

**STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS
PENNSYLVANIA-DELAWARE DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC.**

The Pennsylvania District Council shall stand for the Statement of Fundamental Truths as approved by the General Council of the Assemblies of God. 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.

1. The Scriptures Inspired

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

2. The One True God

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

The Adorable Godhead

(a) Terms Defined

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

(d) Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are never **identical** as to **person**; nor **confused** as to **relation**; nor **divided** in respect to the godhead; nor **opposed** as to **cooperation**. The Son is **in** the Father and the Father is **in** the Son as to relationship. The Son is **with** the Father and the Father is **with** the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not **from** the Son, but the Son is **from** the Father, as to authority. The Holy Spirit is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation, and authority. Hence, no person in the godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17-30,32,37; 8:17,18).

(e) The Title, Lord Jesus Christ

The appellation *Lord Jesus Christ* is a proper name. It is never applied in the New Testament either to the Father or to the Holy Spirit. It therefore belongs exclusively to the **Son of God** (Romans 1:1-3,7; 2 John 3).

(f) The Lord Jesus Christ, God With Us

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

(g) The Title, Son of God

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

a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (2 John 9; John 1:1,2,14,18,29,49; 1 John 2:22,23; 4:1-5; Hebrews 12:2).

(i) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

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

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

Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only the **express duty** of all in heaven and on 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 paragraphs b, c, and d), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22,23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2:8,9; Revelation 7:9,10; 4:8-11).

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

(a) His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31,35).

(b) His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).

(c) His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).

(d) His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

(e) His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4).

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

4. The Fall of Man

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

5. The Salvation of Man

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

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

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

6. The Ordinances of the Church

(a) Baptism in Water. The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47,48; Romans 6:4).

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

7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

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

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

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

9. Sanctification

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

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

10. The Church and Its Mission

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

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

- (a) To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).
- (b) To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- (c) To be a channel of God’s purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).
- (d) To be a people who demonstrate God’s love and compassion for all the world (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

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

- (a) Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3,4).
- (b) Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12-14).
- (c) Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ and care for the poor and needy of the world (Galatians 5:22-26; Matthew 25:37-40; Galatians 6:10; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the fourfold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20), (2) worship of God (John 4:23,24), (3) building a Body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11,16), and (4) meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

12. Divine Healing

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

13. The Blessed Hope

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

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

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

15. The Final Judgment

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

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

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

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA-DELAWARE DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC.
Revised May 8, 2019**

PREAMBLE

Since in these last days God is pouring out His Spirit upon all flesh in Pentecostal fullness (Act 2:17), resulting in the forming of Pentecostal Assemblies of saved and Spirit-baptized believers, and these Pentecostal Assemblies have associated themselves in general unity for the propagation of their distinctive testimony under the name of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, Incorporated, and since this, the General Council, has made provision for the care and development of local assemblies through the agency of District Councils, we gladly assumed this solemn obligation that has been committed to us and hereby assemble ourselves in spiritual order and recognize ourselves as the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., and agree to be governed by the following Constitution and Bylaws.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME

Section 1. Corporate Name

The corporate name shall be the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., which term is reserved for legal use when referring to the legal entity.

Section 2. District Organization

The term Pennsylvania-Delaware District shall be used to refer to the district organization.

Section 3. District Council

The term District Council shall be used to refer to sessions of the corporation.

ARTICLE II. TERRITORY

The Pennsylvania-Delaware District shall include the work of the Assemblies of God in the territory comprising the states of Pennsylvania and Delaware. The District shall be divided into Sections, the boundaries of which shall be defined by the District Presbytery or by the District Council.

ARTICLE III. RELATIONSHIP

The Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council of the Assemblies of God is an integral part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri.

ARTICLE IV. PRINCIPLES

The Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., shall represent, as nearly as possible, the body of Christ as described in the New Testament Scriptures, recognizing the principles inherent in that body as also inherent in this fellowship, particularly the principles of unity, cooperation, and equality. Its purpose is to maintain conditions under which it can, as a fellowship, demonstrate these principles and their consequent development.

ARTICLE V. TENETS OF FAITH

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. Hence the statement of Fundamental Truths, approved by the General Council of the Assemblies of God, which precedes the Preamble, is intended as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same thing, I Cor. 1:10; Acts 2:42). The human phraseology employed in such statement is not inspired nor 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 the truth in the Bible, only that it covers our present needs as to these fundamental doctrines.

ARTICLE VI. PREROGATIVES

- a. To promulgate the Gospel of Jesus Christ by all scriptural means, both at home and abroad;
- b. To promote Christian fellowship among its members;
- c. To establish assemblies for divine worship and to develop them in general unity along the lines of our distinctive testimony;
- d. To supervise all the activities of the Assemblies of God in its prescribed field in accordance with the rights conferred by Article X of the Constitution of the General Council of the Assemblies of God;
- e. To examine, license and ordain ministers who have met the requirements of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District as set forth in its Constitution and Bylaws;
- f. To elect its own officers and committees, to arrange for its own meetings and to govern itself, as a subordinate division of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, amenable thereto in all matters of doctrine and conduct of ministers who shall have the endorsement of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District;
- g. To establish and maintain such departments as may be necessary;
- h. To establish and maintain such eleemosynary institutions as may be required.

- i. To own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of such property, real or chattel, as may be needed for the prosecution of its work.

ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Ordained Ministers

Ordained ministers of the Gospel holding current Fellowship Certificates with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, residing within the Pennsylvania-Delaware District, and officially recognized.

Section 2. Licensed Ministers and Certified Ministers

Licensed ministers and Certified Ministers holding current Fellowship Certificates with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, residing within the Pennsylvania-Delaware District, and officially recognized.

Section 3. Local Assemblies

All local Assemblies affiliated with the Pennsylvania-Delaware District and all members of such churches.

Section 4. Voting Constituency

The voting constituency of the District Council shall consist of all persons holding current credentials with the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council, present and registered, and accredited delegates from affiliated Assemblies also present and registered.

ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers

The officers shall consist of a Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Secretary-Treasurer, Sectional Presbyters, together with such other officers as may be hereinafter required. These shall constitute the Executive Presbytery.

Section 2. General Presbyters

The District Superintendent and two ordained ministers, one of whom shall be a pastor, shall represent the Pennsylvania-Delaware District as General Presbyters of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 3. Network Presbyters-at-Large

- a. One female, one ethnic and one under age 40 ordained minister shall serve as a Network Presbyter-at-Large.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

The Pennsylvania-Delaware Council shall convene annually.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any regular or special meeting of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District provided the proposed amendment has been submitted to the Executive Presbytery first for review, and then mailed to each member of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District at least two months prior to the time of meeting. A two thirds vote of all members present shall be necessary for adoption.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Ordained Ministers

a. Requirements

- (1) A candidate for Ordination shall have been filled with the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4, and shall give evidence of having received a Divine call to the full gospel ministry. He shall be required to comply with the standards as set forth in the Scriptures, especially those found in I Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:7-9. He must be of mature experience, 23 years of age or over, and have demonstrated his ability to undertake the responsibilities of the full gospel ministry. To be ordained, the minister shall have resided and ministered as a pastor, evangelist, or other minister in the Pennsylvania-Delaware District at least one year prior to the application.
- (2) He shall obtain application forms from the District Secretary. Such forms shall be properly filled out and forwarded to the Secretary prior to the meeting of the Credentials Committee. He shall obtain proper recommendations from ordained ministers of the Assemblies of God and must be recommended by the Educational Qualifications Committee on the basis of successfully passing any written examination that may be required by said committee. He shall appear before the District Credentials Screening Committee upon the invitation of the District office. He shall be prepared for examination on the Statement of Fundamental Truths approved by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- (3) The Credentials Committee shall refrain from granting credentials to a candidate living in the state of matrimony where either the applicant or the spouse has a former companion living, unless the divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15), and shall reject the transfers from other districts of all such persons, except as provided for by the General Council Bylaws Article VII, paragraph j.
- (4) He shall be expected to attend Sectional activities.

