

Bylaws
Of
The Georgia District Council
Of The
Assemblies of God

Revised May 3, 2016
The Assembly
Warner Robins, Georgia

Revised April 30, 2014
North Highland Assembly of
God Columbus, GA

Revised May 2, 2012
Evangel Temple Assembly of
God Columbus, Georgia

Adopted May 3, 2011
First Assembly of God
Warner Robins, Georgia

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**GEORGIA DISTRICT OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
BY-LAWS**

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, In these last days, God has been and is pouring out of His Spirit upon all flesh in fulfillment of His promise (Joel 2:28; Acts 2:17), resulting in a ministry of Spirit-baptized men and women (Luke 24:48,49), and the formation of Pentecostal assemblies of saved and Spirit-baptized believers (Acts 11:15, 16); and,

WHEREAS, These Pentecostal assemblies have associated themselves in general unity for the propagation of the distinctive testimony under the name of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc.; and,

WHEREAS, The General Council of the Assemblies of God has made provision for the care and development of local assemblies through the agency of District Councils; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, The Georgia District Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc. assume this delegated responsibility that has been committed to us, and hereby assemble ourselves in Scriptural order and recognize ourselves as a District Council of the Assemblies of God, for the purpose of promoting the interests of the fellowship in the territory assigned to us, and agree to be governed by the following Bylaws.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organized fellowship of churches shall be the Georgia District Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc.; also referred to herein as the Georgia District or the District.

ARTICLE II. Prerogatives

Section 1. Missional

Our purpose is to fulfill the Great Commission through the power of the Holy Spirit by partnering with and empowering church leaders to develop healthy, growing Christians and churches; to strengthen Regional Ministry Teams; and to effectively reach unchurched people in our communities and around the world while maintaining our historic purposes to fulfill the commission of the Church (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20; Acts 1:8); propagate the Gospel in its fullness; teach spirit-filled living and, carry out the principles of The General Council of the Assemblies of God in maintaining scriptural doctrine and order.

Section 2. Credentialing

To examine and credential candidates for the ministry under guidelines as set forth by The Georgia District Council or The General Council of the Assemblies of God (also referred to as General Council in this document), and to assume the oversight of all ministerial matters in The Georgia District Council as far as The Georgia District or General Council may be affected thereby.

Section 3. Operational

To establish, organize, operate, and maintain such committees, teams, divisions, departments, and institutions as may be thought advisable in pursuit of its work as outlined in The Georgia District Council Operational Manual. Oversight of this manual shall be the responsibility of the Executive Officers and all changes shall be approved by the District Presbytery in session at any regular or specially called meeting.

Section 4. Governing

The Georgia District shall have the following powers:

- A. To elect its own officers and select its own committees, to arrange for its own meetings, and to govern itself.
- B. To determine how best to fulfill the vision of “strengthening and developing empowered leaders and churches” in and through The Georgia District.
- C. To practice our values of Spirit-filled living, authentic faith, empowering leaders, developing healthy relationships, and serving churches.
- D. To set boundaries for geographical regions and fellowship sections in order to serve our broad constituency as determined by the District Presbytery and delineated in the Georgia District Operational Manual.

Section 5. Fellowship

The Georgia District shall represent, as nearly as possible, the body of Christ as described in the New Testament. It shall recognize the principles inherent in the Body as also inherent in this Fellowship, particularly the principles of unity, cooperation, and equality. It recognizes that these principles will enable it to achieve its priority reason-for being as an agency of God for evangelizing the world, as a corporate body in which man may worship God, and as a channel of God's purpose, to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son in order to carry out the principles of The Church of Jesus Christ in maintenance of scriptural doctrine and order. To facilitate these principles of fellowship, we choose to affiliate with and be a member District of The General Council of the Assemblies of God in Springfield, Missouri.

ARTICLE III. TENETS OF FAITH

Section 1. Our Declaration

WE BELIEVE:

That God's purpose concerning man is (1) to seek and to save that which is lost, (2) to be worshiped by man, (3) to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, and (4) to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world.

That these believers, saved and called out of the world, constitute the Body or Church of Jesus Christ built and established upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone. That the members of the Body, the Church (ecclesia) of Jesus Christ, are enjoined to assemble themselves for worship, fellowship, counsel, and instruction in the Word of God, the work of the ministry, and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for New Testament church order.

That it is evident the early apostolic churches came together in fellowship as a representative body of saved, Spirit-filled believers who ordained and sent out evangelists and missionaries, and under the supervision of the Holy Spirit set over the church pastors and teachers.

That the priority reason-for-being of the Assemblies of God is to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world, to be a corporate body in which man may worship God, and to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and to be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.

That 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, which enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs, adding a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God, and enabling 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.

That we are a cooperative fellowship of Pentecostal, Spirit-baptized saints from local Pentecostal assemblies of like precious faith throughout the United States to be known as The General Council of the Assemblies of God whose purpose is neither to usurp authority over the various local assemblies, nor to deprive them of their scriptural and local rights and privileges; but to recognize and promote scriptural methods and order for worship, unity, fellowship, work, and business for God; and to disapprove unscriptural methods, doctrines, and conduct, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, "till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ " (Ephesians 4:13).

