall take office immediately upon election.
  - d. Vacancies. In the event a non-geographical Network presbyter is not qualified to serve for any reason, including, but not limited to, discontinuation of involvement in their area of ministry, their position on the Network Presbytery board shall remain vacant until the next Ministries Network Summit.
2. Ethnic/Language Presbyter: There shall be one Ethnic/Language Group position established in order to foster the growth of ethnic/language group churches and fellowships.
  - a. Qualifications. Qualifications and term of office for this position shall be the same as network presbyters, with one additional qualification, that this presbyter be a member of a minority ethnic/language group which has established churches in the Ministries Network.
  - b. Duties. While serving as a voting member of the Network Presbytery, with all of the duties in relation to the Network of other network presbyters (Article IV, Section A.10), this presbyter will also provide advice and support in the following areas:
    1. Evangelizing ethnic/language groups in the Ministries Network;
    2. Mentoring pastors of ethnic/language group congregations;
    3. Encouraging independent ethnic/language group churches who share our doctrine to consider Assemblies of God affiliation;

4. Assisting section presbyters in dealing with issues concerning ethnic/language group pastors and churches;
  5. Assisting ethnic/language congregations in their relationships with the Ministries Network; and
  6. Helping all Ministries Network churches reach out to surrounding ethnic/language groups.
- c. Multi-Ethnic/Language Group Caucus Voting Constituency. The Ethnic/Language Group Presbyter shall be nominated by secret ballot at a Multi-Ethnic/Language Group Caucus formed for this purpose and chaired by the Director of Missions. The voting constituency of this caucus shall consist of all ordained, licensed, and certified ministers serving in churches with a majority of ethnic/language group members; one delegate from each of these churches with a membership of 10 or more; and credentialed ministers who through a U.S. Missions appointment or a Network para-church ministry serve populations consisting primarily of members of one or more of these ethnic/language groups.
- d. Quorum. The voting members present at the multi-ethnic/language group caucus shall constitute a quorum.
- e. Nomination and Election. Names of all ministers qualified to serve shall be presented at the caucus. Nominations shall be by secret ballot. The electoral voting will follow the nominating ballot. The majority of votes cast shall constitute an election. If there is no election after three electoral ballots, the top two names will be voted upon for an election. The Ethnic/Language Group Presbyter shall take office immediately upon election.
- f. Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Ethnic/Language Group Presbyter, the office shall remain vacant until the next Network Summit.
3. Ethnic/Language Fellowships. Ministries Network Ethnic/Language groups may form Network-recognized fellowships of churches if they are duly authorized. A duly authorized fellowship is one that has been endorsed by the General Council Executive Presbytery or by the Network Presbytery having met the criteria for ethnic/language groups. The fellowship shall exist for the purpose of exchanging information, facilitating evangelism and establishing churches in cooperation with the Network. Each ethnic/language fellowship must operate under Network approved Articles of Fellowship.

Each duly authorized ethnic/language fellowship having seven (7) or more General Council Affiliated churches shall be entitled to elect a Presbyter to serve on the Wisconsin/Northern Michigan Ministries Network Presbytery. The qualifications, election process, term of office, and duties for Ethnic/Language Presbyters shall be the same as for those Presbyters elected from the various geographic sections (See WNMD Bylaws, Article IV, Section A).

4. *Under 40 Presbyter: There shall be one Under 40 Presbyter position established in order to foster the growth of and relationships between The Network and Network ministers in their 20's and 30's.*
- a. *Qualifications. The qualifications for this position shall be the same as Network Presbyters (Article IV, Section A. 4), with one additional qualification, that this presbyter be in their 20's or 30's (under 40 years of age at time of election).*
  - b. *Duties. While serving as a voting member of the Network Presbytery, with all of the duties in relation to the Network of other Network Presbyters (Article IV, Section A. 9), this presbyter will also provide support to:*
    - i. *Network pastors and staff in their 20's and 30's;*
    - ii. *Network churches; and,*
    - iii. *Sectional presbyters in dealing with issues concerning those in their 20's and 30's.*
  - c. *Term of Office. The term of office for this position shall be the same as Network Presbyters (Article IV, Section A. 6).*



- d. *Under 40 Group Caucus Voting Constituency. The voting constituency shall consist of Under 40 group members present and registered. This shall include all ordained, licensed, and certified ministers.*
- e. *Quorum. The voting members present at the Under 40 group caucus shall constitute a quorum.*
- f. *Nomination and Election. Names of all ministers qualified to serve shall be presented at the caucus. Nominations shall be by secret ballot. The electoral voting will follow the nominating ballot. The majority of votes cast shall constitute an election. If there is no election after three electoral ballots, the top two names will be voted upon for an election.*
- g. *Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Under 40 Presbyter, the office shall remain vacant until the next Network Summit.*

#### Section C. Executive Presbyters

There shall be an Executive Presbytery comprised of the network superintendent, network secretary, assistant superintendent and two section presbyters elected at the Network Summit from the network presbyters. This Executive Body shall conduct the business of the Network when the Network Presbytery is not in session.

1. The two Presbyter members of the Executive Presbytery shall be elected by secret ballot at the Network summit, with the network presbyters serving as nominees. A simple majority of the votes cast shall constitute an election.
2. The two presbyter members of the Executive Presbytery shall take office immediately upon election at the Network Summit. Their term of office shall be for three Network Summit years.
4. If the presbyter member of the Executive Presbytery cannot continue to serve in his/her section for any reason including, but not limited to, the following: moves out of the section or Network, term expires, resigns, is disqualified, that position on the Executive Presbytery shall be declared vacant. The network presbyters shall be empowered to name another Presbyter to fill that position on a temporary basis until the next Network summit at which time a successor will be elected to serve.
  - a. The Executive Presbyters shall be empowered to supervise and have general oversight over all departments, committees, and finances of the Network during the interval between Summit sessions. They shall be authorized to act for the Fellowship in all matters that affect its interest while the Summit is not in session. The Executive Presbytery shall make a report of the Board of Presbyters at the regular or special board meeting called for that purpose. In all matters of great importance, the Executive Presbytery shall communicate with members of the Network Presbytery before any final action shall be taken. They shall not have power to annul or change any action or rules as passed by the Board of Presbyters or by the Council in its constitution and bylaws.

