

Constitution & Bylaws

as of March 6, 2022



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CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this church shall be "Cedar Valley Church," Bloomington, Minnesota.

ARTICLE II. AFFILIATION

While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, this assembly shall voluntarily enter into full cooperative fellowship with assemblies of like precious faith associated in the Minnesota District Council and the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoyed by that affiliation.

ARTICLE III. PREROGATIVES

Sec. 1. Right to Govern

(a) This assembly shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures, "endeavoring 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 4:3, 13).

(b) This assembly shall be governed by an elected board of directors hereinafter known as the Elder Board.

Sec. 2. Right to Own Property

In connection therewith, or incidental thereto, it shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes, all in accordance with its Constitution and Bylaws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

Sec. 3. Disposal of Property on Division

In case of division, church property shall belong to the members holding to the Tenets of Faith as described in Article IV of this Constitution.

Sec. 4. Disposal of Property on Termination

In case the congregation should cease to exist as a church body, and cease to use their property for church purposes, then the property is to revert to and become the property of the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God, an incorporated religious body, with headquarters in Minneapolis, Minnesota, with full authority to sell this property or use it in any way they see fit, for the cause of Christ.

ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH

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

Sec. 1. Inspired Scriptures

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).

Sec. 2. One True God

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

The Adorable Godhead

- (a) Terms defined: The terms "Trinity" and "Persons" as related to the Godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from "gods many and lords many." We, therefore, may speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is One Lord, as a Trinity or as one Being of three Persons, and still be absolutely scriptural (examples, Matthew 28:19; 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 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, neither 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 1:1–7; 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 only Begotten of the Father, but as to His human nature, He is the proper Son of Man. He is, therefore, acknowledged to 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 7:3; 1:1–13).
- (h) Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ: Wherefore, it is a transgression of the Doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title, Son of God, solely from the fact of the Incarnation, or because of His relationship 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; Proverbs 30:4).
- (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 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).

Sec. 3. 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; Hebrews 1:3).

Sec. 4. 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).

Sec. 5. 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 by 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 increasing righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12; 2 Peter 1:5–9).

Sec. 6. Ordinances of the Church

- (a) Baptism in Water: The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus, they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47–48; Romans 6:4).
- (b) Holy Communion: The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements of the bread and the fruit of the vine (grape juice), 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 comes!"

Sec. 7. 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 24:29; Acts 1:4–5, 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 4:43; 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).

Sec. 8. 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, 28–31), but different in purpose and use.

Sec. 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). The Scriptures teach a life of holiness without which no man shall see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are able to obey the command: "Be 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; 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; Philipians 2:12–13; 1 Peter 1:5).

Sec. 10. The Church

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

Sec. 11. Ministry

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

Sec. 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).

Sec. 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).

Sec. 14. 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 the 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; Psalms 72:3–8; Micah 4:3–4).

Sec. 15. 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 burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death" (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43–48; Revelation 9:20; 20:11–15; 21:8).

Sec. 16. New Heaven and the New Earth

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

Sec. 17. Marriage

We believe that marriage is a covenant sanctioned by God to join one biologically born man (husband) and one biologically born woman (wife) in a single, exclusive, holy union. We believe the Church is charged with upholding and protecting God's original design for marriage as it portrays Jesus' relationship with His bride, the Church. We believe that God created sex to be between a husband and wife, and as a result, all forms of sexual

immorality such as adultery, fornication, homosexual/bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and pornography are sinful as they oppose God's perfect design (Genesis 2:24, Ephesians 5:31-32, Matthew 19:6, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:18, Hebrews 13:4, Jude 1:7).

Sec. 18. Sanctity of Human Life and Gender

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God. From conception, all humans are eternal beings that will live forever. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, those with physical and mental disabilities, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Jeremiah 1:5, Psalm 139:13-16, Psalm 127:3, Luke 12:6-7). We believe God intentionally and purposefully designed each person to be a particular gender as evidenced at birth or at the chromosomal level (when necessary), and that any disagreement with or attempt to change one's biological gender is a form of sexual immorality and is sexually immoral as they oppose God's perfect design (Genesis 5:2, Genesis 1:27, Psalm 139:13, Jeremiah 1:5).

Sec. 19. Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct

The above Tenets of Faith do not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Cedar Valley Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Elder Board is the final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

ARTICLE V. ORDINANCES

Sec. 1. Baptism in Water

The ordinance of baptism by immersion in water (Matthew 28:19) shall be administered to all those who have repented of their sins and who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls, and who give clear evidence of their salvation (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12).