Section 2. Statement of Fundamental Truths

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis for 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 Scripture 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 5:28:19; 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 shall 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 Immanuel embraces both God and man, in the one person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that the title Son of God describes His proper deity, and the title Son of Man, His proper humanity. Therefore, the title Son of God belongs to the order of eternity and the title Son of Man to the order of time (Matthew 1:21-23; 2 John 3; 1 John 3:8; Hebrews 1:1-13, 7:3).
- h. Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ: Wherefore, it is a transgression of the doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title Son of God solely from the fact of the Incarnation, or because of His relation to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God, a denial of the Father and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (2 John 9; John 1:1, 2, 14, 18, 29, 49; 1 John 2:22, 23, 4:1-5; Hebrews 12:2).
- i. Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord: The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him. And having been made both Lord and Christ, He sent the Holy Spirit that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to

the Father that God may be all in all (Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Romans 14:11; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28).

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

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

- a. The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare:
- b. His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35).
- c. His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).
- d. His miracles (Acts 2:22, 10:38).
- e. His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- f. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4).
- g. 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 comes!"

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 enduement of power for life

and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; 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 (Psalms 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 (Psalms 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 Heaven and the New Earth

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

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Ministers

All ministers having their permanent residence within the boundaries of the Georgia District of the Assemblies of God and holding credentials with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, Springfield, Missouri, together with those who meet the exceptions listed in Article VII., Section 9, Paragraph A. of the General Council Bylaws shall have membership in the Georgia District.

Section 2. Local Churches

Each local church officially affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, Springfield, Missouri, or The Georgia District holds membership in the Georgia District. Each local church shall consult with The Georgia District Officers before amending their Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, or Bylaws (legal governance documents) if said changes bring them into a state of non-compliance with

the Georgia District Bylaws. Each District or General Council Affiliated church are advised to supply a copy of their Constitution and Bylaws to the Georgia District Secretary-Treasurer for the church's permanent record as a requirement of membership.

Section 3. Voting Constituency

- A. The voting constituency at the Annual or Special Called District Council shall consist of all ordained and licensed members of The Georgia District of the Assemblies of God who are present and registered, and those delegates chosen by churches affiliated with The Georgia District of the Assemblies of God who are present and registered, each church being entitled to one delegate. Certification of the delegate shall require a letter from the assembly signed by the Pastor and the Church Secretary. The voting constituency can be expanded to include ordained and licensed members who are approved missionaries on assignment through electronic means when possible.
- B. The voting constituency at a Regional Conference shall consist of all ordained and licensed members of The Georgia District of the Assemblies of God who are present and residing within that Region as designated in the District Yearbook and the Georgia District Operational Manual as well as a representative from each church.

ARTICLE V. DISTRICT REGIONS AND SECTIONS

For the purpose of helping the Georgia District conduct its business, the territory of the District shall be divided into Regions and Sections. Each Region will be represented on the District Presbytery by one ordained minister. An Elder shall be appointed in each Section by the Superintendent, in consultation with the District Presbytery, to serve his section's spiritual needs. These divisions of the District shall be as designated on the official map of the Georgia District in the yearbook and in the District Operational Manual. The District Presbytery may vary the numbers and boundaries of the regional divisions as it may deem necessary.

ARTICLE VI. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP

Section 1. Definitions

- A. Executive Officers:
The Executive Officers shall be the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent, and the Secretary-Treasurer. The Superintendent shall serve as President of the Corporation and Chairperson of the Board. The Assistant Superintendent shall serve as Vice-President of the Corporation and Vice-Chairperson of the Board. The Secretary-Treasurer shall serve as Secretary and Treasurer of the Corporation. The Executive Officers shall be members of the District Presbytery. The Superintendent and the Secretary-Treasurer shall be authorized to sign legal documents on behalf of the corporation. In the event of the incapacitation of either the Superintendent or the Secretary-Treasurer, the Assistant Superintendent shall be authorized to sign legal documents on behalf of the corporation.
- B. District Presbytery:
There shall be a Presbytery made up of the Executive Officers, Regional Presbyters, General Presbyters, and no more than five At-Large Presbyters. Three of the five At Large Presbyters

could be designated as one female Presbyter, one under 40 years of age Presbyter, and one Ethnic Presbyter. They shall together comprise the Georgia District Presbytery. The District Presbytery shall have the power to act as the official Board of Directors between regular sessions of the Georgia District Council, performing such functions as are usual and customary for a board of directors.

C. Regional Presbyter:

Each Region shall be led by a Regional Presbyter and give direction to his Regional Ministry Team and sit on the District Presbytery.

D. At-Large Presbyter:

At-Large Presbyters are members of the District Presbytery and duties are assigned by the Superintendent.

E. Assistant Regional Presbyter:

There shall be an Assistant Regional Presbyter who will assist the Regional Presbyter in the administrative leadership of the Region and participate on the Regional Ministry Team.

F. Elders:

Each Region will be served by at least one Elder who will function as the Pastoral Care Representative.

G. General Presbyter:

The District Superintendent along with two elected ordained ministers, one of whom currently pastors a local Assembly, will serve as General Council Presbyters. By virtue of their office they shall also serve as members of the District Presbytery.

Section 2. Duties of Elected Officers

All elected officers and leaders shall perform duties as stipulated in The Georgia District Operational Manual and the Georgia District Bylaws.