#### Section D. Ministry Groups

All presbyters will actively participate in a ministry group.

#### Section E. Presbyter Meetings

1. The Ministries Network board of presbyters, or any committee designated by the presbytery, may conduct meetings by way of an electronic meeting provided everyone who should be included in the meeting has been notified and has access to the electronic meeting.
2. Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the presbytery may be taken without a meeting if all members consent thereto in writing, and the writings are filed with the minutes of the

proceedings of the presbytery. This will include voting via email as long as all presbyters are given opportunity to vote.

3. The results of the vote will be recorded in the official minutes of the board of presbyters.

## ARTICLE V. OTHER MINISTRIES NETWORK POSITIONS

### Section A. General Council Non-Resident Executive Presbyter

1. At the Network Summit just prior to the General Council, two nominees from the Ministries Network shall be selected by a two-thirds majority of all votes cast, to be presented to the General Council along with nominees from other Districts in the north central section for election as non-resident Executive Presbyter. The network superintendent and the pastor of a local church shall be nominated by the network presbyters as the candidates from this Ministries Network. A two-thirds majority of all votes cast in the Network Summit constitutes an election.
2. The nominees must be ordained ministers of mature experience and ability, whose lives and ministries are above reproach, one of whom is not an elected full-time Ministries Network official.
3. At the Network Summit just prior to the General Council in the years applicable, the Network Summit shall select by simple majority of all votes cast one nominee of an ordained minister under 40 years of age (who will be under 40 at the time of election) and active in ministry, an ordained female active in ministry and an ordained African-American in active ministry. These nominees will be presented to the General Council along with nominees from other Districts in the North Central Region as candidates for non-resident Executive Presbyters.
4. Vacancy. Should the office of an incumbent non-resident Executive Presbyter from the WNMMN become vacant through death or other cause, the General Council Executive Presbytery shall fill the office by appointment until the next meeting of the General Council.

### Section B. General Presbyters

1. The WNMMN shall be represented in the General Presbytery, the official policy-making body of the General Council when it is not in session, by the network superintendent, the network assistant superintendent, and the network secretary. They shall represent the Fellowship in all phases of its work and interest in their respective field. In the event that the network assistant superintendent does not serve as the pastor of a local church, all of the eligible members of the Network Presbytery shall be placed in nomination for the office. Election shall be by secret ballot with a simple majority of all votes cast needed for election. The pastor representative shall take office immediately upon election by the Network Summit and shall serve a three-year term.
2. Duties (See General Council Bylaws, Article III, Section 9).
  - a. They are to represent the WNMMN at all General Presbytery meetings.
  - b. They shall actively participate in a ministry group.
3. At the Network Summit just prior to the General Council in the years applicable, the Network Summit shall select by simple majority of all votes cast one nominee of an ordained minister under 40 years of age (who will be under 40 at the time of election) and active in ministry and an ordained female active in ministry. These nominees will be presented to the General Council along with nominees from other Districts in the North Central Region as candidates for non-resident General Presbyters.
4. Vacancies. In the event a general presbyter shall move to another District or shall vacate this office

for any other reason, the Network Presbytery of the WNMMN shall appoint one of its members to serve as general presbyter until that office is filled at the next meeting of the Network Summit.

### Section C. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be appointed by the Network Presbytery on an annual basis.

#### 1. Duties:

- a. To be custodian of the Ministries Network funds.
- b. Shall keep an accurate record of all disbursements and receipts, and conduct the work of this office according to accepted methods of business.
- c. Shall give a report from time to time as may be requested by the Network Presbytery. These books shall be audited every other year, with an auditor's review on the other years unless requested by the network presbyters.
- d. Shall perform such other functions as are customary to this office, or as directed by the Ministries Network or presbytery.
  - (1) Shall be required to furnish a bond in such sum as the Network Presbytery may decide upon.
- e. Shall not be required to be an ordained minister or member of the ministry.
- f. To actively participate in a ministry group.

## ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES

### Section A. Standing Committees

Standing committees shall be established or appointed as necessity may indicate. They shall be appointed by the network superintendent in cooperation with the Network Presbytery, and the term of office shall continue from the date of appointment to the adjournment of the next regular meeting of the Network Summit, except as hereinafter provided for.

1. Parliamentary. The committee shall act during the Network Summit. A parliamentarian shall be appointed who shall act as chairperson of the committee from year to year to give uniformity to the procedures.
2. District Constitution and Bylaws.
3. The Credential Committee. The Network Presbytery and others they may designate shall constitute the Credentials Committee presided over by the network superintendent.

### Section B. Special Committees

Special committees may be created at the Network Summit in session or by the Network Presbytery between sessions as may be required.

## ARTICLE VII. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

### Section A. Classification of Local Assemblies

Churches shall be classified as follows:

1. General Council Affiliated Assemblies (see Section B).
2. District-Council Affiliated Assemblies (see Section B, Part 9 and Section C).
5. Parent Affiliated Churches (PACs) (see Section D).
6. Cooperating Assemblies (Section E).