b. Ordination Service

Ordination shall be by the laying on of hands by the Executive Presbytery and shall take place at District Council. Exceptions to the rule may be made for missionaries who must leave for the foreign field between sessions of the District Council. Other exceptions shall be granted by the Credentials Committee when special conditions warrant.

c. Credentials

- (1) A Certificate of Ordination shall be issued from the office of the General Council of the Assemblies of God at the request of the Credentials Committee. Fellowship certificates, certifying good standing, are issued annually upon completion of the ministerial questionnaire and approval of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Credentials Committee.
- (2) When a minister or evangelist takes up residence in another district, a Certificate of Transfer shall be issued within sixty days unless there are definite charges pending against him. Exceptions may be made for ministers moving to serve at General Headquarters, or for those who are retired, or are in the Armed Forces, or who are serving on the faculties of our schools or other approved schools.
- (3) A minister who shall withdraw from active ministry shall be expected to notify the District Secretary who shall be authorized to notify the General Secretary and place his name on the District's inactive list.
- (4) When a minister is definitely inactive for two consecutive years, his name shall be eliminated from the ministerial list, unless the District Credentials Committee requests otherwise by letter. 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; or those who have reached the age of 60 and have had 15 or more years of approved service as ordained ministers of the Assemblies of God; or those who have had 25 years of approved service as ordained ministers in the Assemblies of God, regardless of age.

d. Ministerial Relations

- (1) An ordained minister who shall establish residence in the Pennsylvania-Delaware District shall be expected to affiliate with the district and cooperate therewith. He shall obtain, from his former district, a letter of transfer which shall be forwarded to the Secretary of this district.
- (2) The Pennsylvania-Delaware District Credentials Committee reserves the right to decide upon the transfer issued by other districts. All who transfer into the Pennsylvania-Delaware District with proper recommendations, acceptable to the Credentials Committee, shall be enrolled on the District roster.
- (3) A minister who is affiliated with another denomination and who desires to unite with the Assemblies of God shall be required to show that his character is above question and that his purpose to sever his former

relationship is honorable. The credentials which he held in his former denomination may be recognized by the Credentials Committee.

e. Discipline

The Pennsylvania-Delaware District may avail itself of the prerogatives conferred upon it in the matter of discipline of members as defined in Article X of the General Council of the Assemblies of God Bylaws. A two thirds vote of the District Credentials Committee shall be necessary to disfellowship any member of the District. Any conduct unbecoming to a minister or indiscretions involving morals, general inefficiency in the ministry, a failure or inability to correctly represent our Pentecostal testimony, a contentious or non-cooperative spirit, an assumption of dictatorial authority over an assembly, an arbitrary rejection of District counsel, a declared open change in doctrinal views, a habit of running into debt which brings reproach upon the cause, marriage in violation of our stand on marriage and divorce, or any other just and reasonable cause, may give grounds for discipline by the Credentials Committee. The decision shall be regarded as final unless the party adjudged guilty shall avail himself of the rights of appeal. The appeal must be filed within thirty days after notice of decision shall have been given to those concerned, in accordance with the provisions made in the General Council of the Assemblies of God Bylaws. The discipline of ministers is a sacred responsibility that is entrusted to the credentials committees of districts and the General Council. A minister shall not be permitted to be accompanied by one or more attorneys at any meeting, hearing, or appeal pertaining to his or her discipline.

f. Renewal of Fellowship Certificates

- (1) Expiration date. All fellowship certificates are valid only until December 31 of each year and must be renewed annually. The renewing of credentials is the responsibility of the individual minister. In the event a minister does not receive a renewal form by December 1, such minister should notify his district office.
- (2) Late fee after December 31. All who shall have failed to renew their fellowship certificates on or before December 31, or who shall have failed to indicate their purpose to do so, shall be considered as delinquent and shall be required to pay a late fee of \$50, until January 15.
- (3) Reinstatement required after January 15. Ministers who have not renewed by January 15, shall be recorded as lapsed as of the expiration date of December 31. They must make application for reinstatement and pay a \$100 fee in order to be reinstated.

Section 2. Licensed Minister

a. Requirements

- (1) A candidate for a Licensed Minister shall have been filled with the Holy Spirit and shall give clear evidence of having received a Divine call, with an obvious purpose to devote his time to the full gospel ministry.
- (2) He shall follow the procedures for application as outlined above for Ordained Ministers, Section 1, paragraph a., sub-paragraph (2).
- (3) Section 1, paragraph a., sub-paragraphs (3), (4), and (6), above, shall also apply to candidates for License.

b. Credentials

- (1) The District Council Credentials Committee shall approve those candidates who qualify for credentials as licensed ministers. The applications of the approved candidates shall be endorsed by the District Superintendent and Secretary and forwarded to the office of the General Secretary for the issuance of the credential. Fellowship certificates, certifying good standing, are issued annually upon completion of the ministerial questionnaire and approval of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Credentials Committee.
- (2) Section 1, paragraph c, sub-paragraph (2), (3), and (4) as outlined above for Ordained Ministers, shall also apply to candidates for License.

c. Ministerial Relations

Section 1, paragraph d, sub-paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), as outlined above for Ordained Ministers, shall also apply to candidates for License.

d. Discipline

Section 1, paragraph e, as outlined above for Ordained Ministers, shall also apply to candidates for License.

e. Renewal of Fellowship Certificate

Article 1, Section 1, paragraph f, sub-paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as outlined above for the Ordained Ministers, shall also apply to the Licensee.

Section 3. Certified Ministers

a. Requirements

- (1) A candidate for a Certified Ministers Certificate shall be a beginner who conforms to scriptural standards: filled with the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4, demonstrating a Divine call to the full gospel ministry, and willing to cooperate and participate in his local church.

- (2) He shall follow the procedure for application as outlined above for Ordained Ministers, Section 1, paragraph a, sub-paragraph (2).
- (3) Section 1, paragraph a, sub-paragraphs (3), (4), and (6) as outlined above for Ordained Ministers, shall also apply to candidates for Certified Ministers Certificates.

b. Credentials

- (1) The District Council Credentials Committee shall approve those candidates who qualify for credentials as Certified Ministers. The applications of the approved candidates shall be endorsed by the District Superintendent and Secretary and forwarded to the office of the General Secretary for the issuance of the credential. Fellowship certificates, certifying good standing, are issued annually upon completion of the ministerial questionnaire and approval of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Credentials Committee.
- (2) Section 1, paragraph c, sub-paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) as outlined above for Ordained Ministers, shall apply to candidates for Certified Ministers Certificate.

c. Ministerial Relations

Section 1, paragraph d, sub-paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as outlined above for Ordained Ministers, shall apply to candidates for Certified Ministers Certificate.

d. Discipline

Section 1, paragraph e, as outlined above for Ordained Ministers, shall apply to candidates for Certified Ministers Certificate.

e. 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 whom is deemed by the district credentials committee to be essential to the continuity of a church or 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 1 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 ministry certificate within a 3-year period.

Section 4. Local Church Credential

A local church credential shall be administered by the local church pursuant to basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines adopted by the district council. It shall be non-transferable (limited to the issuing local church).

Section 5. Classifications Of Ministry

No other classification of ministry shall be recognized other than ordained ministers, licensed ministers, certified ministers, and local church credential.