Section 3. Conflict of Interest

Georgia District Executive Officers, Officials, or Elected Leaders who have an interest or relationship that appears to bias a decision making process shall disqualify themselves in matters of ministerial credentials and discipline, or disciplinary intervention in local assemblies when family, staff, close friendships, business, and/or pastoral relationships are involved.

Section 4. Qualifications

A. Executive Officers and Presbyters

1. They shall be ministers of mature experience and ability whose lives and ministry are above question.
2. They shall have held credentials and ministered as ordained ministers for at least two consecutive years in the Assemblies of God.
3. They shall have been members of The Georgia District for at least two years immediately prior to their election.
4. They shall be in alignment with the mission and core values of The Georgia District.
5. They shall have been actively involved in, and supportive of, the District and its ministries.

6. They shall be gifted and equipped to be high capacity administrators and leaders who uphold the Georgia District Assemblies of God doctrinal distinctives.
7. Regional Presbyters shall reside in the Region from which they are elected.

B. Assistant Regional Presbyters

1. They shall be ministers of mature experience and ability whose lives and ministry are above question.
2. They shall be credentialed as an ordained minister for at least one year in the Assemblies of God.
3. They shall have been members of The Georgia District for at least one year immediately prior to their election.
4. They shall be in alignment with the mission and core values of The Georgia District.
5. They shall have been actively involved in, and supportive of, the District and its ministries.
6. They shall reside in the Region from which they were appointed.

C. Elders

1. They shall be credentialed ministers with the General Council of the Assemblies of God.
2. They shall have been actively involved in, and supportive of, the Georgia District and its ministries.
3. They should have a gift mix that is complementary of ministering to ministers.

Section 5. Elections and Terms of Office

A. Time of Election

Executive Officers of the Georgia District shall be elected and/or ratified during the Council meetings of the Georgia District. The exception to this rule is the election of a Superintendent to fill an unexpired term. This election will be held in a special called and duly announced Council unless the vacancy occurs within one hundred twenty (120) days of a regularly scheduled Council.

B. Terms of Office

1. All Executive Officers and At-Large Presbyters of the Georgia District will be elected to a four-year term of office. The term of their office shall begin thirty (30) days after the day of election and shall continue for four (4) years or until their successor qualifies.
2. Regional Presbyters shall be nominated / ratified to serve a four-year term of office. The term of their office shall begin thirty (30) days after the day of ratification and shall continue for four (4) years or until their successor qualifies.
3. Assistant Regional Presbyters shall be appointed to a two-year term of office. The term of their office shall begin thirty (30) days after the day of appointment and shall continue for two (2) years.
4. Elders shall be appointed to a two-year term of office. The term of their office shall begin the day of appointment and shall continue for two years or until removed or replaced by the Regional Presbyter.

C. Term Limits

Persons serving as Assistant Superintendent, Regional Presbyter, At-Large Presbyter, and Elder shall be limited to two consecutive terms in that office. They shall be eligible to serve again after

the duration of one year. If there are no other qualified nominees willing to serve, this restriction will be waived by the Presiding Officer.

D. Nomination and Election of District Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, At-Large Presbyters, and General Presbyters

All candidates for these offices shall be nominated by receiving not less than five (5) votes by secret ballot at a regular or specially called District Council. A two-thirds majority vote shall be necessary to constitute an election. In the event two-thirds of the votes cast are received by a qualified candidate on the nominating ballot, an election shall be declared. If no election has been declared after the third electoral ballot, the three candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated. The three designated At-Large Presbyters (Under 40 years of age, Female, and Ethnic At Large Presbyters) shall be nominated by the Presbytery and shall be voted upon by a "yes" or "no" secret ballot by the District Council in session. There shall be no further nominations from the District Council floor. A two-thirds majority vote shall be required to ratify.

E. Nomination and Ratification of District Secretary-Treasurer

This office shall be elected in the following manner: The District Superintendent shall nominate a candidate for this office to the District Presbytery. The District Presbytery shall be entrusted with the responsibility of making careful investigation concerning the qualifications and general fitness of the nominated candidate. Upon approval, the candidate's name shall be presented to the District Council in session for ratification. The nominated candidate shall be voted upon by a "yes" or "no" secret ballot by the District Council in session. There shall be no further nominations from the District Council floor. A two-thirds majority vote shall be required to ratify. Terminations of this office shall be at the discretion of the District Superintendent.

F. Regional Presbyter

Regional Presbyters shall be nominated in a regional conference in session. The nomination process shall be as follows:

1. Names of nominees shall be placed in nomination by having received not less than three (3) votes cast by secret ballot; and
2. Qualified candidates who receive a majority vote on the nominating ballot, he / she shall be declared the regional nominee.

G. Assistant Regional Presbyter

Assistant Regional Presbyters shall be appointed by the duly elected Regional Presbyter in consultation with the District Superintendent and ratified by the District Presbytery.

H. Elder

The duly elected Regional Presbyter in consultation with the District Superintendent shall appoint the elder(s) needed for their region.

I. Honorary Presbyter

Honorary Presbyter shall be nominated by the Presbytery. He or she shall be chosen by two-thirds majority vote of the District Council.