#### Section B. General Council Affiliated Assemblies

##### 1. Qualifications for Recognition

- a. Minimum membership. An assembly must have the approval of the Ministries Network Presbytery to be set in order and must have a minimum of twenty (20) voting members. The financial status shall be seriously considered as to whether it is self supporting.
- b. Statement of Fundamental Truths. An acceptance of the Assemblies of God tenets of faith. (See General Council Constitution Article V.)
- c. Acceptable standards of membership. All true Pentecostal believers associating themselves in local bodies as assemblies and accepting their full share of responsibility for the maintaining of scriptural order in the local body shall have a standard for membership which may be determined either by the local assembly itself, or by agreement with the Ministries Network.
- d. Acceptable standards for church officers. A scriptural standard for deacons and other officers in positions of leadership in the local assembly. Since the New Testament restricts divorced and remarried believers from the church offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon, we recommend that this standard be upheld by all our assemblies (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Tim. 3:12), except when the divorce occurred prior to conversion (2 Cor. 5:17) or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matt. 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Cor 7:10-15). We recommend that all other opportunities for Christian service for which these believers may be qualified be made available to them (Gal. 6:1).
- e. Organization and recognition.
  - (1) Constitution and bylaws. An affiliated assembly shall be set in order under the jurisdiction of and/or with the approval of the Ministries Network, and with a Ministries Network recommended or approved constitution and bylaws.
  - (2) Incorporation. An affiliated assembly shall request assistance and guidance from the WNMMN for forming a proper religious non-profit corporation under the laws of the state. Particular attention shall be paid to include a reversionary clause.
- f. Membership certificate. Upon notification by the Ministries Network of the action, the general secretary's office shall issue a certificate of affiliation to each church coming into the Fellowship, and which has been approved for General Council affiliation.

##### 2. Prerogatives and Privileges

- a. Autonomy. The right of self-government, under Jesus Christ, its living Head, which includes the power to choose or call its pastor, elect its official board, and transact all other business pertaining to its life as a local unit.

- b. Available ministries. The right to request the assistance of the Ministries Network officary in filling a pastoral vacancy, and to benefit from other approved ministries.
  - c. Discipline. The right to administer discipline to its members according to the Scriptures and its bylaws.
  - d. Property. The right to acquire and hold title to property, either through trustees or in its corporate name as a self-governing unit.
  - e. Appeal
    - (1) To Ministries Network officary. The right of the pastor, the board, or the church body by petition to appeal to the Network officary for help when in need of counsel or advice.
    - (2) To General Council Executive Presbytery. The right to appeal from a decision by the Ministries Network officary to the Executive Presbytery of the General Council of the Assemblies of God when there is question whether or not the assembly has received proper help from the Ministries Network.
    - (3) To General Council General Presbytery. When exceptions are taken to the decisions of the General Council Executive Presbytery, either by the local assembly or by the Network Presbytery, appeal may be made to the General Presbytery.
  - f. Representation. The right of representation at the meetings of the General Council by one officially appointed and registered delegate, and at meetings of the Ministries Network Summit according to the provision for such. (See Bylaws Article I, Section E)
  - g. Other benefits. The right to benefit from approved General Council institutions such as colleges, divisional and departmental ministries, publications, etc.
3. Responsibilities. While the fact that a local assembly is affiliated in the association of a District Council of the General Council of the Assemblies of God shall in no wise destroy its rights as above stated or interfere with its sovereignty, there are certain responsibilities to the Fellowship that should be recognized.
- a. Adherence to General Council principles and doctrine. It shall be the duty of local assemblies to support by every means possible the basic principles upon which the Fellowship is founded, including that of "voluntary cooperation," and strict adherence to the Statement of Fundamental Truths.
  - b. Maintenance of scriptural order and conduct. Local assemblies shall accept their full share of responsibility for the maintenance of scriptural order in the local body, and uphold a scriptural standard of conduct.
  - c. World missions and world ministries support.
    - (1) World missions-support of missions. Local assemblies are expected to have an interest in the missionary enterprise, and to plan for regular contributions to its support, considering the General Council World Missions Plan. (See General Council Bylaws Article XIII.)
    - (2) World ministries giving-regular support of churches encouraged. In order to support and develop the work and ministries of the Assemblies of God at home and abroad, all its churches shall be encouraged to send offerings therefore at regular intervals. (See General Council Bylaws Article XIII, Section 5, Part b.)

- d. Annual reports. Each church of the Assemblies of God shall be requested to keep an up-to-date record of its membership and a report of the same shall be sent annually, on forms provided, to the office of the network secretary and the general council secretary.
- e. Safeguarding the assemblies from unapproved ministries.
  - (1) It is known that many unreliable and unsafe teachers and preachers go about seeking entrance into assemblies without any recommendation; therefore, all pastors, workers, and leaders of assemblies should make proper investigation regarding these persons not known to them, and the platform be denied strangers until proper recommendations be forthcoming.
  - (2) Since the use of non-Assemblies of God evangelists may bring confusion and problems detrimental to the Fellowship, it is recommended that Assemblies of God churches use Assemblies of God evangelists.
  - (3) The advice and counsel of the Network Presbytery should be sought in all matters of importance. Pastors, network presbyters, and network officials should maintain a reciprocal exchange of information relative to unreliable persons seeking ministry in our assemblies
- f. Transfer of local church membership.
  - (1) It is recommended that church members request a letter of introduction from the church of current membership and have it sent to the church with which they wish to affiliate.
  - (2) It is recommended that the receiving church shall give an acknowledgment of transfer to the former church.
- g. Support. It is recognized that for any organization to survive and serve effectively, it must have the moral and financial support of its constituency.
  - (1) Ministries Network. The entire Ministries Network program should be supported by the local assembly, and financial support should be according to the policies of the WNMMN. (See Bylaws Article XIV, Section A, Part 2).
  - (2) General Council. Logically, support of the General Council follows support of the District Council. If practicable, let each assembly take one offering each year for the national headquarters.