Sec. 2. The Lord's Supper

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly as enjoined in the Scriptures (Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

ARTICLE VI. OTHER MINISTRIES

Sec. 1. Dedication of Infants

Infants and children may be dedicated to the Lord upon request (Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-16).

Sec. 2. The Sick

The sick shall be ministered unto according to Mark 16:18 and James 5:14.

ARTICLE VII. FINANCES

All funds for the maintenance of the assembly shall be provided by the voluntary giving of tithes and offerings by the members and friends of the organization. Offerings shall be accepted by the assembly at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the Elder Board and shall be administered by the treasurer under their direction (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

ARTICLE VIII. MEMBERSHIP

Persons who give scriptural evidence of saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and voluntarily subscribe to its tenets of faith, and agree to be governed by its constitution and bylaws as herein set forth, shall be eligible for membership in this church.

ARTICLE IX. GOVERNMENT AND OFFICERS

Sec. 1. Officers

The officers of the corporation shall be president, secretary, and treasurer, who shall, by virtue of office, be members of the Elder Board. Other officers may be added as needed.

Sec. 2. Responsibility for Church Government

All matters of church government shall be carried on by the Elder Board except in matters affecting the entire body. In such cases they shall present their recommendations to the church for ratification.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended or changed by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the assembly who are in attendance at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made for at least 14 days immediately preceding the time of each meeting.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1. Qualifications

Those eligible for membership in this Assembly must:

- (a) Be born again and declare Jesus is Lord. (John 1:12, 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:18-25; Romans 10:9).

- (b) Be baptized in water by immersion except where deemed physically impossible. (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47–48; Romans 6:4–6).
- (c) Be baptized in the Holy Spirit with the physical evidence of speaking in tongues, or earnestly seeking thereafter, according to Acts 2:4.
- (d) Give evidence of a consistent Christian life in line with moral principles of Scripture (Exodus 20:17; Matthew 5, 6, 7; Romans 6:4; 8:1–4; 13:13–14; 1 Corinthians 6; Galatians 5:19–25; Ephesians 4:17–5:21; 1 John 1:6–7). Scripture encourages openness, trust, patience, generosity, courage, and a forgiving spirit. Given the atmosphere where such attitudes prevail, destructive forces such as resentment, hypocrisy, and harmful discrimination (based on race, sex, or economic status) are overcome. The Bible prohibits specific acts such as stealing, all forms of dishonesty, profane language, gossip, sexual abuses (such as premarital sex, adultery, and homosexual behavior), physical abuse, and occult practices. The Word of God teaches the sacredness of human life and therefore opposes abortion. We know that, finally, we are responsible to God as individuals to control our actions and attitudes in ways consistent with His righteousness and love.
- (e) Refrain from being a stumbling block, which may cause some to fall. (Romans 14:1–15; 1 Corinthians 8:10–13; 10:32–11:1). Be responsible to make a serious effort to live by standards which are implied by Scripture and are beneficial for relationship together in a Christian community. Careful Christian judgment must always be exercised in regard to reading matter, movies, music, television viewing, and other forms of entertainment.
- (f) Contribute regularly to the financial support of this Assembly with tithes and offerings (Proverbs 3:9–10; Malachi 3:8–11; 1 Corinthians 16:1–2; Leviticus 27:30–32).
- (g) Fully subscribe to all the Tenets of Faith as set forth in Article IV of the Constitution.
- (h) Be at least eighteen years of age.
- (i) Give evidence of a consistent Christian life, even though the person's life may have been complicated by divorce and remarriage. Because circumstances are different in each case, a judgment for membership eligibility should be made on an individual basis by the Elder Board, based on Scripture. (1 Corinthians 7:15, 17, 20, 24, 27–28; Matthew 19:9).

Sec. 2. Types of Membership

- (a) Active Member: All those who meet the Scriptural standards of membership, whose names appeared on the original membership roll of the assembly at the time the assembly was first organized, together with those names which shall be added from time to time, shall constitute the legal voting membership of the

assembly, provided they regularly attend and take part in the services, live consistent Christian lives, and are in agreement with our distinctive testimony.