Section 6. Vacancies

- A. Conditions: Vacancies can occur for the following conditions: death, resignation, disability, removal for cause, or dereliction of duty.
1. Death or Resignation: Upon the death or resignation of any elected official or leader, his or her office shall be declared vacant and the process outlined for replacement shall begin.
 2. Disability: In the event any elected official or leader becomes temporarily or permanently disabled for a period exceeding 120 days, and is unable to fulfill the duties of his or her office, his or her office shall be declared vacant by action of the Georgia District Presbytery unless special circumstances warrant otherwise. If special circumstances warrant otherwise, a qualified person or persons shall be appointed to fulfill the required duties until the issue is resolved.
 3. Removal For Cause: In the event any elected official or leader no longer meets the qualifications listed for his or her office, he or she shall be released from office for cause by action of two thirds majority of the Georgia District Presbytery in session and the office declared vacant.
 4. Dereliction of Duty: In the event any elected official or leader is found derelict in his or her duties, he or she may be removed from office by two-thirds vote of the Georgia District Presbytery in session.
- B. Executive Officers
1. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Superintendent one hundred twenty (120) or more days prior to the next annual District Council, the District Presbytery shall call a special Council for the purpose of electing a Superintendent and filling any other office that may become vacant as a result of the special election. If the vacancy occurs less than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the next District Council, an election shall be held at said Council. The Assistant Superintendent shall serve as the acting Superintendent until a Superintendent is elected in either the specially called Council or until the next annual District Council.
 2. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Assistant Superintendent one hundred twenty (120) or more days prior to the next District Council of The Georgia District, the Presbytery shall call a special session of The Georgia District Council for the purpose of electing an Assistant Superintendent and filling any other office that may become vacant as a result of the special election. If the vacancy occurs less than one hundred twenty days (120) prior to the next annual session of District Council, a special election shall be held for this purpose in the annual Council.
 3. If a vacancy shall occur in the office of Secretary-Treasurer, the Superintendent shall submit a candidate to the District Presbytery for their approval. The name shall then be put before the voting constituency of the District and voted upon for ratification either in a specially called council, by mail, or electronically.
 4. In the event vacancies occur simultaneously, or near simultaneously, in both the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent's offices, the District Presbytery shall immediately call for a meeting of the District Council giving two (2) full weeks notice. The District Presbytery shall appoint someone as the acting Superintendent until a Superintendent is elected.

C. Regional Presbyters

If a Regional Presbyter ceases to reside in the region in which he or she was elected to represent, or vacates said office for any reason, his office shall automatically be filled by his assistant until a Regional Conference can be called by the District Presbytery for the purpose of holding a special election. The succeeding Regional Presbyter shall serve a full four (4) year term.

D. At-Large Presbyters

If an At-Large Presbyter ceases to reside in the Georgia District or vacates said office for any reason, his office shall remain vacant for the unexpired term or until the next District Council in session for the purpose of holding an election. The succeeding At-Large Presbyter shall serve a full four-year term.

E. Assistant Regional Presbyters

If an Assistant Regional Presbyter ceases to reside or minister in the region in which he or she was appointed, his or her office shall automatically become vacant. The Regional Presbyter in consultation with the District Superintendent and the District Presbytery shall appoint a replacement.

F. General Presbyters

If a General Presbyter ceases to reside in the Georgia District, or if a General Presbyter who has been elected from among the Georgia District pastors leaves the pastoral ministry, his or her office shall automatically become vacant. If the General Presbyter office, which is held by the local church pastor, becomes vacant for any reason the District Presbytery shall appoint a qualified minister to fill the vacancy prior to the next meeting of the General Presbytery. When possible, the appointment shall be made at the next regular meeting of the District Presbytery to fill the vacancy until the next District Council is held.

ARTICLE VII. MINISTRY DIRECTORS AND OFFICE STAFF

Section 1. Ministry Directors

- A. All District Ministry Directors will be hired by the Superintendent with the approval of the District Presbytery.
- B. They shall report directly to the Superintendent, who shall have the right to terminate their employment with the Georgia District.
- C. Ministry Director's qualifications, work descriptions, and employee benefits are defined in the District Operational Manual.

Section 2. Office Staff

- A. All District Office staff will be hired by the Superintendent under the consultation of the affected Department Director.
- B. They shall report to the Superintendent, who shall have the right to terminate their employment with the Georgia District.

- C. Office staff qualifications, job descriptions, and employee benefits are defined in the District Operational Manual.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Section 1. Parliamentary Order

The official meetings of the Georgia District shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship. Roberts Rules may be set aside in order to facilitate District business by a majority vote of the voting constituency.

Section 2. District Council

The District Council shall meet annually under the direction of the Superintendent and the District Presbytery. Its purpose will be to enhance and encourage the spiritual lives of its participants, receive reports from District officers, as well as transacting necessary business and the election of officers.

Section 3. Regional Conferences

Each Region will meet on a yearly basis in order to worship, train, plan, and promote work in the Region as well as to elect officers as needed. The meetings shall be duly announced at least thirty (30) days prior by mail to each church and every credential holder residing within that Region.

Section 4. Presbytery Meetings

The District Presbytery, in conjunction with the Superintendent, shall establish dates and times for conducting its meetings. The Presbytery shall meet as prescribed in the District Operational Manual and as published in the district calendar, which may include meetings by mail or electronic means. Additional meetings may be called in order to conduct the business of the District as directed by the Presbytery.

Section 5. Elders Meetings

The Eldership shall meet with the Superintendent and/or the Regional Presbyter for purposes of worship, training and fellowship as needed and announced.