#### 4. Intervention of the Ministries Network in a Local Assembly

- a. Circumstances requiring intervention. While the right of a local assembly to self government is a basic General Council principle, it is also recognized that the assembly has a responsibility to the Ministries Network and General Council, and both have a responsibility to the assembly. Some of the circumstances which require intervention by the network officary are as follows:
  - (1) Division resulting in disruption.
  - (2) Assumption of dictatorial authority by the pastor to board.
  - (3) Prolonged absence of pastoral leadership.
  - (4) Deviation or departure from Assemblies of God principles and practices.
  - (5) Attempt to disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God Fellowship. An assembly desiring to withdraw from the Ministries Network must duly notify the network office two weeks before

such action is taken, so that the Ministries Network may be properly represented at such a meeting.

- b. Intervention Procedure. The Ministries Network has the right to meet with the board or congregation, or the network officary may be extended an invitation. This can come about in the following ways:
    - (1) By the request of the pastor.
    - (2) By action of the board.
    - (3) By petition of the congregation according to the bylaws provision.
  - c. In the event that a General Council affiliated assembly votes itself to come under Network supervision, the network superintendent, the network secretary, and the network presbyter of the respective geographical section shall act as the church board throughout the interim. The pastor and other church officers shall be appointed by this board. The church shall retain its General Council affiliated status, and all its General Council affiliated prerogatives which are not affected by action which called for network supervision. The length of time for network supervision shall be specified by congregational vote at said business meeting. No church will be considered under Network supervision until ratified by the Network Presbytery.
5. Discipline of Assemblies. Since the approval of an assembly is the prerogative of the District and General Councils, and is indicated by the issuance of appropriate certificates of affiliation, the WNMMN has the right to request a meeting with the assembly if for some valid reason its status is in question. The General Council of the Assemblies of God has the right to withdraw its certificate of membership if deemed necessary.
  6. New Assemblies Resulting from a Division
    - a. Criteria for recognition. When efforts to maintain union and harmony in an assembly have failed, and a division results in a new congregation being formed, the Ministries Network 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 network policy, the Ministries Network should seek to retain any meritorious group within the Assemblies of God.
    - b. Criteria for discipline of pastor who is involved. 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 Network Presbytery shall deal appropriately with him/her as provided in Article X, The Relationship Between the District and General Council Credentials Committees, Section 2, of the General Council Bylaws.
  7. Relocation of Assemblies. It is recommended that when a church located in a city which has more than one Assemblies of God church desires to relocate, they shall do so in consultation with the Network Presbytery and in consideration of the location of existing Assemblies of God churches in the proposed section.
  8. Private Ownership of Church Properties Disapproved. The General Council and Ministries Network disapprove of the ownership of any church properties by other than the entire church body through its duly elected trustees.
  9. Reversion of General Council-Affiliated Assembly to District-Supervised Status
    - a. When an annual questionnaire for a General Council-affiliated church reflects that its active

voting membership has dropped below twenty (20), the church shall be notified at the discretion of the Ministries Network officers that unless the membership is increased to a minimum requirement of twenty (20) active voting members within one (1) year, the church shall revert to District-Supervised status.

- b. When an assembly ceases to have qualified persons as defined in the "Recommended Church Bylaws" to serve on its official board, and/or when application becomes necessary for financial assistance, the church reverts to District-Supervised status.
- c. When a General Council-affiliated church reverts to District-Supervised status, the church shall be governed by the current WNMMN Class B bylaw for the local assembly.
- d. When such action is taken, the Ministries Network office shall notify the general secretary of the General Council and the local church.
- e. The church shall remain in a District-Supervised status until sufficient growth and maturity has been demonstrated to qualify for General Council affiliation. An application for same shall be filed with the network secretary and approved by the Network Presbytery.

### Section C. District Council Affiliated Assemblies

#### 1. District-Supervised

- a. Membership of Less Than Twenty (20) Adults. The preceding principles apply with the exception that a District Council affiliated assembly is one that has less than twenty (20) adult members.
- b. Other Requirements. The fact that an assembly shall have attained a membership of twenty (20) adults shall not in itself qualify it for General Council affiliation status, but the network officary shall make the judgment in the light of other factors related to its maturity.
- c. Degree of Supervision. The officers of the assembly shall be the pastor, the secretary of the board and others who will be designated by the Network Presbytery. Additional officers may be added from the congregation when feasible. The assembly shall be provided with a simplified constitution and bylaws that are approved by the Network Presbytery and adopted by the local congregation. The Network Presbytery shall supervise all District-Supervised churches. They shall appoint and re-appoint pastors annually.
- d. Title to the Property. All real property of the assembly shall be deeded to the assembly and held in its name, or if the church is not incorporated, by trustees and their successors in office. Until the time the church becomes General Council affiliated, no real property of the assembly shall be purchased, sold, leased, mortgaged, encumbered, or otherwise disposed of without the written consent of the Network Presbytery.
- e. Certificate of Affiliation. A Certificate of Affiliation will be issued by the Ministries Network to an assembly that qualifies for District affiliation.

#### 2. Church Plant Assemblies

- a. Churches classified as church plant assemblies shall be any new effort, having held public services for less than five years.
- b. They will be under the approval of the Network Presbytery and supervision of the Ministries Network missions committee. The network superintendent, the network missions director, the section presbyter, and the local pastor shall act as the board of directors and the board of trustees.



- c. Title to Property: All real property of the assembly shall be deeded to the assembly and held in its name or, if the church is not incorporated, by trustees and their successors in office. Until the time the church becomes a General Council affiliated assembly, no real property of the assembly shall be purchased, sold, leased, mortgaged, encumbered, or otherwise disposed of without the written consent of the Network Presbytery.
- d. Certificate of Affiliations. A Certificate of Affiliation will be issued by the Ministries Network to an assembly that qualifies for District affiliation.