Section 6. Affiliated Assemblies

a. Definition

A local assembly which upholds the doctrines of the Assemblies of God, which shows by its organization and maturity it is sufficiently ready to accept full responsibility for a total church program, and which has an adult membership of at least twenty (unless an exception has been granted by the district in accordance with the provisions of the General Council Constitution, Article XI, section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph 3). shall be eligible for recognition as a sovereign Affiliated Assembly. It must be able to support a pastor, meet its obligations and provide from its membership spiritually mature persons capable of being officers.

b. Requirements

- (1) To be officially granted affiliation, the assembly, through its secretary, shall submit a copy of its resolution requesting such, to the Sectional Committee, through the Sectional Home Missions Representative. If the Sectional Committee approves the application, it shall notify the District Office. The District Superintendent, in cooperation with the Presbyter, shall grant affiliation at a duly called congregational meeting.
- (2) It shall choose its own pastor, elect officers, discipline members, hold property through either trustees or the corporate name, and transact all other business pertaining to the life of a local assembly.
- (3) It shall be amenable to the District in doctrine, conduct, and all other matters which affect the harmony of the fellowship. It shall assume its

cooperative share in the expense of the District Office by adopting one of two policies:

- (a) Contribute one or two percent of its gross income from the General Fund as part of its budget, or
- (b) Contribute three dollars annually per member and adherent, and forward such offerings to the District Treasurer.

- (4) It shall cooperate in the District Home Missions program and contribute to the World Missions program of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- (5) It shall send official lay delegates to the District Council. Assemblies having more than 100 members shall send two delegates. Each lay delegate shall secure a letter from the assembly to present to the roster committee.

c. Privileges

- (1) It shall have the counsel of the Presbyter in all vital matters.
- (2) It shall have access to all benefits of the departments of the District.
- (3) It shall be the privilege of the assembly to seek the advice of the District Superintendent before calling a candidate. It is advised that no candidate should be called except as recommended by the Superintendent. An assembly desiring a change of pastors for any good and just cause and in consultation with the district superintendent shall be recommended to give the incumbent sixty days severance, except in a case where moral failure is involved; likewise, a pastor should give his assembly at least thirty days notice before leaving.
- (4) An assembly shall require a letter of transfer from each member transferring from another assembly.

Section 7. Dependent Assemblies

a. Definition

- (1) A group of believers within the boundaries of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District subscribing to the principles and doctrines of the Assemblies of God, assembling as a church and desiring affiliation with the Pennsylvania-Delaware District but still in a formative state.
- (2) An assembly that has come into existence through Home Missions effort.
- (3) An assembly no longer capable of assuming responsibility for a total church program requesting status as a Dependent Assembly.

b. Requirements

- (1) To be recognized as a Dependent Assembly, a church shall have an established meeting place, a schedule of regular services, an acting pastor, an adult membership of at least ten in addition to the pastor and his family, and show promise of continuance.
- (2) When the above has been achieved it shall make application for recognition to its Sectional Committee through the Sectional Home Missions Representative.
- (3) A Dependent Assembly shall seek the status of an Affiliated Assembly through the presbyter's guidance in organization, constitution, and the development of the requirements for an affiliated Assembly. (See Section 4, paragraph a.)

c. Privileges

- (1) It shall have access to all benefits of the departments of the District.
- (2) It shall require a letter of transfer from each member transferring from another assembly.
- (3) It shall have the counsel of the Sectional Committee in all vital matters.

Section 8. Cooperative Assemblies

a. Definition

An established church may be recognized as a Cooperative Assembly to allow the interested congregation to participate in the ministries of the Fellowship without officially affiliating. Such churches will be encouraged to seek affiliation with the District and the General Councils.

b. Requirements

- (1) A church must subscribe to the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council Constitution to enter into a cooperative status with the Pennsylvania-Delaware District and the General Council.
- (2) Recognition as a Cooperative Assembly is extended for a 4-year term, renewable by the request of the local church congregation at the discretion of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council in cooperation with the General Council Executive Presbytery.

c. Privileges

- (1) It shall have the counsel of the District Superintendent and Presbyter in all vital matters.

(2) It shall have access to all benefits of the departments of the District except as limited by the Executive Presbytery

Section 9. Parent Affiliated Churches

A Parent Affiliated Church (PAC) is an outreach of an existing General Council Affiliated Church or duly authorized District Council Affiliated Church resulting in a worshipping community with a congregational life distinct from the Parent Church (PC). A PAC is subject to the ecclesial supervision and authority of the PC, in such manner, and upon such terms and conditions, as are determined by the PC.

ARTICLE II. OFFICERS

Section 1. Qualifications

The officers of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District shall be ordained and of mature experience, sound judgment, recognized ability and Christian character. They shall be chosen from the membership and shall have been ministering within the District for at least one year.

Section 2. Nominations and Elections

- a. The District Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and General Presbyters shall be nominated and elected by secret ballot.
- b. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be nominated by the Executive Presbytery serving as a nominating committee entrusted with the responsibility of making careful investigation concerning the qualifications and eligibility of available individuals. They shall present no more than three names, and election shall be by secret ballot.
- c. Two thirds of all ballots cast for District Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer shall be required for election. If a candidate receives the required vote on the nominating ballot, he shall be declared elected. All names presented shall be balloted upon until an election is declared.
- d. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent shall be elected in even numbered years, and the Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected in odd numbered years.
- e. When electing each General Presbyter and Non-Resident Executive Presbyter Nominee, the three names receiving the most nominating ballots and accepting the nomination shall be presented to the District Council in session and be elected by two-thirds (2/3) of votes cast. General Presbyters and Non-Resident Executive Presbyter Nominees may be nominated with the first ballot during times of registration and until the first business session has been called to order.

- f. Each Section shall elect annually one of its ordained ministers to serve as Sectional Presbyter. He shall be elected by two-thirds of all ballots cast at a duly announced Sectional Council held at least one month before the District Council. His name shall be presented to the Executive Presbytery for approval and then placed before the District Council in its annual session for ratification.
- g. Each section may submit up to one At-Large candidate in each of the three categories for the Presbytery to consider in their March Presbytery meeting. The Presbytery shall vet those candidates presented in their March meeting and will present up to three At-Large Presbytery nominees in each category to the District Council to be voted upon by secret ballot. A brief biography on each nominee will be made available to PennDel Credentialed ministers 30 days prior to District Council. The nominee receiving two-thirds majority of votes at District Council will be declared elected.

Section 3. Terms of Office

The term of office of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Secretary-Treasurer shall be four years. The term of office of Sectional Presbyters shall be two years. The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and the Secretary-Treasurer shall assume office one month after their election. Full time retiring executive officers shall be granted an additional two months severance pay. The Sectional Presbyters shall assume office immediately following the District Council. In the event this is not feasible, the Executive Presbytery shall be authorized to set another date.

Section 4. Vacancies

- a. Should the office of Superintendent become vacant, the Assistant Superintendent shall assume that office until the next District Council provided it shall be convened within sixty days. Otherwise the Executive Presbytery shall call a special session of the District Council to elect a Superintendent to fill the un-expired term. Should a vacancy occur in any other District office, except that of Presbyter, power is vested in the remaining members of the Executive Presbytery to fill such office by appointment until the next District Council. (For Sectional Presbyter see Article VIII, Section 2, paragraph g, of the Bylaws.)
- b. The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to declare vacant, by two thirds vote, any elective District or Sectional office for any just and reasonable cause.