Section 6. Special Called Meetings

The District Presbytery may call the District Council into a special session as is deemed necessary for the conducting of business or the election of officers to fill unexpired terms. Notices containing the date, time, and location of the meeting as well as the reason for the meeting shall be sent to the District's churches and voting constituency. The notice shall be postmarked at least thirty (30) days prior to said meeting and shall be required for a duly called and authorized meeting.

ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees

Standing committees shall be appointed as necessary. They shall serve for the designated time or until their purpose is accomplished. In the event a vacancy shall occur in a standing committee, the District Presbytery shall be authorized to fill such vacancy.

Section 2. Credentials Committee

- A. The District Presbytery shall constitute the Credentials Committee of The Georgia District of the Assemblies of God. It shall have the authority to examine and approve ministerial candidates for Ordained, Licensed, and Certified Minister credentials to the General Council. They shall be authorized to examine and approve the recommendations of the District Credentials Review Committee concerning applications of ministers seeking transfer, renewal, or advancement. All the approvals shall be forwarded to the General Secretary of the Assemblies of God for the issuance of the appropriate credentials. These actions shall be reported to the District Council in session.
- B. District Credentials Review Committee. The District Secretary-Treasurer shall appoint committee members from present and/or former Eldership and Presbytery, to serve on the District Credentials Review Committee. The District Secretary-Treasurer shall also appoint alternate committee members to audit regular committee meetings. The alternate committee members would not be able to vote unless they are needed to fill vacancies by absent committee members. This committee shall be appointed annually and shall meet no less than twice during each Council year and shall be chaired by the Secretary-Treasurer. This committee shall consider, evaluate, and interview. The decisions of the District Credentials Review Committee shall be forwarded to the District Presbytery for final determination.

Section 3. Roster Committee

A Roster Committee shall be appointed by the District Presbytery prior to each meeting of the District Council. It shall be entrusted with the responsibility of examining credentials of all ministers and delegates. Ordained and licensed ministers shall identify themselves by fellowship cards of the current year; delegates from assemblies shall obtain letters signed by their pastor and church secretary certifying their appointment by the assembly to represent it in the District Council. Badges shall be issued by the committee to all qualified delegates and ministers, and any other relevant status.

Section 4. Resolutions Committee

- A. Procedure for Presentation of Resolutions
A Resolutions Committee shall be recommended by the Superintendent and ratified by the District Presbytery. All resolutions for presentation to the District Council, except emergency measures, shall be presented to the District office no less than sixty (60) days prior to the regularly scheduled District Presbytery Board meeting in April, in order that they be mailed to the constituency no less than thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the District Council, with the understanding that this does not apply to business growing out of District Presbytery meetings, and that resolutions of an emergency nature shall be decided by majority vote of the District Council.
- B. Sponsorship Policy
All resolutions presented to the Resolutions Committee shall be signed by the author or sponsor. When a resolution is presented for the consideration of the District Council in session the author, sponsor, or a spokesperson appointed by the author or sponsor shall be expected to be the first speaker on behalf of the resolution.
- C. Appropriateness of Resolutions
The Resolutions Committee shall, by a majority vote, determine the appropriateness of a proposed resolution, including the following criteria in its decision:

1. Possible conflict with the Bylaws; and
2. Those proposals absurd in substance.

D. Right of Sponsor

If the Resolutions Committee determines that a resolution is inappropriate, it shall so advise the author and shall apprise the author of his or her right to present the proposed resolution to the District Council in session for a determination as to its appropriateness.

E. Format of Presentation. The Resolutions Committee shall:

1. Put resolutions in proper form;
2. Eliminate duplication of similar resolutions relating to a specific subject; and
3. Present resolutions in a logical sequence.

Section 5. Finance Committee

The Secretary-Treasurer, in consultation with the Superintendent, shall submit to the District Presbytery the names of candidates to serve on the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee will produce a budget for the Georgia District Assemblies of God that includes all departments and ministries of the District. The budget is for recommendation only and is ultimately the property of the District Presbytery. The Superintendent and/or the District Presbytery can extend the role of the Finance Committee to consider financial items that might arise during the year. The District Operational Manual shall describe the process and tenure of the Finance Committee members.

Section 6. Camp Committee

A Camp Committee shall be appointed by the District Presbytery in consultation with the District Youth Director (DYD). This committee shall give general oversight to the maintenance, development, and marketing of Timber Lake Retreat Center in Forsyth, Georgia.

Section 7. Other Committees

Other committees may be appointed by the District Presbytery or the District Council in session.

ARTICLE X. MINISTRY

Section 1. Ministry Described

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

Section 2. Standard of Church Leadership

In view of the alarming erosion of national moral standards, we reaffirm our intention of upholding Biblical standards against all forms of worldliness. We urge all believers to "love not the world, neither the things that are in the world... For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (I John 2:15, 16). In its teaching regarding worldliness, the Scriptures warn against participation in activity that defiles the body, or corrupts the mind and spirit; the inordinate love of or preoccupation with pleasures, position, or possessions, which lead to their misuse; manifestation of extreme behavior, unbecoming speech, or inappropriate appearance; any fascination or association which lessens one's affection for spiritual

things (Luke 21:34, 35; Romans 8:5-8; 12:1, 2; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:11; I Timothy 2:8-10; 4:12; James 4:4; I John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12).