#### Section D. Parent Affiliated Churches (PACs)

Provision shall be made for parent affiliated assemblies which shall be under the supervision of a parenting church, in accordance with the parenting church's constitution and bylaws.

#### Section E. Cooperating Assemblies

Cooperating Assembly is a church that subscribes to Article VI. Statement of Fundamental Truths of the District Council Constitution to enter into a cooperative status with a District 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.

### ARTICLE VIII. MINISTRY

#### Section A. Ministry Described

Christ's gifts to the Church include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (Eph. 4:11), exhorters, administrators, leaders and helpers (Rom. 12:7,8).

In terms of maturity of ministry, three classifications of ministry are recognized as follows:

1. Certified Ministers. Beginners and efficient helpers in gospel work, especially those who work under pastoral leadership and who devote a part of their time to Christian service.
2. Licensed Ministers. Those who give evidence of a divine call, who have had practical experience in preaching, and who give evidence of a purpose to devote their entire time to preaching the gospel.
3. Ordained Ministers. Those who are of mature experience, and who are qualified and able to undertake the responsibilities of the full gospel ministry, and whose ministries are acceptable generally.
4. A fourth classification of ministry, a local church credential, may be provided by a local General Council affiliated church under guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery.

#### Section B. Qualifications

1. General
  - a. Testimony to having experienced the new birth (John 3:5).
  - b. Testimony to having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues according to Acts 2:4.
  - c. Evidence of a divine call to the ministry, supported by a personal conviction, confirmed by the

work of the Spirit, and the testimony of fellow ministers.

- d. A Christian life above reproach having a good report of those within the church and those outside the body of Christ (Titus 1:7; 1 Tim. 3:7).
  - e. A thorough understanding of an agreement with our doctrinal position as contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.
  - f. A knowledge of the principles, practices and purposes of the Fellowship through a study of the General Council and Ministries Network constitutions and bylaws.
  - g. An active loyalty to our constitutional agreements, a cooperative spirit, and a readiness to seek and receive the counsel of mature fellow ministers and those in positions of authority.
  - h. Education requirements.
    - (1) An evident determination to study the Word of God, taking advantage of every means available for the improvement and development of one's ministry (2 Tim. 2:15). This includes Bible college training or the Berean College correspondence courses arranged by our Fellowship, and a consistent study of the Word of God and of good books.
    - (2) Any certain extent of academic education shall never be a requirement for credentials, but it shall be required of applicants that they take such reading courses and pass examinations as may be prescribed by the credentials committee of the Ministries Network in agreement with the credentials committee of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.
  - i. Marital status of persons receiving credentials from the WNMMN shall conform to the policies of the General Council in this regard.
  - j. Annulments. The Network Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant's annulment of a former marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the Fellowship. (See General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2, Part k.)
  - k. Women. The Bible repeatedly affirms that; God pours out His Spirit upon both men and women and thereby gifts both sexes for ministry in His Church. Therefore, we affirm the gifts of women in ministry and spiritual leadership.
  - l. Ministers from other organizations. The credentials committee is under no obligation to accept an applicant's previous ministerial status, but will judge candidates on their own merits in the light of Assemblies of God criteria. It is expected that ministers who receive Assemblies of God recognition will relinquish credentials received from any other organization.
  - m. Application for credentials. All applicants shall meet the requirements of the WNMMN in making application and in filling out the forms.
2. Certified Minister.
- a. General requirements. They shall show promise of usefulness in the gospel work. They shall devote full or part time to Christian ministry and, at the discretion of the Network credentials committee, may remain under the supervision of a pastor or a ministry coach or mentor. They shall show evidence of a divine call and be actively engaged in some aspect of ministry and proclamation of the gospel, except in case of ill health or advanced age.
  - b. Pastoral requirements. In the event a certified minister is serving in a position as the pastor, he shall be expected to advance to license to preach within two years of acceptance of the pastorate. This shall not apply to any minister who has reached the age of 65 or older, or whose

certificate has been issued on a provisional basis. Any exceptions shall be at the discretion of the Network credentials committee.

- c. Exception for provisional issuance. A certificate of ministry may be issued on a provisional basis to a person who has not met all the credentialing requirements but who is deemed by the Network credentials committee to be essential to the continuity of a church or a ministry outreach for which a duly credentialed and qualified minister is unavailable. The reason for such a provisional issuance must be ministry driven, and the justification for its use is terminated when the minister ceases to be involved in the ministry for which it was initially granted unless he accepts another qualifying assignment. Other limitations are:

- (1) The ministry certificate on a provisional basis will be issued for one year and shall not be renewed more than two times.

- (2) A person who has been granted the certificate of ministry on a provisional basis must meet the qualifications for a ministry certificate within a three-year period.

### 3. License.

- a. Preaching ministry.

- (1) Clear evidence of a divine call, character and preparation suitable for that calling, practical ministry experience, and an evident purpose to devote one's life in service to the proclamation of the gospel.

- (2) Conformity to such provisions is made for candidates by the General Council of the Assemblies of God in reading courses and other reading.

- (3) Women who have met these requirements may be licensed to preach the Word.

- b. A license credential may also be granted to those with an evident purpose to devote their time to a specialized ministry such as Christian education, youth, music or other ministries. The same spiritual qualifications shall apply as for any other credential.

### 4. Ordained Ministers. Qualifications for ordination are outlined in the New Testament Scriptures (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9).

- a. Applicants must be twenty-three (23) years of age or over.

- b. Ministers may not be ordained to the ministry until they have shown evidence of a divine call and have held a ministry license and shall have been actively engaged in ministry and proclamation of the gospel for at least two full consecutive years immediately prior thereto.