Section 5. Liability - Indemnification

- a.** The officers of the District shall not be personally liable for monetary damages as such, for any action taken, or for any failure to take any action, unless:
 - (1) The officer has breached or failed to perform the duties of his office in good faith, in a manner he reasonably believes to be in the best interest of the District, and with such care, including reasonable inquiry, skill and diligence, as a person of ordinary prudence would use under similar circumstances; and
 - (2) The breach or failure to perform constitutes self-dealing, willful misconduct or recklessness.
- b.** The District shall indemnify each Presbyter and officer of this District to the full extent permitted by law, against all judgments, fines and liabilities, and/or reimburse him for all reasonable expense (including, but not limited to, court costs, attorney fees and any amount paid in any settlement), which judgments, fines, liabilities and expenses were incurred or expended in connection with any claim, suit, action or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, and in which he was involved because of anything he may have done or omitted to do as a Presbyter or officer of the District.
- c.** The officers are authorized to procure insurance protecting all Presbyters and officers of this District because of expenses actually or reasonably incurred by them in connection with the defense of any action, suit or proceeding in which any one of them may be made a party by reason of having been a Presbyter or officer of this District.

ARTICLE III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Superintendent

- a.** To preside at all meetings of the District Council, the Executive Presbytery, and the Credentials Committee.
- b.** To act as President of the Corporation in all legal matters.
- c.** To be the administrator of the District Office.
- d.** To receive all communications addressed to the Executive Presbytery.
- e.** To sign all District credentials certificates issued by the Credentials Committee.
- f.** To direct the District Home Missions program.

- g.** To serve as a member of all District departmental committees and to be an ex-officio member of all other committees.
- h.** To assist assemblies with personal advice and ministry.
- i.** To administer discipline in all cases when requested to do so by the Executive Presbytery.
- j.** To perform such other functions as are usual and customary for the presiding officer or as may be directed by the Executive Presbytery or the District Council.

Section 2. Assistant Superintendent

- a.** To assist the Superintendent.
- b.** To preside at meetings in the absence of, or at the request of, the Superintendent.
- c.** To accede to the office of Superintendent if that office becomes vacant, as stipulated in Article II, Section 4, Vacancies, paragraph a.
- d.** To serve as a member of the Executive Presbytery and of the Credentials Committee.
- e.** To act as Vice-President of the Corporation.
- f.** To perform such other functions as may be directed by the District Council or the Executive Presbytery.

Section 3. Secretary

- a.** To make and keep true records of the proceedings of the District Council, and to publish the same as approved and directed by the District Council or Executive Presbytery.
- b.** To act as secretary of the meetings of the Executive Presbytery, of all the Credentials Committee, and of the District Home Missions Committee.
- c.** To be the custodian of the official seal of The Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council of the Assemblies of God.
- d.** To issue and sign credentials under the direction of the Credentials Committee.

- e. To keep a record of all ministers and assemblies in the Pennsylvania-Delaware District.
- f. To sign official and legal documents as may be required.
- g. To perform such other functions as are customary or as may be directed by the District Council, or by the Executive Presbytery.

Section 4. Treasurer

- a. To be custodian of the General Funds of The Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council of the Assemblies of God, and to deposit the same in a responsible bank in the name of The Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council of the Assemblies of God.
- b. To keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements, and to conduct the work of the office according to accepted methods of business.
- c. To serve as a member of all district departmental committees and supervise their accounts.
- d. To be bonded as determined by the Executive Presbytery.
- e. To give reports as may be requested by the Executive Presbytery.
- f. To have his records audited annually and the report of the auditors presented at the District Council.
- g. To perform such other functions as are customary to his office or as may be directed by the District Council or by the Executive Presbytery.

Section 5. Executive Presbytery

- a. To have general oversight of the activities of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District during the interim between District Council sessions.
- b. To arrange for their own meetings and report their decisions which directly affect the welfare of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District to the District Council.
- c. To act as a Board of Directors who shall be custodians of all the property of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council of the Assemblies of God.
- d. To edit District Council Constitution and Bylaws to conform to General Council Constitution and Bylaws as deemed necessary.

- e. To act as the nominating committee for the election of all department heads of the district.
- f. To act as the District Home Missions Committee.
- g. To appoint an Assistant for the Home Missions program, and confer on him any other portfolio deemed advisable and who shall be directly responsible to the Superintendent.
- h. To provide a Laymen's Certificate for efficient helpers in Gospel work. Such certificate is to be recommended by the pastor and renewed annually and signed by the pastor of the Assembly in which the applicant is a member.

Section 6. District Presbyters

- a. To preside at all sectional functions.
- b. To be an ex-officio member of all committees in his section.
- c. To assist pastors or assemblies desiring advice or aid, and if unable to resolve the matter, refer it to the District Superintendent or the Executive Presbytery for final disposition.
- d. To attend all meetings of the Executive Presbytery.
- e. To direct the Sectional Home Missions program.

Section 7. At-Large-Presbyter

- a. To attend all meetings of the Executive Presbytery, giving representation and perspective to the Executive Presbytery from Female, under 40, or ethnic ministers as applicable.
- b. To assist ministers in each respective area who desire advice or aid, and if unable to resolve such matters, refer them to the District Superintendent or the Executive Presbytery for final disposition.
- c. To provide ministry leadership, resourcing, and fellowship opportunities to each respective group in cooperation with sectional and Network leadership and ministries.

Section 8. Assistant Presbyters

- a. To serve in cooperation with the District Presbyter.
- b. To serve on the Sectional Home Missions Committee.

c. To assist pastors or assemblies desiring advice or aid under the direction of the District Presbyter.

ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Credentials Committee

a. Shall consist of the members of the Executive Presbytery.

b. Credentialing process shall be under the oversight of the District Secretary in conformity with General Council policy.

Section 2. District Council Committees

The following committees shall be appointed by the District Superintendent, in consultation with the Executive Presbytery, before each District Council: The Resolutions Committee, the Program Committee, the Roster Committee, the Election Committee and such other committees as may be necessary for the conduct of the District Council business. The Resolutions Committee shall serve for one year from time of appointment to edit and emend the Constitution and Bylaws and to keep them in line with the General Council.

Section 3. Prayer League Committee

The committee shall encourage and promote the practice of prayer in the District in any way that seems wise and expedient. It shall be appointed by the Superintendent in consultation with the Executive Presbytery before the close of each District Council.

Section 4. Special Committees

Special committees may be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

ARTICLE V. PROPERTY

Section 1. Property

All real property shall be deeded to and held in the corporate name of the Pennsylvania Delaware District Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc. No real property may be purchased, acquired, sold, leased, alienated, mortgaged, or otherwise encumbered unless authorized by a two thirds affirmative vote of those Executive Presbyters present and voting at any duly noticed regular or special meeting of the Executive Presbytery.

No real property valued in excess of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000), and no real property, regardless of value, which is defined as a key property by Section 2. Exception of this Article, that is, those properties titled in the name of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council for use in or related to its corporate function and operations and not the concern of the Home Missions Department or of a single local assembly, may be purchased, acquired, sold, leased, alienated, mortgaged, or otherwise encumbered unless the same is first

recommended by a two thirds affirmative vote of those Executive Presbyters present and voting at any duly held regular or special meeting of the Executive Presbytery and then authorized by a two thirds affirmative vote of the delegates present and voting at any duly noticed regularly or specially held meeting of the District Council or by referendum vote pursuant to Article VII. Meetings, Section 4. Interim Sessions, of these Bylaws.

The certification in such conveyance, lease or mortgage by the Superintendent and Secretary of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District that the same has been duly authorized in accordance with these Bylaws shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

Section 2. Exception

The key properties of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District identified in Section 1 as requiring action by the District Council as aforesaid, rather than by the Executive Presbytery, for acquisition, lease, encumbrance, whether by mortgage or otherwise, or alienation, whether by sale or otherwise, are and shall be those properties now owned by or at any time proposed to be acquired by, the Pennsylvania-Delaware District for use as, or in relation to, the Executive and Administrative offices of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District, the District bookstore and publication distribution facility, the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Conference Center, the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Retirement Home, Convalescent or nursing facility, or for any other use which shall be the concern of the District Council as expressed at any regular or special meeting thereof, and not a concern of the Home Missions Department or of a single local assembly.