Section 3. General Council Governance:

The Georgia District Assemblies of God hereby incorporates by this reference all of the current General Council Bylaws (currently General Council Bylaws, Article VII), Articles, Rules, and Regulations as though set forth in full, whether or not attached, whether existing now or as may be amended in the future.

Section 4. Ministerial Credentials and Procedures:

- A. The Georgia District Assemblies of God agrees to be governed by the current applicable General Council Bylaws (Article VII) in relation to all levels of credentialing by The General Council.
- B. Credentialing matters shall be under the oversight of The Georgia District Assemblies of God Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 5. Violations of Ministerial Courtesy

All discourteous conduct is disapproved, and all ministers are advised against interfering with pastors in charge of assemblies, whether it be by going in upon their work without consent or by such correspondence with members of the assembly as will hurt the influence of the leader. All correspondence that concerns the whole assembly shall be addressed to the one in charge and not to private members. Where there is no pastor, letters concerning the work shall be addressed to the officers of an assembly. Any minister who so offends shall be subject to scriptural treatments as an offender by the District Officers. Such discourtesy will seriously affect the granting of annual Fellowship Certificates and may be the basis for their recall.

Section 6. Discipline of Ministers

- A. Ministers who, because of unscriptural conduct; a change of doctrinal views; 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 habit of running into debt which brings reproach upon the cause; and/or a marriage in violation of our stand on marriage and divorce, may give cause for disciplinary action. Such discipline shall be administered upon complaint filed in writing with the Executive Officers by the complainant. Such discipline shall be administered in accordance with the Manual of Jurisprudence Governing the Trial and Appeal of Assemblies of God Ministers.
- B. All ministers coming into the fellowship of the District Council shall be made cognizant of the trust and responsibility placed in them as members of this fellowship. Ministers shall be informed that if any congregation they should perchance be pastoring should make any suggestion of leaving the fellowship, that pastor shall immediately inform District Officials. Should the congregation withdraw from the Georgia District with that pastor's approval, or influence in any way, he shall be required to give an account to the District Officials.

Section 7. Restoration of Credentials

When a minister who is a member of our fellowship shall have been removed from our rolls for any cause, except failure to renew, and shall apply to be reinstated, he or she shall in no case be eligible for reinstatement until at least six months have elapsed after his or her name has been stricken from our list of ministers. The Credential Committee of the District Council may also hold the matter in abeyance

until the next session of the District Presbytery in order that the District Presbytery may have the opportunity to review the case, in which event the matter of reinstatement of said minister shall be left entirely with that body.

Section 8. Ministers Resigning Pastorates

All pastors shall be expected to notify the District Superintendent and the Regional Presbyter as far in advance as possible when they are resigning their pastorate. They should encourage the officers of the vacated assembly to seek the assistance of the District Officers in securing a new pastor.

ARTICLE XI. ASSEMBLIES

Section 1. District Council Affiliated Assemblies

A District Council Affiliated assembly is one that is under the supervision of the Georgia District Council of the Assemblies of God. These assemblies shall be encouraged to proceed to the status of General Council Affiliated assemblies.

A. Administrative Procedures for District Affiliated Assemblies

All District Affiliated Assemblies shall be under the supervision of a Board composed of the following Officers: The Regional Presbyter from the region in which the church resides, Pastor of the District Affiliated church, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Secretary/Treasurer. They shall act as the church board and may execute any and all documents for the local Assembly, including the power and authority to execute deeds conveying any interest in real property. If the church is without a Pastor then one of the members of the advisory committee will automatically assume a seat on the District Affiliated Church Board. The legal signees for any documents will be in accordance to ARTICLE VI. DISTRICT LEADERSHIP, Section 1. Definitions, paragraph A. Executive Officers. If a General Council Affiliated church reverts to a District Affiliated church, the bylaws of the church are suspended and the governance shall be from the District until such time as the church regains its status as a General Council Affiliated church.

B. Church Plant

A church plant is a new work that has been approved by the Presbytery and as such is eligible for support as set forth in the District Operational Manual.

C. District Affiliated Assemblies

A District Affiliated Assembly is a church that does not yet meet the requirements to upgrade to a General Council Affiliated church or a General Council Affiliated church that has reverted to a District Council Affiliated church.

Section 2. General Council Affiliated Assemblies

A General Council affiliated assembly is one that has applied for and has received a Certificate of Affiliation from The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

A. Requirements for Affiliation: Churches desiring to be affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall meet the following requirements. They shall:

1. Accept the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God;

2. Adopt a standard of membership that may be determined either by the local assembly or by agreement with the district council;
 3. Have a minimum active voting membership of twenty (20) persons who shall accept responsibility to maintain scriptural order in the local body;
 4. Adopt Articles of Incorporation, a constitution, or bylaws compatible with models recommended by the District Council, or district approved governance models that provide for adequate accountability, amenability, and safeguards so that a pastor and/or governing body cannot directly or indirectly exert dictatorial control over a church;
 5. Have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of the church called for in its constitution or bylaws; and
 6. Make provision for a pastor who is a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council and a District Council.
 7. Have sufficient financial resources and sound stewardship policies in order to adequately provide for the means of ministry.
- B. Procedure for Affiliation: It shall be the responsibility of the District Presbytery to determine when an assembly has reached a state of growth, stability, and maturity qualifying it for affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Qualifications shall include a minimum active voting membership of twenty (20) persons. The assembly shall have matured to a point where a sufficient number of qualified persons are available for the offices called for in its constitution and bylaws. The procedure for affiliation shall be:
1. A church desiring affiliation shall forward its request to the District. The Georgia District shall provide an approved application form and procedural instructions.
 2. The meeting in which an assembly shall be set in order shall be presided over by an officer of the District who shall assist the assembly in the adoption of a Constitution and Bylaws acceptable to the District.
 3. An existing, mature church that desires to affiliate with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall apply to the office of the Georgia District for guidance and assistance.
 4. Upon approval by the District Presbytery, the application for affiliation shall be forwarded to the General Secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Recognition of affiliation shall occur upon receipt by the assembly of an official Certificate of Affiliation issued by the General Secretary.