- (b) Inactive Member: Enrolled members who shall, without good cause, absent themselves from the services of the assembly for a period of three consecutive months or more, or who cease to contribute of their means to its support, or who may be out of harmony with its teachings or its ministries, or who shall be under charges for misconduct, or who may have fallen under condemnation through sinful or worldly practices, shall be considered as inactive members and shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to the fellowship, their standing to be settled by the definite action of the assembly through its elected officers.
- (c) Honorary Member: Honorary membership shall consist of those members who have entered into the ministry either as district officers, pastors, evangelists, missionaries, religious educators, etc. together with those who are serving with the armed forces or attending college away from home, which makes it impossible to serve as active members; additionally, shut-ins and members in good standing who have moved from the area. Honorary membership shall continue as long as the members maintain a cooperative attitude toward the home assembly. Voting privileges may be granted at the discretion of the assembly through the Elder Board.

Sec. 3. Reception of Members

- (a) Persons desiring to become active members of the assembly must attend membership class after which their names shall be presented to the pastor who, with the Elder Board members, shall examine the applicant according to the standard for membership.
- (b) The pastor shall present the names of those being recommended for membership to the Elder Board. All persons who shall have met the membership requirements and have been acted on favorably shall be received into the assembly publicly at any of the regular services and their names inscribed on the roster.
- (c) It is recommended that reception of members from other Assemblies of God churches include a letter of transfer.

Sec. 4. Discipline

- (a) Any member of the assembly who shall be willfully absent from the regular services for a period of three consecutive months, unless such person's name is retained by special request, or who shall be under charges, may be temporarily suspended from active voting membership pending investigation and final decision.
- (b) Unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith held by this assembly shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any person may be

disqualified as a member (Matthew 18:15–18; Romans 16:17–18; 1 Corinthians 5:11; Galatians 1:8–9; Titus 3:1–15).

- (c) If any member of this church shall, in the opinion of the Elder Board, fall below the standard of membership as stated above in faith or practice, they may recommend that the Elder Board terminate this person's membership in this church and remove this person's name from the membership list. It is understood that no such action shall be taken unless and until patient and persistent effort shall have been made to win such an individual back to the standard of faith and conduct of this church. If any individual removed from membership shall protest the action of the Elder Board in the matter, this person shall be entitled to a hearing before the church. The action of the assembly, by a majority vote, shall be considered final.

Sec. 5. Transfer or Withdrawal

Members who may wish to sever their relationship with the assembly may apply for a letter of transfer or withdrawal. A letter of transfer shall be addressed to the pastor and secretary of the receiving church and shall state whether the member is in good standing in the local assembly. If such person is not in good standing, reasons for the unfavorable rating shall be indicated.

Sec. 6. Revision of Membership Roll

The pastor and the Elder Board shall be authorized to revise the membership roll of the assembly periodically and to remove from the list of active members all names of those who may have become deceased during the year, together with the names of those who may have withdrawn from the fellowship or who may have fallen into sin and whose lives may have become inconsistent with the standards and teachings of the assembly. If a name is removed for cause, the one whose name is removed shall be notified of the action by the pastor and the Elder Board through the secretary. If appeal is made to the Elder Board for reconsideration of their action and reinstatement is not granted, the dismissed member may appeal to the congregation. The action of the assembly, by a majority vote, shall be considered final (Matthew 18:15–17; Romans 16:17–18; 1 Corinthians 5:1–5; 2 Thessalonians 3:6–15).

ARTICLE II. OFFICES

Sec. 1. Lead Pastor

- (a) Duties: The assembly finds its headship, under the Lord Jesus Christ, in its lead pastor, who will be honored in the sacred office as the spiritual overseer of the assembly and shall be general supervisor of all its activities. The lead pastor shall be the president of the corporation, chairman of the Elder Board, and shall act as chairman of all the business meetings of the assembly. The lead pastor shall be an ex officio member of all committees and departments and provide for all the services of the assembly and arrange for all special meetings, giving due regard to the assembly. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the assembly without the lead pastor's approval.

- (b) Qualifications: The lead pastor shall be a member in good standing with the General Council and the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God and shall comply with the Scriptural standards as outlined in Article IV of the Constitution and in 1 Timothy 3:2–7; Titus 1:6–9; 1 Peter 5:2–3.

Sec. 2. Associate Pastor

- (a) Duties: The assembly will honor the associate pastor in the assignment of duties given by the pastor. In the event the assembly is temporarily without a pastor, the associate pastor, upon approval of the Elder Board, may fulfill the duties of the pastor, except being chairman of the Elder Board, which is empowered under Article II, Sec. 3(a), in providing its own chairman. The associate pastor will be appointed by the pastor subject to the approval of the Elder Board.
- (b) Qualification: The associate pastor's qualifications shall be the same as the pastor's, found in Article II, Sec. 1(b).