Section 3. Emergencies

In the event of an emergency which shall arise between District Councils relative to the maintenance and improvement of District properties, the Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to make such improvements as may be deemed advisable in a sum not to exceed sixty percent (60%) of the intrinsic valuation of all District property less amount of current liabilities.

ARTICLE VI. FINANCES

Section 1. District Council Fund

The financial needs of the District shall be coordinated under one general heading, to be known as the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council Fund. This fund shall be raised through the voluntary contributions of the ministers and churches of the fellowship, according to the plans adopted by the District Council, and shall be available for salaries, District Office operation and promotion of the District program. It shall be disbursed under the supervision of the Executive Presbytery.

Section 2. Budgets

All District departments shall submit a proposed budget each year at least 60 days before the close of the District fiscal year for adoption by the Executive Presbytery and withdrawals shall be made according to budgetary procedures.

Section 3. Prerogative

The Executive Presbytery shall be authorized to divert surplus funds from one department to another when necessary.

Section 4. Policy

The principle of voluntary cooperation underlies the financial policy. Each should be willing to carry his share of the expense of the District program. While cooperation is voluntary, the cooperative spirit will show itself by actual participation in the work and burden of the fellowship.

Section 5. Sources

There are, in general, the following sources of income open to the District.

- a. Tithes.** The standard practice is that each credential holder contributes two thirds of his tithes as dues, sending it monthly to the District Treasurer. Senior retired ministers shall be exempt from any financial obligation to the District. The Executive Presbytery shall be authorized to withhold the endorsement of the credential of those who fail to cooperate in their financial obligations to the District.
- b. Church offerings.** It is recommended that each assembly adopt one of two policies:
 - (1) Contribute one or two percent of its gross income from the General Fund as part of its budget, or
 - (2) Contribute three dollars annually per member and adherent, and forward such offerings to the District Treasurer.

Section 6. Funeral Benefit Fund

- a.** There shall be a funeral fund available for all credential holders of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District and their spouses, for the purpose of rendering financial assistance in the event of a member's death.
- b.** Those wishing to participate in the benefit of the fund shall contribute a \$5 membership fee.
- c.** Upon the death of a member, the membership is assessed \$5.

- d. A member who is 60 days in arrears with his payments shall be dropped after being duly notified. He may be reinstated upon payment of the \$5 membership fee.
- e. Members transferring out of the district automatically relinquish membership in the Funeral Fund.
- f. A new assessment of \$1 for office expense can be made upon the event of each 10th funeral.
- g. At death, the beneficiary shall receive an amount representing \$5 for each member of the fund at the time of death.
- h. The spouse of a deceased member shall be privileged to retain membership in the fund provided he or she was a member prior to the date of the decease of the spouse.

ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Council

The Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council of the Assemblies of God shall convene annually; the time and place shall be chosen by the Executive Presbytery and due notice shall be mailed to each member not later than one month prior to the time of the meeting.

Section 2. Emergency Sessions

Special sessions may be called to meet any emergency that may arise within the Pennsylvania-Delaware District. Such call shall be issued by the Secretary after the emergency has been fully considered and passed upon by a majority vote of the Executive Presbytery.

Section 3. Special Sessions

The right of initiative in the matter of calling a special session shall be granted to any ordained minister in good standing with the Pennsylvania-Delaware District. A statement setting forth the reasons for the special session and signed by not less than twenty percent of the ordained ministers of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District shall be considered sufficient reason for such a call. Said statement shall be delivered to the District Office. The matter shall be considered by the Executive Presbytery who shall issue the call for a meeting within sixty days after the filing of the statement.

Section 4. Interim Sessions

Should occasion arise between sessions of the District Council demanding a decision by the District Council and it be deemed not feasible by the Executive

Presbytery to call a special session, provision is hereby made to take a referendum vote of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District. Ballots for that purpose shall be mailed to all members to be returned to the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Office within a period of thirty days. Such ballots shall be tallied by the District Secretary and two others appointed by the Executive Presbytery and the result announced to the constituency.

Section 5. Resolutions

All resolutions for presentation to the District Council, except as provided below or by Article X of the Constitution, shall be presented to the Secretary-Treasurer's office no later than February 28. The Resolutions Committee shall prepare the resolutions in printed form and mail them to the District Council ministers and churches thirty (30) days prior to the District Council meeting. Exceptions shall apply to business growing out of Executive Presbytery meetings during or immediately preceding District Council as well as to resolutions of an emergency nature, which shall be determined by two-thirds vote of the Council.

Section 6. Order of Business

The regular order of business for the District Council shall be:

- I. Devotional
- II. Report of the Superintendent
- III. Report of the Secretary
- IV. Report of the Treasurer
- V. Report of Committees
- VI. Unfinished Business
- VII. Election of Officers
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Adjournment

ARTICLE VIII. SECTIONS

Section 1. Purpose

a. Reproduction

To facilitate and encourage the planting of new churches and to remove obstacles to this goal.

b. Relationship

To model spiritual strategic and maturity aspects of leadership to the ministers, ministries, and churches.

c. Resources

To connect ministers and churches with district resources, ministries, encouragement, prayer and coaching in leadership development.

Section 2. Organization and Government

a. Officers

Each section shall elect a District Presbyter, together with such other officers as may be deemed advisable by the section, such as Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Presbyter(s), with approval of the District.

b. Committees

The Sectional Committee shall consist of the Presbyter, together with such other officers as may be deemed advisable by the section, such as Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Presbyter(s), with approval of the District.

c. Qualifications

All officers shall be ordained ministers who shall have resided in the Section for a least one year at the time of election.

d. Elections

The District Presbyter shall be nominated and elected by secret ballot at the annual Sectional Council and ratified by the District Council in session (see Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph c and e). All other officers shall be nominated and elected by secret ballot. Two thirds of all votes cast shall constitute an election. They shall take office at the close of the District Council.

e. Appointments

All appointments must be made and announced at the annual Sectional Council and will take office at the close of the District Council.

f. Voting Constituency

All persons holding duly accredited credentials with the Pennsylvania-Delaware District, ministering within the Section, shall comprise the voting constituency.

g. Vacancies

When a vacancy shall occur in the office of the Sectional Presbyter, the Sectional Secretary, in cooperation with the District Superintendent, shall call a special sectional business meeting at which time the successor shall be elected to fill the un-expired term of office. His name shall be presented to the Executive Presbytery for approval. All other offices vacated shall be filled by appointment of the Sectional Committee.

h. Duties

(1). The duties of the Sectional Presbyter shall be as set forth in Article III, Section 6 of these Bylaws.

(2). The Sectional Secretary shall serve as secretary of the Section and of the Sectional Committee, and shall assist the District Secretary in matters pertaining to his Section.

(3). The Sectional Treasurer shall serve as treasurer of the Section. He shall have general oversight of all departmental accounts, and shall receive a monthly statement from each. He shall deposit all monies entrusted to him within one week of receipt, in a responsible bank in the name of the Section. All accounts shall be audited annually by a committee appointed by the Sectional Presbyter. All accounts shall be kept on a calendar year. (January-December).

(4.) The Sectional Committee shall develop plans and programs for the Section in cooperation with the representatives of the various departments.

Section 3. Sectional Council

a. The annual business meeting for the Section shall be held at least one month prior to the District Council as determined by the District Superintendent and Sectional Presbyter. Election of officers and departmental heads for the ensuing year shall be held at this time. Each officer in the Section shall submit a written report of his office covering the preceding year.

b. The Sectional Council time and program will be established by the Sectional Committee in consultation with the District Superintendent.

ARTICLE IX. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Designation

There shall be a Pennsylvania-Delaware District Christian Education Department.