Section 3: Parent Affiliated Churches

A Parent Affiliated Church is an assembly, which shall be under the supervision of a parenting church, in accordance with the parenting church's Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 4. New Churches

- A. Requirements for New Churches: New churches desiring to be affiliated with The Georgia District of the Assemblies of God shall accept the Fundamentals of Truth of the Assemblies of God.
- B. Procedure for New Churches: Anyone desiring to begin a new church shall contact the District office to apply for approval. A new church candidate shall complete the process of approval that is outlined in the Georgia District Operational Manual. Final approval of new churches shall be

made by the District Presbytery. New churches that are approved shall be under the supervision of the District Presbytery.

- C. Any group that has withdrawn from an Assemblies of God church for the purpose of beginning a new assembly must approach the District Presbytery which, after following due process for new Assemblies, will make its recommendation for final approval or disapproval while taking each request on a case-by-case basis.
- D. Independent, or other churches, applying for recognition as a dependent or General Council Affiliated church shall be approved in the same manner as that of new churches applying for approval. Final approval shall be made by the District Presbytery.
- E. The District shall take an unfavorable attitude toward any minister returning to said locality to start a new church, unless he has been given permission by the District Presbytery.

Section 5. Relocating of Existing Assemblies

An existing assembly that relocates shall follow the same procedure as that of securing a new location as outlined in the guidelines for establishment of a new assembly.

Section 6. Cooperating Assemblies

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

Section 7. Responsibility of Local Assemblies

- A. Due to the importance of District functions and the need for the pastor to be present in these meetings, each Assembly should assume the responsibility and obligation to bear their pastor's expenses enabling him to attend these meetings.
- B. Each assembly should accept their responsibility to provide a retirement income for their pastor and ministerial staff by contributing an amount equal to 5% or more of the minister's salary (over and above salary) to the Ministers MBA church account.

Section 8. Safe Guarding Local Assemblies and Property

- A. No Assemblies of God church shall elect a pastor who does not hold credentials with the Assemblies of God unless she or he has been approved by the District Presbytery.
- B. In the event that any General Council affiliated assembly within the Georgia District shall be divided over doctrinal issues peculiar to the Assemblies of God churches, the Georgia District will recognize those who wish to maintain relationship with the Assemblies of God as rightful heirs of the local church. A General Council affiliated church that for any reason requests to withdraw from its association with the Assemblies of God or the Georgia District, must allow the District Superintendent or his appointee to attend and speak to the meeting in which a vote is being taken by the congregation for the purpose of separation. The District's Executive Officers

along with its Presbytery will consider the reasons given for withdrawal and the churches historical relationship with the Assemblies of God in making decisions about the petition.

ARTICLE XII. FINANCES

Section 1. District Income From Ministry

- A. Membership in any group implies mutual cooperation of all the members whether it be a family, community, nation, church, fellowship, or an association - mutual benefits accrue from mutual contributions to a common good. So it is with District Council fellowship. Therefore, each credentialed member of the Georgia District shall be expected to participate by giving his proper share for the support of the district treasury.
- B. Each minister, ordained, licensed and certified, who are members of the Georgia District shall be expected to contribute no less than 90% of his/her ministerial tithes to the district treasury on a monthly basis. This applies to all funds received from the ministry. All members are expected to contribute 65% of the tithes on income received from secular employment to the district treasury. During times of financial hardship, a church pastor's tithe shall be returned to the local church on a monthly basis upon written request with approval of the Executive Officers.
- C. World Missionaries, Chaplains, and nationally appointed US Missionaries are expected to give to the District according to the Provisions in Article VII, Section 8, Paragraph C. of the General Council Bylaws.
- D. Any cash benefit(s) or other non-cash benefit(s) from any source which is financially beneficial to any individual and is defined by the Social Security system as income, (i.e., salaries, housing, allowances, bonuses, Social Security payments, etc.) shall be construed to be a fair and ethical basis for tithing by credential holders in the Georgia District.
- E. Compliance with the above rules and principles shall be a prerequisite for renewal of credentials of all active ministers. If their contributions are in arrears they shall be given opportunity to meet the deficit with their renewal.

Section 2. District Income From Churches

- A. By partnering with the Georgia District, each church enables the Georgia District departments to fulfill their mission by providing resources, ministry and solutions.
- B. The officially approved budget of the District shall be available to ministers and churches upon request.

Section 3. Disbursements

- A. The District Presbytery shall have the authority to make such drafts upon the District funds as may be necessary to maintain the District Administrative office.
- B. All finances shall be under the supervision of the District Presbytery and they shall be authorized to disburse District funds as they deem necessary.