- c. They must be residents of the WNMMN and appear before its credentials committee.

- d. If they have been licensed in a District other than the WNMMN, they must be residents of the WNMMN at least one year, and meet the requirements and secure the endorsement of the officary of the District with which they were previously licensed before receiving ordination. (See General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 3, Part e, Paragraph (4).)

- e. Women who have met the requirements of the General Council may receive ordination.

- f. In order to maintain active status, ordained ministers shall be engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel except for cases of disability, retirement, or other valid circumstances as determined by the general secretary.

### Section C. Procedure for Ministerial Recognition

All credentials shall be issued under the auspices of the WNMMN. The Network credentials committee shall process applications, written examinations and interview the candidates seeking credentials and take appropriate action to provide credentials as qualified. All approved candidates for credentials are required to be present at the ordination service.

### Section D. Inactive Ministers

#### 1. Definition

- a. All ministers who shall withdraw from active ministry or shall cease to engage in pastoral, evangelistic, or other full-time ministry for a period of one year or more shall be expected to notify the Network office, which shall inform the General Secretary.

#### 2. Removal of Inactive Ministers from Ministerial List

- a. If such inactivity shall continue for a second year, their names shall be eliminated from the ministerial list.
- b. Exceptions. This shall not apply to those whose inactivity has been caused by the infirmity of old age or ill health; or those engaged in other aspects of full-time ministry, such as headquarters or Network workers, educators, ministers of music, ministers of youth, and ministers of Christian education.

#### 3. Restoration of Inactive Ministers to Active Status. Should the minister at any time return to active ministry, his or her name may be restored to the active list upon application bearing the endorsement of the Network officary.

### Section E. Responsibilities and Requirements

#### 1. Adherence to Sound Doctrine. A person who has a declared open change in doctrinal views inconsistent with our Statement of Fundamental Truths can no longer be eligible for endorsement as an Assemblies of God minister. The General Council has also declared itself in disapproval of the following doctrinal deviations:

- a. Unconditional security of the believer. (See General Council Bylaws Article IX, Part B, Section 1.)
- b. Legalism. (See General Council Bylaws Article IX, Part B, Section 2.)
- c. Eschatological errors. (See General Council Bylaws Article IX, Part B, Section 3.)

#### 2. Representation of Our Distinctive Pentecostal Testimony. It is expected that Assemblies of God ministers shall correctly and properly represent our distinctive Pentecostal testimony in teaching, practice and personal conduct.

#### 3. Cooperative Relationship to the General and District Councils. (See General Council Bylaws Article VI, Section 4 and General Council Constitution Article XI, Section 4.)

- a. Amenability and cooperation. (See General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 8, Part a.)
- b. Affiliation with District of residence. (See General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 8, Part b.)
- c. Exception. (See General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 8, subparagraph 1.)
- d. Ministry in a non-Assemblies church. (See General Council Bylaws Article IX, Section 9.)

- e. Attitude toward those removed from the Fellowship. (See General Council Bylaws Article IX, Section 10.)
4. Personal Conduct Separate From the World and Above Reproach. It is the responsibility of the minister to set the example and uphold the standard of scriptural conduct.
    - a. Non-conformity to the world. (See General Council Bylaws Article IX, Section 6.)
    - b. Ethical and responsible handling of personal finances. It is expected that ministers will live within their means and avoid the habit of running into debt which brings reproach upon the cause of Christ.
  5. Competent, Efficient and Effective Ministry. It is expected that any person holding Assemblies of God ministerial credentials shall give evidence of fruitfulness in ministry.
  6. Ministerial Ethics and Courtesy
    - a. In relation to pastors and assemblies. (See General Council Bylaws Article IX, Section 8.)
    - b. Ministers holding office in local assemblies. It is not deemed advisable for credential holders, other than the local pastors, to hold elected office in local assemblies.
    - c. In relation to privileged communications. (See General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 13.)
  7. Separation From Unscriptural Alliances. Membership in secret orders. (See General Council Bylaws Article IX, Section 4.)
  8. Financial Responsibility
    - a. To the General Council Headquarters. All credential holders will be expected to comply with the General Council bylaws regarding the payment of tithes/dues to the General Council.
    - b. To the Ministries Network. The Ministries Network office shall be supported by the pledges/dues of tithes and offerings from the constituency. The minimum pledge/dues from each ordained, licensed and certified minister shall be 100% of his/her tithes, from all sources of ministerial income. All credential holders shall be required to give a minimum of \$350 per year to the Ministries Network office regardless of source. The above rule shall not apply to senior retired ministers, to a credentialed ministers' spouse holding credentials who has no separate income, or to foreign missionaries and nationally appointed and/or approved home missionaries who must comply with the General Council requirements and to ministers who are on disability income. Ministers failing to support the Ministries Network shall be called by the Network Presbytery to explain their lack of cooperation.
    - c. Accountability. Ministers who have not complied with the financial policy of the General Council and the WNMMN shall send a statement of explanation with their annual questionnaire.

#### Section F. Transfer of Credentials

1. Certificate of Transfer. When member ministers take up residence in a District other than the WNMMN, a certificate of transfer shall be issued within sixty (60) days by the WNMMN to that District, unless there are definite charges against the minister. The certificate of transfer shall be accepted by the District into which they move. When a minister moves from another District to the WNMMN, it is expected that the certificate from that District will be received within sixty (60) days.

In order to assist a minister who is transferred into another District, a transcript giving helpful

information concerning the minister and spouse should accompany the certificate of transfer.

2. Exceptions. Exceptions may be made for the following:
  - a. Ministers moving to serve at General Council headquarters.
  - b. Those who are retired from active ministry.
  - c. Those who are in the armed forces currently on active duty.
  - d. Those who are serving on the faculties of our schools.
  - e. Students in schools outside of their home districts.