Sec. 3. Elder Board

- (a) Duties: The Elder Board shall assist the pastor in both the spiritual and physical administration of the church. They shall also perform the duties and functions of Elders and custodians of all the church's property and shall be responsible for its maintenance and cleanliness. They shall serve the assembly in the acquiring and selling of property as outlined in Article V of these Bylaws. The Elder Board shall act upon applications for membership upon the recommendation of the pastor as described in Article I, Sec. 3, of these Bylaws. They shall also assist in the administration of discipline as outlined in Article I, Sec. 4, of these Bylaws. In the event that the assembly is temporarily without a pastor, the Elder Board shall be empowered to provide for its own chairman from its membership in order to transact business.
- (b) Qualification: Elders shall be church members of good report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. Their lives and conduct shall conform to these scriptures: 1 Timothy 3:2–7; Titus 1:6–9; 1 Peter 5:2–3. They shall have been an active voting member of the assembly for at least one year. Except for pastoral staff appointed to the Elder Board on an ex officio basis, a member of the pastoral or support staff, and their spouses, whether paid or unpaid, shall not be on the Elder Board.
- (c) Number: The Elder Board shall consist of its chairman and at least seven, but not more than nine, elected members.

Sec. 4. Secretary

Duties: The Secretary shall, by virtue of office, be a member of the Elder Board, and keep minutes of the official meetings of the Board as well as the annual and special meetings of the church. The Secretary shall keep a record of the

membership of the church, perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of official duties, and have charge of all legal documents.

Sec. 5. Treasurer

- (a) Duties: As long as the church retains paid accounting staff, the treasurer shall, by virtue of office, be a member of the Elder Board. Duties of the Treasurer will include oversight of the church's finances including monthly review of the income/expense and balance sheet statements, discussion of material financial activities with staff, assist with the annual budgeting process and general assistance, as needed. The Treasurer will assist with all debt instruments, approve necessary financial documents, and assist with approval of the annual financial audits. In addition, the Treasurer, or designee, will provide a monthly overview of the financial condition of the church to the Elder Board and a summary overview at the annual membership meeting.
- (b) Qualifications: The Treasurer shall be one possessing a well-qualified understanding of financial statements, budgeting processes, and general financial matters. If no Board member is so qualified, a financial secretary may be appointed by the Board. In no event shall such financial secretary be a staff member of the church.

ARTICLE III. VACANCIES AND ELECTIONS

Sec. 1. Secret Ballot

All elections shall be by secret ballot.

Sec. 2 Lead Pastor

- (a) The Lead Pastor shall be elected by the church at a special meeting called for that purpose, pursuant to the steps as outlined in Article VI, Sec. 1. A two-thirds majority of the votes cast shall elect the pastor to a first term of approximately four (4) years.
- (b) The first term of office shall be at least 40 months, but shall not exceed 52 months, in order to coincide with the annual business meeting. A two-thirds majority of votes cast by members present at that meeting shall elect the lead pastor for an indefinite term.
- (c) If at any time, a situation should arise where, due to unscriptural conduct, a change in doctrinal views, or inefficiency, a pastor can no longer serve the church acceptably, it shall be the duty of the Elder Board to require the pastor's resignation by at least a two-thirds vote of the Elder board.
- (d) Should the pastor wish to appeal the decision of the board, the pastor must notify the Elders in writing within 30 days of their removal action. The Elders must then call a special meeting of the congregation. A motion must then be introduced, discussed, and passed by at least a two-thirds majority of members

present to sustain the decision of the Elder Board. Should the motion fail to gain sufficient support, the pastor must be reinstated as of the date of the vote.

- (e) Termination action on the part of the church is not to be considered as affecting the standing of the pastor with the General Council of the Assemblies of God fellowship.