Section 2. Purpose

a. To promote Christian Education activities in the Pennsylvania-Delaware District.

b. To promote and conduct District and Sectional conventions and workshops.

c. To provide and facilitate a camping program for boys and girls up through age 12.

d. To assist in development of Day Care Centers, Nursery, and Christian Schools in the local Assembly.

- e. To coordinate national, district, sectional, and local efforts for Sunday School.
- f. To encourage every Sunday School to attain to the National Sunday School Standard.

Section 3. Organization and Government

a. Officers

The officers shall consist of the District Christian Education Director and a representative from each Section. They shall select a secretary from among the representatives.

b. Committee

The District Christian Education Committee shall be composed of the Director, the Sectional Representatives, and District Superintendent and the District Secretary-Treasurer.

c. Qualifications

(1). The District Christian Education Director shall be a qualified ordained minister of the District and shall have resided in the Pennsylvania-Delaware District for the past year.

(2). The Sectional Representative shall be thoroughly acquainted with the organization and administration of the Sunday School, and must be a licensed or ordained minister residing in this Section for a period of at least six months.

d. Appointments

(1). The District Superintendent, with the consultation of the Executive Presbytery, shall be entrusted with the responsibility of appointing an individual to the Office of District Christian Education Director whose length of service shall be determined by the superintendent in consultation with the presbytery.

(2). The Sectional Representatives shall be appointed annually by the District Christian Education Director, in consultation with the District Superintendent and the Sectional Presbyter.

e. Vacancies

If a Sectional Representative's office becomes vacant, the District Christian Education Director, with the approval of the Sectional Presbyter of the respective Section shall appoint a successor

f. Duties

(1) The duties of the District Christian Education Director shall be:

- a. To promote Christian Education activities in the Pennsylvania-Delaware District.
- b. To have the general oversight of the Christian Education work.

- c. To assist in establishing new Sunday Schools when requested.
- d. To be responsible for all Christian Education work in the District including the arranging and conducting of conventions, rallies, camps, and other activities pertaining to Sunday School in cooperation with the Executive Presbytery.
- e. To encourage each church to conduct a Worker's Training Course annually.
- f. To call a semi-annual meeting of the Christian Education Committee and any additional meetings as may be deemed necessary.

(2) The duties of the Sectional Representatives shall be:

- a. To promote Christian Education, Sunday School and other programs in his Section in cooperation with the Sectional Presbyter.
- b. To conduct Sectional Rallies and Workshops.
- c. To encourage prompt return of the annual Check-Up.
- d. To assist local churches in promoting an annual Workers' Training Course.
- e. To attend all District Christian Education Committee meetings.

(3) The duties of the Christian Education Committee shall be:

- a. To develop plans and programs for the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Christian Education Department in keeping with policies approved by the Executive Presbytery.
- b. To compile, subject to the approval of the Executive Presbytery, a manual of procedural guidelines.

Section 4. Finances

- a. Each local Sunday School shall be requested to send in five percent of its monthly offerings to the Pennsylvania-Delaware District for the support of this department.
- b. The District Christian Education Director shall be supported as stipulated by the Executive Presbytery.

ARTICLE X. DISTRICT YOUTH DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Designation

There shall be a Pennsylvania-Delaware District Youth Department known as District Youth Department.

Section 2. Purpose

- a. To advance the youth program in the Pennsylvania-Delaware District.
- b. To promote and conduct youth rallies, camps, conventions, retreats and other activities.
- c. To encourage and assist in promoting and developing youth groups in local assemblies.
- d. To provide opportunities to develop Christian character and leadership.
- e. To coordinate national, district, sectional and local youth activities.

Section 3. Organization and Government

a. Officers

The officers shall be: a District Youth Director and a Representative from each Section. They shall select a secretary and member-at-large.

b. District Youth Committee

The District Youth Committee shall be composed of the District Youth Director, secretary, a member-at-large, the Sectional Representatives, the District Superintendent and the District Secretary-Treasurer.

c. Qualifications

- (1) The District Youth Director shall be an ordained minister of the District and shall have resided in the Pennsylvania-Delaware District for the past year.
- (2) The Sectional Representative shall be a credentialed Assemblies of God minister or lay person who has been approved by their Pastor and is a member in good standing in an Assembly of God church and shall have resided in their section for the past six months.

d. Appointments

- (1) The District Superintendent, with the consultation of the Executive Presbytery, shall be entrusted with the responsibility of appointing an individual to the Office of District Youth Director whose length of service shall be determined by the superintendent in consultation with the presbytery.
- (2) The Sectional Representatives shall be appointed annually by the District Youth Director, in consultation with the District Superintendent and the Sectional Presbyter.

e. Vacancies

If a Sectional Representative's office becomes vacant, the District Youth Director, with the approval of the Sectional Presbyter of the respective Section shall appoint a successor.

f. Duties

(1) The duties of the District Youth Director shall be:

- a. To oversee and supervise the District Youth work in general.
- b. To preside at all business sessions and meetings of the District Youth Committee.
- c. To promote and preside at District Youth Department conventions, camps, retreats, etc.
- d. To sponsor and assist in the organization of local youth groups in cooperation with pastors and sectional representatives.

(2) The duties of the Sectional Representative shall be:

- a. To promote and preside at sectional rallies in cooperation with the Sectional Presbytery and the local pastor.
- b. To keep an accurate record of the youth directors in his section and notify the District Youth Director monthly of any changes.
- c. To assist in organizing local groups when possible.
- d. To keep records of sectional and zone rallies and activities, copies of all correspondence and promotional materials, and transfer these to his successor.

(3) The duties of the District Youth Committee shall be:

- a. To develop plans and programs for the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Youth Department in keeping with policies approved by the Executive Presbytery.
- b. To compile, subject to the approval of the Executive Presbytery, a manual of procedural guidelines.

Section 4. Finances

a. The work of the District Youth Department shall be financed from monies received at rallies, conventions and youth sponsored activities.

- b. Each local assembly is encouraged to contribute \$5 monthly, or \$60 annually, to the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Secretary-Treasurer's office for support of the District Youth Department.
- c. Expenditures shall be according to the budget approved by the Executive Presbytery (Bylaws Article VI, Section 2).
- d. The District Youth Director shall be supported as stipulated by the Executive Presbytery.

ARTICLE XI. WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Designation

There shall be a department for women in the Pennsylvania-Delaware District.

Section 2. Purpose

- a. To promote intercessory prayer for individuals, churches, ministries and missionaries.
- b. To provide programs and projects with a redemptive purpose to reach the lost.
- c. To provide discipleship, fellowship and ministry opportunities for women within the local church.
- d. To provide ministry opportunities for women reaching outside the local church.
- e. To work in cooperation with the Girls Ministry Department in our District and in the local church.

Section 3. Organization and Government

a. Officers

The District officers shall consist of a Director and Assistant Director.

b. Committee

The District committee shall consist of the Director, the Assistant Director and the Sectional Representatives.

c. Qualifications

(1) The District Director and the Assistant Director shall be minister's wives or women who hold credentials in the Pennsylvania-Delaware District. They shall be women of mature experience with executive ability and have resided in the District for at least one year.

(2) Each Sectional Representative shall be a minister's wife or a woman who holds credentials in the Pennsylvania-Delaware District and has resided in the District for six months, or a lay woman who has been approved by her Pastor

and is a member in good standing of a local Assemblies of God church for at least six months.

d. Appointments

(1) The District Superintendent, with the consultation of the Executive Presbytery, shall be entrusted with the responsibility of appointing a District Director. Her length of service shall be determined by the Superintendent in consultation with the Presbytery.

(2) The Assistant Director shall be appointed by the District Director in consultation with the District Superintendent.