#### Section G. Termination of Credentials (Non-Disciplinary)

1. Categories
  - a. Resigned. Ministers who have elected to remove themselves from the Fellowship, and against whom there are no charges filed.
  - b. Lapsed. Those who elect or fail to renew their credentials by the specified time. (See General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 11, part a, subparagraph (1).)
  - c. Removal from ministerial list due to insufficient active ministry. These names are eliminated from the ministerial list. (See Bylaws Article VII, Section 6, part b, subparagraph (2).)
2. Responsibility of Credentials Committee
  - a. Investigation. Before final action in terminating a minister's credentials shall have been taken by either the WNMMN or General Councils credentials committee, due investigation shall be made as to whether there is any cause for disciplinary action.
  - b. Approval of termination. If the minister shall be found to be in good standing, the termination shall be approved.
  - c. Cause for disciplinary action. In case the evidence warrants contrary action, the minister shall be advised of the findings and appropriate disciplinary action shall be taken.
  - d. Surrender of credentials. In all cases of termination of current credentials (certificate of ordination, license to preach, certificate of ministry), the minister shall be requested by the WNMMN to surrender these. Credentials thus surrendered shall be forwarded to the General Secretary's office. Refusal to surrender a credential certificate and current fellowship certificate shall be considered insubordination and may result in placing a charge against the minister.
  - e. Notification of action. It shall be the responsibility of the WNMMN officary to notify the office of the General Secretary of actions taken in the termination of ordained and licensed ministers and to fill out and send to that office a ministerial status report form. All information pertaining to the disciplinary action taken against a minister shall be preserved for future reference in the office of the credentials committee of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.
  - f. Publication of termination. The names of ordained ministers who are "lapsed" or who have "resigned" shall be so indicated and published in the minister's letter from the General Council headquarters.

#### Section H. Senior Retired Ministers

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

#### 1. Terminology

- a. The term senior-active shall be used for credential holders who continue to serve more than half-time in the ministry.
- b. The term senior semi-retired shall be used for credential holders who continue to be active, but for half-time or less.
- c. The term senior-retired shall be used for those who have ceased to engage in any regular appointed ministry.

2. Application for Recognition as Being Senior-Active, Semi-retired or Retired. Senior semi-retired and senior-retired status shall be granted only to those ministers who file a request for such status with their Ministries Network office. The network secretary shall forward annually to the General Secretary a list of those ministers who have made these requests.

#### 3. Guidelines

- a. Reports. Senior-active and senior semi-retired ministers shall continue to file their annual reports and pay the General Council portion of their tithes in the regular manner. Senior-retired ministers shall file an abbreviated report to maintain a correct address file for mail and insurance purposes.
- b. Source of income. These designations and guidelines shall apply regardless of whether the senior minister's income is from ministry, investments or other employment.
- c. Designation in publications. No distinguishing mark shall accompany the list of senior-active in the official publications of the Assemblies of God, but may be so indicated in the working lists used for insurance and retirement purposes. Senior semi-retired and senior-retired ministers shall have this status appropriately indicated in the official list of Assemblies of God ministers.
- d. Support of General Council headquarters. Senior-active and senior semi-retired ministers shall continue to designate ten dollars (\$10) monthly to the support of the General Council headquarters. Senior-retired ministers shall be free to distribute as they desire the portion of their tithes previously paid to the General Council.

#### 4. Support of the Ministries Network.

- a. Senior-active and senior semi-retired shall support the Ministries Network office according to regular Ministries Network policy.
- b. Senior-retired ministers shall be free to distribute their tithe as they desire.

### Section I. Divorce and Remarriage

1. Local Church Standards. Since it will be largely the responsibility of the ministry to maintain scriptural standards, this section is included under Article VII, Section 2 Paragraph 1, part d.

- a. Membership for those having marriage entanglements previous to conversion. There are now among Christian people those who become entangled in their marriage relations in their former lives of sin who do not see how these matters can be adjusted. We recommend that these

persons be received into the membership of local assemblies and that their marriage complications be left in the hands of the Lord (1 Cor. 7:17, 20, 24).

- b. Common-law marriages. We recommend that in no case shall persons be accepted into membership who are known to be living in common-law state of matrimony.
  - c. Remarriage. Low standards on marriage and divorce are very hurtful to individuals, to the family, and to the cause of Christ. Therefore, we discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching. We positively disapprove of Christians getting divorces for any cause except fornication and adultery (Matt. 19:9). Where these exceptional circumstances exist or when a Christian has been divorced by an unbeliever, we recommend that the question of remarriage be resolved by believers as they walk in the light of God's Word (1 Cor. 7:15, 27, 28).
  - d. Local church leadership. We recommend that divorced and remarried believers be restricted from serving in the office of deacon (Titus 1:5–9; 1 Tim. 3:12), except when the divorce occurred prior to conversion (2 Cor. 5:17) or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matt. 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Cor 7:10–15).
2. Standards for the Ministry.
- a. Ministerial credentials. It is not permitted for any married minister of the Assemblies of God to hold credentials if either minister or spouse has a former spouse living unless the divorce occurred prior to conversion (2 Cor. 5:17) or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matt. 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Cor. 7:10–15).
  - b. Performing marriage ceremonies. We disapprove of any Assemblies of God minister performing a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former companion is still living, unless their case is included in the exceptional circumstances described in Article VIII, Section I, Part 1, Paragraphs a, c of these bylaws. Any minister of our Fellowship who performs a ceremony for such a marriage, unless they have been innocently deceived into doing so, may be dismissed from the Fellowship. Assemblies of God ministers shall not be permitted to perform marriages involving divorced persons of other Assemblies of God churches without consultation with the pastor of the other church. We realize that the remarrying of such persons included in the exceptive circumstances as stated could violate the conscience of a minister, and if this should be the case, the minister should not be expected to perform such ceremonies. Assemblies of God ministers are required to counsel applicants for marriage ceremonies with scriptural guidelines for Christian marriage prior to the performing of the ceremony. They may not perform ceremonies for persons who, in the minister's opinion, approach marriage without proper forethought, wisdom, and sobriety.