Section 4. Budgetary Policies

- A. There shall be an annual District budget prepared including all financial expenditures of all departments and all operations of the Georgia District.
- B. Each department shall be responsible for preparing an annual budget.
- C. The District Presbytery shall be responsible for preparing the annual general operations budget.
- D. Departmental and general operations budgets shall be presented to the District Presbytery for their approval.
- E. It shall be expected that each department shall be responsible to raise its own budget.
- F. Any surplus or deficit in any department budget shall be taken into consideration in the succeeding budget.

Section 5. Auditing

At the discretion of the Presbytery, the financial records shall be audited or reviewed at the close of each fiscal year by a certified public accountant, prior to the District Council. Copies of the audit or review shall be kept on file and copies shall be provided for the delegates at the District Council.

ARTICLE XIII. MISSIONS

Section 1. World Missions

- A. Authorization: The Georgia District of the Assemblies of God shall assume responsibility and do all within its power to spread the full gospel to the entire world. In keeping with this objective, every local church shall be encouraged to assume responsibility for support of duly appointed missionaries and approved ministries in cooperation with the Assemblies of God World Missions.
- B. Purpose: The primary purpose of World Missions shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.
- C. There shall be a World Missions Secretary who shall be elected by the District Presbytery to a four-year term from among the qualified credentialed ministers of the Georgia District.
- D. The Georgia District World Missions Secretary shall chair the World Missions Committee whose definition and duties are described in the District Operational Manual.

Section 2. U. S. Missions

- A. The Georgia District of the Assemblies of God strongly encourages its affiliated churches to promote and support U.S. Missionaries and their varied ministries within our state and nationally.
- B. There shall be a U. S. Missions Secretary who shall be elected from the qualified ministers of the Georgia District by the District Presbytery for a four (4) year term of office.

- C. U.S. Missionaries shall be appointed by action of the U. S. Missions Executive Committee with the approval of their home districts and the districts in which the missionaries will be working.
- D. All missionary appointments and renewals shall be made according to administrative criteria established by Assemblies of God U. S. Missions upon the approval of the work District.
- E. U. S. Missionaries work in cooperation with both U.S. Missions and their assigned District(s) to fulfill the mission and purpose of the Assemblies of God.
- F. U. S. Missionaries shall conduct their ministry under the blessing and support of the respective District(s).
- G. The evaluation of the missionary's effectiveness, pastoral care, and fellowship opportunities shall be shared by the District's U.S. Missions Committee and Assemblies of God U.S. Missions.
- H. Georgia U.S. Missions shall operate under the oversight of a U.S. Missions Committee whose definition and duties are described in the Georgia District Operational Manual.

ARTICLE XIV. CAPTIVE CORPORATION

The district office will not create any captive corporations without the consent of the District Council in session.

ARTICLE XV. GEORGIA DISTRICT OPERATIONAL MANUAL

The District Presbytery shall be empowered to develop, modify, and maintain a set of documents referred to as the Georgia District Operational Manual. These documents shall set forth the policies, procedures, guidelines, and parameters relating to the operation and structure of departments, committees, and ministries of The Georgia District of the Assemblies of God. The Georgia District Operational Manual shall be administered by the Executive Officers. The Executive Officers shall submit to the District Presbytery all proposed additions, deletions, and modifications to the Georgia District Operational Manual for approval or amendment by the Presbytery. The Georgia District Operational Manual shall be available upon request to churches and credentialed ministers.

ARTICLE XVI. INSTITUTIONS

The Georgia District recognizes all Assemblies of God universities, colleges, and institutions of higher Christian learning associated with its local congregations.

ARTICLE XVII. PUBLICATIONS

Section 1. Yearbook

- A. The Georgia District shall publish annually a yearbook with contents as follows:
 - 1. Bylaws

2. Constitutional Declaration of the General Council of the Assemblies of God
3. Church list with Pastors and status of each church.
4. Ministerial list, including address and phone number, of Ordained, Licensed, and Certified Ministers; Foreign Missionaries; U. S. Missionaries; and the District Officers
5. Regional and Sectional Boundaries
6. Minutes of the Georgia District Council Session

B. A copy of the yearbook shall be mailed to all ministers in the District.

Section 2. Annual Report

A. The Georgia District shall publish annually an Annual Report including the following:

1. District Superintendent's Report
2. Secretary-Treasurer's Financial Report
3. Credential Report
4. Department Reports
5. World and U. S. Missions Secretaries Reports

B. A copy shall be mailed to all district ministers and assemblies.

Article XVIII. Quorum

All members registered and voting in any meeting of the District Council shall constitute a quorum, and all members of the District Presbytery registered and voting in any meeting of the District Presbytery shall constitute a quorum.

Article XIX. Amendments

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any regular meeting of the District Council. All amendments emanating from the constituency are to be received no less than sixty (60) days prior to the scheduled District Presbytery Board meeting in April, and that they be mailed to the constituency thirty (30) days prior to the time of meeting. A majority of ballots cast shall be necessary for adoption.

Article XX. Addenda

All matters not covered by the Bylaws or by resolutions which have been passed by the District Council shall be governed by resolutions appearing in the minutes of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace, until we all come in the unity of the faith." (Ephesians 4:3)