(3) Each Sectional Representative shall be appointed annually by the District Director in consultation with the District Superintendent and the District Presbyter.

e. Vacancies

The District Superintendent will appoint a District Director when a vacancy occurs. The Director will appoint an Assistant Director in consultation with the District Superintendent when a vacancy occurs. The Director will appoint a Sectional Representative in consultation with the District Presbyter and District Superintendent when a vacancy occurs.

f. Duties

(1) It shall be the duty of the Director to preside and have general oversight at all. District-level meetings of the Women’s Department in cooperation with the National Women’s Ministries department and the approval of the District Superintendent.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Assistant Director to preside at all District-level women’s meetings in the absence of the Director and to work in close cooperation with the Director in all the District women’s programs.

(3) It shall be the duty of the Sectional Representative to:

- a. Arrange for and conduct Sectional events as suggested by the Director.
- b. Visit the various women’s events at churches within her section upon invitation.
- c. Stimulate interest and encourage projects for the churches within her section.
- d. Contact the churches within her section.
- e. Assist churches in her section with the organization of new ministries for women.

Section 4. Finances

- a. The District Women’s Department shall be financed by:
 - (1) Tithes from the local women’s groups in the District.
 - (2) Quarterly donations from local women’s groups for the Director.
 - (3) Quarterly donations from local women’s groups for the Sectional Representative.
 - (4) Sectional women’s funds as they are able to do so.
 - (5) Registration fees from the District-level events.

- b. All designated funds, such as Project Offerings, shall be used for the purpose expressly intended.

- c. All District Women’s Department funds shall be processed by the Pennsylvania-Delaware District under the directorship of the Secretary-Treasurer’s Office.

ARTICLE XII. GIRLS MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Designation

There shall be a department known as Girls Ministries of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District.

Section 2. Purpose

There shall be a Girls Ministries program in compliance with the National Girls Ministries guidelines to reach, teach and train girls to love, follow and serve Jesus Christ.

Section 3. Organization and Government

a. Director

There shall be District Girls Ministries Director.

b. Committee

The Girls Ministries Committee shall consist of the Girls Ministries Director and the Sectional Girls Ministries Representatives.

c. Qualifications

(1) The District Girls Ministries Director shall be a minister’s wife or a woman who holds credentials in the Pennsylvania-Delaware District. She shall be a woman of mature experience with executive ability and have resided in the District for at least one year prior to her appointment.

(2) Each Sectional Representative may be a minister’s wife, a woman who holds credentials in the PennDel District, or a lay woman who has been approved by her Pastor, the District Presbyter, the District Girls Ministries Director and the District Superintendent. She shall be a member in good

standing of a local Assemblies of God church and having resided in her section for at least six months prior to her appointment.

d. Appointments and Elections

(1) The District Superintendent, with the consultation of the Executive Presbytery, shall be entrusted with the responsibility of appointing a District Girls Ministries Director whose length of service shall be determined by the District Superintendent in consultation with the Presbytery.

(2) Each Sectional Girls Ministries Representative shall be appointed annually by the District Girls Ministries Director in consultation with the District Superintendent and the District Presbyter.

e. Vacancies

The District Superintendent will appoint a Girls Ministries Director when a vacancy occurs. The Girls Ministries Director will appoint a Sectional Representative in consultation with the District Presbyter and the District Superintendent when a vacancy occurs.

f. Duties

(1) The District Girls Ministries Director shall preside at all District-level Girls Ministries meetings and events. She will have general oversight of all District Girls Ministries and programs in keeping with the National Girls Ministries guidelines and the approval of the District Superintendent.

(2) The Sectional Representative shall:

- (a) Arrange for and conduct at least one sectional Girls Ministries event per year.
- (b) Visit the various churches in her section to promote Girls Ministries.
- (c) Visit the various churches in her section to train Girls leaders.
- (d) Participate in Girls Ministries Honors Celebrations upon invitation.
- (e) Contact each church in her section quarterly.
- (f) Conduct local Girls Ministries Coordinators meetings at least annually.
- (g) Organize new Girls Ministries in her section.
- (h) Attend and assist at various District Girls Ministries events.
- (i) Attend at least one District Girls Ministries Committee meeting per year.

Section 4. Finances

The District Girls Ministries Department shall be supported by:

- a. The tithes of the local Girls Ministries clubs.
- b. Quarterly donations for the District Girls Ministries Director.
- c. Quarterly donations for the Sectional Girls Ministries Representative.

- d. Registrations and offerings from District Girls Ministries programs and events.
- e. A portion of the registrations from the required sectional Girls Ministries event per year.

ARTICLE XIII. MEN'S MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Designation

There shall be a Pennsylvania-Delaware District Men's Ministries Department.

Section 2. Purpose

- a. To stimulate each local church to organize a Men's Ministries Department, and to unite these in fellowship and cooperative service.
- b. To encourage cooperation with local pastors in accomplishing the objectives of the local church.
- c. To promote personal evangelism among men.
- d. To see that the Royal Ranger Program operates according to the Royal Ranger Policy Manual.

Section 3. Organization and Government

a. Officers

The officers shall be a District Director, Secretary and representative from each section.

b. Committee

The District Men's Ministries Department committee shall consist of the officers, the District Superintendent, and District Secretary-Treasurer.

c. Qualifications

(1) The District Director shall be an ordained or licensed minister of the District and shall have resided in the Pennsylvania-Delaware District for the past year.

(2) All officers shall be men of mature Christian experience, sound character, executive ability, and be a member in good standing of a local Assembly of God, and have been baptized with the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.

d. Elections

(1) The District Superintendent, with the consultation of the Executive Presbytery, shall be entrusted with the responsibility of appointing an individual to the Office of District Men's Director whose length of service shall be determined by the superintendent in consultation with the presbytery.

(2) The Sectional Men's Ministries Representative shall be appointed annually by the Sectional Committee in consultation with the District Superintendent and the District Men's Ministries Director. The Sectional Men's Ministries representative may be a credential holder or a layman who has been approved by his pastor and is a member in good standing of a local Assembly of God, and has been baptized in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4. All representatives must be a resident of their section for six months prior to their appointment.

(3) Regional coordinators shall be appointed by the District Men's Ministries Department Committee as needed.

e. Vacancy

(1) A vacancy in the office of Sectional Representative shall be filled by appointment of the District Director in consultation with the Presbyter of that Section.

(2) All Royal Rangers vacancies shall be filled as stipulated in the District Royal Ranger Manual.

f. Duties

(1) The duties of the District Director shall be:

a. To preside at all District meetings of the Men's Ministries Department

b. To have general oversight of the District Men's Ministries Department.

c. To assist in the formation of local groups.

d. To call and conduct rallies and encourage local and sectional rallies with the approval of the Presbyter.

e. To coordinate all programs through the Representative of the District Office.

(2) The duties of the Secretary shall be:

a. To keep records of all proceedings.

b. To prepare reports.

c. To attend to all official correspondence and any other related duties.

(3) The duties of the Sectional Representative shall be:

a. To arrange and conduct Sectional Men's Ministries Department Rallies.

- b. To visit the various local groups upon invitation.
- c. To suggest projects for local groups.
- d. To organize local Men's Ministries Departments.

(4) The duties of the District Men's Ministries Department Committee shall be:

- a. To develop plans and programs for the Men's Ministries Department in keeping with policies approved by the Executive Presbytery.
- b. To promote the activities of the Men's Ministries Department in the District.

Section 4. Finances

- a. Special offerings shall be received at Sectional and District rallies.
- b. Each local group shall send, on a monthly basis, a tithe to the Treasurer of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District for the support of this department.