#### Section J. Abuses of Stewardship

See General Council Bylaws Article IX, Part B, Section 7.

### ARTICLE IX. DISCIPLINE

Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible. The aims are that God may be honored, that the purity and welfare of the ministry may be maintained and that those under discipline may be brought to repentance and restoration.

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



Violation of Assemblies of God principles as stated in these constitution and bylaws may give cause for disciplinary action by the Credentials Committee. Among such causes for action shall be:

1. Any conduct unbecoming to a minister or indiscretions involving morals.
2. General inefficiency in the ministry.
3. A failure or inability to represent our Pentecostal testimony correctly.
4. A contentious or non-cooperative spirit.
5. An assumption of dictatorial authority over an assembly.
6. An arbitrary rejection of Network counsel.
7. A declared open change in doctrinal views.
8. A habit of running into debt which brings reproach upon the cause.
9. A marriage in violation of our stand on marriage and divorce. (See Bylaws Article VIII, Section I, Part 2, Paragraph b.)
10. Violations of ministerial courtesy. (See Bylaws Article VIII, Section E, Part 6.)
11. Ministry without prior approval in a non-Assemblies church. (See Bylaws Article VIII, Section E, Part 3, Paragraph d.)
12. An improper attitude toward those dismissed from the Fellowship. (See Bylaws Article VIII, Section E, Part 3, Paragraph e.)

For complete details on discipline, see General Council Bylaws Article X.

#### ARTICLE X. DEPARTMENTAL MINISTRIES

The Network Presbytery upon recommendation of the network superintendent shall create such Network ministries, departments and leadership positions as deemed necessary. Directives for these ministries shall be defined in the Network Ministries Operational Manual.

#### ARTICLE XI. INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

##### Section A. North Central University

1. The WNMMN recognizes the need of practical training of prospective ministers and missionaries. It is in hearty sympathy with every effort to provide such training where the standards of teaching and discipline maintained in the school are satisfactory.
2. Inasmuch as the Ministries Network is sharing in the ownership and management of North Central Bible College in Minneapolis, Minnesota, we should promote its advancement in our Ministries Network.
3. It is strongly recommended that the churches in our Ministries Network write North Central University into their annual budget.
4. Board of Regents

- a. North Central University. In addition to the Network superintendent who by virtue of office is a member of the Board of Regents of North Central University, the Network superintendent shall appoint one ordained minister and one layperson from the WNMMN to the above Board of Regents for the term of two years, said appointment to be ratified by the Board of Presbyters.

#### Section B. Institute for Ministry Development

The WNMMN endorses the Institute for Ministry Development (formerly known as Black Hills Indian Bible College) in its efforts to train leadership for ministry to Native Americans.

#### Section C. General Council Approved Schools

The WNMMN shall be in cooperative fellowship with schools endorsed by the General Council.

#### Section D. Other Institutions

The WNMMN shall be in sympathy with the establishing and maintaining of homes for children and the aged and for retired ministers and missionaries, and all humanitarian and educational work that shall be for the betterment of humanity.

### ARTICLE XII. CAMPS

The Ministries Network shall offer camp ministries to our fellowship through the efforts of Spencer Lake Christian Center and Assembly Park Camp whose facilities are owned and operated by the WNMMN.

Directives for camp ministries are defined in the Network Department Policy Manual.

### ARTICLE XIII. DISTRICT PROPERTIES AND TRUSTEES

1. The Network Presbytery shall be the legal custodians and trustees of all property, real and personal, now owned or hereafter acquired in its corporate name or which property may be or become a part of the assets of said Ministries Network.
2. All such property, real or personal, owned or hereafter acquired by the Ministries Network shall be taken, held, possessed, sold, transferred, assigned, mortgaged, or conveyed in the corporate name of the WNMD of the Assemblies of God.
3. No property, real or personal, shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without the same shall have first been recommended and approved by a vote of at least two-thirds of the Network Presbytery.
4. In making any such conveyance or transfer of mortgage, the network superintendent and the network secretary shall be the officers authorized to sign such legal documents and shall certify in such instrument of conveyance that the same has been duly recommended and authorized. If the Board of Presbyters deem it advisable in certain instances, they may appoint some other member of the presbytery to sign such legal paper.
5. Any property, real or personal, heretofore held in the corporate name of said District Council or in the name of its Executive officers, which may have been heretofore sold, transferred, mortgaged, or conveyed and where said instrument of conveyance has been in substantial compliance with the foregoing is hereby ratified, confirmed, and in all respects approved.

### ARTICLE XIV. FINANCES

#### Section A. General Fund

1. Ministerial support. (See Bylaws Article VIII, Section E, Part 9.)
2. Assembly support. Two percent of the general fund income of the churches shall be solicited for Ministries Network advancement and administration.

#### ARTICLE XV. PUBLICATIONS

1. The Ministries Network shall support all General Council papers and publications, network paper and other network departmental publications as deemed necessary, which will meet a manifest need in the work of our Ministries Network.
2. The publishing of the network paper shall be under the supervision of the Network Presbytery.
3. The Network Presbytery shall appoint the editor.

#### ARTICLE XVI. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the bylaws may be made at any regular or special meeting of the Ministries Network Summit. A two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be necessary for adoption.

NOTE: All references to the General Council Constitution and Bylaws are taken from the 2009 edition.