Sec. 3. Elder Board

- (a) Elder Board members shall be selected by lot from those ratified in accordance with Article III, Section 3 (e), which shall take place at the regular annual business meeting. The term of office shall be for three years and arranged as near as possible so that one third of the terms shall expire each year.
- (b) Vacancies shall be filled by action of the assembly at the annual business meeting or special meeting called for that purpose. The time of office shall not exceed one (1) full term, after which a one-year (1 yr.) leave must be taken before being eligible for re-election. When elected to fulfill an unexpired term of one year or less, the member shall be eligible for re-election.
- (c) A nominating committee shall be appointed by the Elder Board to provide a list of not more than four (4) candidates per vacancy in order to fill all vacancies. This nominating committee shall consist of at least five, but not more than eight, church members with possible representation from all age groups and from any campus location, in addition to the Lead Pastor, who shall be an ex-officio member of the committee. At least one, but not more than two, members of this committee shall be from the Elder Board. Nominating committee members shall be provided a written explanation of the Scriptural references regarding the qualifications of an Elder Board member and a list of the membership at least two weeks prior to the committee meeting. Nominating committee members' names shall be posted by church publication or announcement for at least two weeks before nominees are selected, to allow input from interested members of the assembly. There shall be no nominations from the floor. All nominations shall be reviewed by the Elder Board.
- (d) The nominating committee shall review qualifications of the candidates whose names will be placed on the ballot. The candidates' names will be posted by church publication or announcement for at least two Sundays before the annual business meeting.
- (e) The nominating committee shall provide a ballot containing all nominees to the Church membership for a vote confirming whether each nominee is qualified to become a member of the Elder Board. Each nominee must receive an 80% "Yes" vote to be considered as qualified. The percentage is determined for each individual nominee based on the actual number of votes cast for or against that individual alone. A "blank" vote or "non-vote" shall not be counted as a "Yes" or "No" vote and shall not be included in the calculation of the percentage for that nominee. All nominees whose qualifications are confirmed shall have their names placed in a suitable

container and the Church Secretary, or other designated person, shall, under the observation of the membership, draw names from that container for the selection of the Elder Board members. When all the terms are not for the same duration the longer terms of office shall be first selected.

Sec. 4. Secretary and Treasurer

- (a) Elections: The offices of the church secretary and treasurer shall be filled by the members of the Elder Board by a majority vote at the first meeting of the Elder Board following the annual meeting.
- (b) Term of Office: The term of office shall be one year.

Sec. 5. Vacancies

Vacancies in the Elder Board may be declared by action of the Elder Board or the church membership whenever the incumbent has disqualified himself by unscriptural conduct, by a spirit of insubordination, or by a change of belief contrary to the articles of faith. In addition, except for pastoral staff who are appointed to the Elder Board on an ex officio basis, a Elder shall be required to vacate their seat on the Elder Board at the time the Elder or Elder's spouse joins the pastoral or support staff, whether paid or unpaid. Vacancies shall be effective immediately and filled as set forth in Article III, Sec. 3(b).

ARTICLE IV. FINANCES

Sec. 1. Income

The church shall be financed by the Scriptural system of tithes and offerings of its members. All finances shall be passed through the hands of a treasurer and be accounted for (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

Sec. 2. Salaries

The pastoral staff and all employees of the church shall be given adequate support, according to their responsibilities, at the discretion of the Elder Board. Compensation shall be reviewed annually, and the record of compensation shall be made available to a member upon request.

ARTICLE V. PROPERTY

Sec. 1. Elder Board

The Elder Board, as Elders of the church, shall have the oversight of all real or personal property of the church.

Sec. 2. Personal Property

The Elder Board shall have the authority to take and hold an interest in personal property, and to sell, lease, exchange, mortgage, encumber, convey, or dispose of such property as allowed by law.

Sec. 3. Real Estate Transactions

Except for gifted property, the Elder Board shall approve a resolution recommending the purchase, sale, lease, exchange, mortgage, encumbrance, or other disposition of real estate, and shall submit it for adoption by the members at an official meeting described in Article VI. The resolution shall be adopted upon receiving the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members who vote upon the resolution. The President and Secretary are authorized to sign all documents related to such transactions following approval by the members.

Sec. 4. Gifted Property Transactions

The Elder Board may sell, lease, exchange, mortgage, transfer, or otherwise dispose of real estate, personal property, stocks, bonds, and similar property of value that have been gifted to the church ("gifted property"). The Elder Board shall have the right to refuse gifted property if it has been determined it is in the best interest of the church. The President and Secretary are authorized to sign all documents related to gifted property transactions following Elder Board approval.

Sec. 5. Use of Attorney

The District Council recommends that the services of a reputable attorney be secured in all matters affecting the title to real estate.

ARTICLE VI. OFFICIAL MEETINGS

Sec. 1. Business Meetings

- (a) The annual business meeting of the church shall be held no later than the first Sunday of March. The business of the meeting shall include the election of officers, as well as other matters pertaining to the business of the church. This meeting shall convene at such time and place as the Elder Board shall decide. Due notice of said meeting shall be given for at least for at least 14 days immediately preceding the day of the meeting by church publication or announcement. Sufficient time after the close of the fiscal year shall be given for the treasurer to prepare financial reports for this meeting.
- (b) Special meetings of the church may be called by the pastor, the Elder Board or any ten members of the church who sign a petition and place the same in the hands of the pastor. A special meeting called by petition must be scheduled to be held between ten and sixty days of its receipt. Special meetings shall convene at such time and in such place as the Elder Board may decide. Due notice of said meeting shall be given for three successive Sundays immediately

preceding it, by church publication or announcement or by written notice by first-class mail to each member, mailed to the address of record at least seven days before the meeting date. Notice of a special meeting shall also state the purpose for such meeting.