Section 5. Royal Rangers

- a. All Royal Ranger officers, commanders and committees shall comply with the qualifications and duties of the District Royal Rangers Manual, including vacancies and finances.
- b. The District Superintendent, with the consultation of the Executive Presbytery, shall be entrusted with the responsibility of appointing an individual to the Office of District Royal Ranger Commander whose length of service shall be determined by the superintendent in consultation with the presbytery.
- c. The Sectional Royal Rangers Commander shall be appointed annually by the Sectional Committee in consultation with the District Superintendent. He shall be a member in good standing of a local Assembly of God church, and has been baptized in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4. All commanders must be a resident of their section for six months prior to their election.
- d. The Executive Royal Ranger Committee consisting of a Deputy District Commander, Aide-de-camp and District Training Coordinator shall be elected by the District Commander and the Sectional Commanders annually.
- e. There shall be a Royal Ranger Frontiersman Camping Fraternity known as the George Washington Chapter. All officers, leaders, and committees shall

comply with the district Royal Rangers Frontiersman Camping Fraternity Manual, including vacancies and finances.

ARTICLE XIV. HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Designation

There shall be a Pennsylvania-Delaware District Home Missions Department.

Section 2. Purpose

- a.** To promote the cause of Home Missions.
- b.** To establish and develop new assemblies.
- c.** To assist and encourage dependent assemblies and to guide them to the status of affiliated assemblies.

Section 3. Organization and Government

a. Officers

- (1) The District Superintendent shall direct District Home Missions through an assistant appointed by Executive Presbytery.
- (2) This assistant shall implement the District Home Missions program and shall serve for a period of two years unless otherwise terminated.
- (3) The Presbyter shall implement all Home Missions activities in his Section.

b. District Home Missions Committee

The Sectional District Home Missions Committee shall be the Executive Presbytery.

c. Sectional Home Missions Committee

Committee shall act as the Sectional Home Missions Committee.

d. Duties

- (1) The District Superintendent shall direct the District Home Missions activities, and serve as chairman of the District Home Missions Committee.
- (2) The District Home Missions Committee shall develop plans and programs, annually review the Home Missions Manual, and make necessary changes.
- (3) The Sectional Home Missions Committee shall develop and promote Home Missions projects on a local basis as outlined in the Home Missions Manual.

(4) The Sectional Home Missions Committee shall negotiate a written agreement, and give a Constitution and Bylaws to all new efforts as outlined in the Home Missions Manual, and shall act as the governing board of any Affiliated Assembly when it requests to become a Dependent Assembly under the supervision of the Executive Presbytery.

(5) The Sectional Presbyter shall promote Home Missions activities in his Section. He shall keep records of all sectional activities, agreements, promotional materials, and shall transfer these to his successor.

(6) The Sectional Committee shall be permitted to partner Home Missions (District Affiliated) Assemblies with the General Council Affiliated Assembly by mutual agreement, for the purposes of oversight and support. Such partnerships shall be governed by district policy as determined by the Executive Presbytery.

Section 4. Finances

a. The work of the Home Missions Department shall be financed from offerings received from churches, fellowship meetings, rallies, conventions, and other Home Missions sponsored meetings.

b. Expenditures shall be according to the budget approved by the Executive Presbyter. (See Bylaws, Article VI, Section 2.)

c. When money is loaned to a church for any reason, the monies received from the disposition of these properties by the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council shall be reimbursed to the Sectional Revolving Fund or Sectional Home Missions Fund, as the case may be, on a pro-rated basis.

d. Whenever a property reverts to the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council as a result of a church ceasing to exist, and if the real property or chattel is sold, then after all the encumbrances are satisfied, the balance of the monies shall be held in escrow by the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council to be used for the opening of a new church in that community or section. Furthermore, upon the dissolution of an Assemblies of God church, none of its remaining funds or proceeds from the sale of church property shall be distributed to any former or current pastor, officer, board member, or any other private individual.

Section 5. CHI ALPHA CAMPUS MINISTRIES

a. Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, the missions outreach of the Assemblies of God to the university and college campuses, shall be under the supervision of the District Home Missions Department.

b. The District Chi Alpha Coordinator, appointed by the District Superintendent, for a two year term, shall encourage all local Chi Alpha chapters, assist in establishing new ones, and offer assistance in spearheading campus evangelism. He shall serve under the direction of the District Home Missions Director.

c. There shall be a Campus Evangelism Committee, appointed by the District Superintendent, which shall meet annually with representatives from Chi Alpha chapters in the district. The meeting will be followed by a Chi Alpha Leadership Training Seminar for all interested Chi Alphans for the purposes of training, fellowship and interaction.

d. Chi Alpha chapters shall maintain a cooperative relationship with local assemblies.

e. Local Chi Alpha chapters bylaws shall be in harmony with those recommended by District Chi Alpha Campus Ministries. Local Chi Alpha bylaws changes will not be considered in effect until ratification by the Campus Evangelism Committee.

f. The acquisition or disposal of real properties, buildings, or improvements by purchase, rental, lease, conveyance or sale must first be approved by the Campus Evangelism Committee and District Executive Presbytery.

g. In the event real property or buildings are purchased, the property shall be deeded to the local Chi Alpha Ministries chapter as incorporated. In the event such property is sold those funds shall be returned to Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council with special consideration toward the local chapter involved in the sale.

ARTICLE XV. WORLD MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Designation

There shall be a World Missions Department in the Pennsylvania-Delaware District.

Section 2. Purpose

To encourage and assist in promoting the cause of World Missions.

Section 3. Organizations and Government

a. Officers

(1) There shall be a District World Missions Director appointed by the Executive Presbytery at the annual District Council.

(2) There shall be a World Missions Representative from each Section.

b. District World Missions Committee

The District World Missions Committee shall consist of the District World Missions Director, the Representative from each Section, the District Superintendent and the District Secretary-Treasurer.

c. Sectional World Missions Representative

All Sectional World Missions Representatives shall be appointed annually by the District World Missions Director in consultation with the District Superintendent and the Sectional Presbyter.

d. Qualifications

(1) The District World Missions Director shall be an ordained minister and shall have resided in the Pennsylvania-Delaware District for the past year.

(2) The Sectional World Missions Representative shall be a credentialed Assemblies of God minister or a lay person who has been approved by their Pastor and is a member in good standing in an Assembly of God church and shall have resided in their section for the past six months.

e. Vacancies

(1) If the office of District World Missions Director becomes vacant, it shall be filled by appointment of the Executive Presbytery.

(2) If the office of Sectional World Missions Representative becomes vacant, the District World Missions Director in consultation with the Presbyter shall appoint a successor.

f. Duties

(1) The District World Missions Director shall promote and oversee all World Missions activities in the Pennsylvania-Delaware District.

(2) He shall act through the Sectional Representatives as a liaison between missionaries and pastors of the District.

(3) He shall coordinate missionary itineraries and conventions in the District.

(4) The Sectional World Missions Representative shall supervise and administer the affairs of the District World Missions program in his Section.

(5) The District World Missions Committee shall develop plans and programs for the Pennsylvania-Delaware District in keeping with policies approved by the Executive Presbytery.

Section 4. Finances

Each missionary itinerating in the Pennsylvania-Delaware District shall be requested to contribute five percent of his gross cash offerings to the District Office for the support of the District World Missions Department.

ARTICLE XVI. QUORUM

Section 1. District Council

The accredited voting constituency present must equal twenty percent (20%) of the total of the credential holders of the Pennsylvania-Delaware District.

Section 2. Executive Presbytery

A majority present at any duly called meeting of the Executive Presbytery shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. Sectional Council

Those present at a duly announced meeting of the Section shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XVII. RULES OF ORDER

Section 1. Parliamentary Procedure

a. In order to expedite the work of the District Council, and to avoid confusion in its deliberations, the District Council shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, all in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

b. An official parliamentarian shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery for each District Council, but he shall not be a member of the Executive Presbytery. His decisions shall be binding unless reversed by a majority vote of the body.

ARTICLE XVIII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any regular or special meeting of the District Council by majority vote of the members voting on the proposed amendments.