- (c) At least 25 percent of the active members of the church must be present and sign the roster at a business meeting to constitute a quorum.
- (d) The business of the church shall be decided by a necessary majority of the voting members present at any of its regular or special meetings, except as herein provided.
- (e) A resolutions committee shall be appointed annually at least three months prior to the annual business meeting by the Elder Board to receive resolutions from the membership for consideration at the annual business meeting. When necessary, the committee shall review and study the Constitution and Bylaws and prepare resolutions as required to keep them current and accurate. This committee shall consist of at least 8, but not more than 12, members with representation from all age groups of the church membership, in addition to the pastor, who shall be an ex-officio member. The committee shall include one, but not more than two, Elder Board members. Resolutions committee member names shall be posted by church publication or announcement for at least 14 days prior to the second committee meeting to allow input from interested members of the assembly. Resolutions to change the Constitution and Bylaws shall be reviewed by the Elder Board for consistency prior to posting. All resolutions to change the Constitution or Bylaws shall be posted for at least 14 days immediately preceding the day of the annual business meeting.

Sec. 2. Board Meetings

- (a) The Elder Board shall meet on call each month. This shall be known as the regular monthly business meeting of the Elder Board.
- (b) The Elder Board shall also meet for special business after notice or waiver of notice as required by law.
- (c) A majority of the Elder Board being present at any of their monthly or special meetings shall be considered a quorum.

Sec. 3. Secret Meetings

No member, or any number of members, shall conduct any secret business or devotional meetings with divisive intent, as outlined in Romans 16:17.

ARTICLE VII. RELATIONSHIP

The church, being sovereign in all its business and local affairs, shall be in cooperative fellowship with the General Council and Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God, with the privilege of representation in all district affairs, and shall endeavor to

perform its part in supporting the work of the District Council. It shall have the right to representation at meetings of the General Council or District Council by a delegate appointed by the Elder Board or pastor.

ARTICLE VIII. GOVERNMENT

We recognize that government is of God and the powers that be are ordained of the Lord as ministers of good to the governed, according to Romans 13:1-7.

ARTICLE IX. MISSIONS

Sec. 1. World Missions Council

There shall be a World Missions Council (WMC) responsible for receiving and processing missions support requests, reviewing financial support, and maintaining a relationship with existing local, national, and global missionary partners and partner organizations.

Sec. 2. Allocation of Funds

The WMC shall distribute all missions giving for global, national, and local partners, using wise stewardship practices after a responsible assessment of needs and consideration of healthy missions practices. The giving percentages for each category shall be recommended by the WMC and submitted to the Lead Pastor and Board of Elders. The giving percentages shall be monitored by the Lead Pastor and Board of Elders to raise the level of local support in alignment with the overall vision of the church.

Sec. 3. World Missions Council (WMC) Members

The WMC shall be directed by the Missions Pastor and composed of at least four additional members.

- (a) The members of the WMC shall be appointed to a two-year term by the Missions Pastor and approved by the Lead Pastor.
- (b) Members of the WMC shall be active voting members of the church in good standing.
- (c) Vacancy or Removal: If a position on the WMC becomes vacant for any reason during a member's term, another qualified person shall be appointed to fill the vacancy for the balance of the remaining term. Members of the WMC may be removed by the Missions Pastor with the approval of the Lead Pastor.
- (d) The Lead Pastor shall be an ex-officio (voting) member of the WMC.

Sec. 4. Meetings

- (a) Regular meetings shall be held quarterly. The time of these meetings shall be determined by the Missions Pastor.

- (b) Special meetings may be called by the Missions Pastor as deemed necessary in the best interest of the WMC. Special meetings may also be requested by a WMC member in consultation with the Missions Pastor.
- (c) Quorum requirements of WMC meetings shall be 50 percent or more of the WMC membership.
- (d) Minutes of all meetings of the WMC, including all financial and budgetary decisions, shall be submitted to the Lead Pastor and the Board of Elders within 15 days following any WMC meeting.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the assembly by a majority vote of the membership present.