

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS



First Assembly of God
1911 SE Court Ave.
Pendleton, OR 97801

CONSTITUTION

of First Assembly of God Pendleton, Oregon

As adopted by the Assemblies of God, Oregon District January 14, 1942 with minor changes by the District Presbytery 1973, updated March 28, 1999.

PREAMBLE

Whereas, It is the express purpose of God, our Heavenly Father, to call out of the world a saved people who shall constitute the Body of The church of our Lord Jesus Christ, built and established upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone; and,

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

Resolved, That we whose names appear on the Assembly Roster as this date do recognize ourselves as a local Assembly under the head-ship of the Lord Jesus Christ, first organized as such February 23, 1942, and to affirm ourselves to be in cooperative fellowship with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, Oregon District, Inc., and do hereby adopt the following articles of Church order this 23rd day of February in the year of our Lord, 1942, these to supplement the Articles of Incorporation and to supersede any and all other rules of church order.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this Church shall be First Assembly of God of Pendleton, Oregon, a non-profit organization incorporated with the State of Oregon.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

Section 1. To establish and maintain a place of worship of Almighty God our Heavenly Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, through the Holy Spirit, and for the promotion of close Christian fellowship and edification.

Section 2. To obey in our capacity the Great Commission. (Matt. 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-20; Acts 1:8; 8:4)

ARTICLE III. PRINCIPLES

Section 1. We hold as spiritual and fundamental that form of church government which is a voluntary cooperative fellowship among equals. The local church being sovereign under Christ.

Section 2. The Bible, the Word of God, is to be held in the Spirit of Christ as supreme in all matters.

Section 3. We hold it as basic that every Christian should endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace...till we all come into 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.

ARTICLE IV. PEROGATIVES

In assuming the responsibility of the maintenance of scriptural order in the local body, we reserve the following prerogatives:

Section 1. To have a membership which is determined by the local assembly, and to discipline its members according to the scriptures.

Section 2. To choose or call its pastor, elect its officers, and transact all the other business pertaining to its life and conduct as a local church.

Section 3. To establish and maintain such departments and institutions as may be deemed necessary for the propagation of the Gospel, and for the work of the local assembly.

Section 4. 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 V. RELATIONSHIP

Section 1. While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, this assembly shall voluntarily enter into full cooperative fellowship with assemblies of like precious faith associated in the Oregon District Council and the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri, and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation.

Section 2. We hereby declare our unswerving loyalty to the Government of the United States of America and affirm our fixed purpose to assist it in every way morally possible, consistent with our faith.

ARTICLE VI. TENENTS OF FAITH

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. Hence this statement of fundamental truths 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 truth in the Bible, only that it covers our present needs as to these fundamental matters.

Section 1. The Scriptures Inspired

The Bible is the inspired Word of God, a revelation from God to man, the infallible rule of faith and conduct, and is superior to conscience and reason, but not contrary to reason. (II Tim. 3:15,16; I Pet. 2:2)

Section 2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent, self-revealed "I Am"; and has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association i.e., as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. (Deut. 6:4; Mark 12:29; Isa. 43:10,11; Matt. 28:19)

Section 3. Man, His fall and Redemption

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness." But man, by voluntary transgression, fell, and his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ the Son of God. (Gen. 1:26-31; 3:1-7; Rom. 5:12-21)

Section 4. The Salvation of Man

A. Conditions to Salvation

The grace of God, which brings salvation, has appeared to all men, through the preaching of repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ; man is saved by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, and being justified by grace through faith, he becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 2:11; Rom. 10:13-15; Luke 24:27; Titus 3:5-7)

B. The Evidences of Salvation

The inward evidence, to the believer of his salvation, is the direct witness of the Spirit. The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness. (Rom 8:16; Matt. 5:16)

Section 5. Baptism in Water

The ordinance of baptism by burial with Christ should be observed as commanded in the scriptures, by all who have really repented and in their hearts have truly believed on Christ as Savior and Lord. In so doing, they have the body washed in pure water as an outward symbol of cleansing, while their heart has already been sprinkled with the blood of Christ in an inner cleansing. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Jesus and they have also been raised with Him to walk in newness of life. (Matt. 28:19; Acts 10:47-48; Rom. 6:4; Acts 20:21; Heb. 10:22)

Section 6. The Lord's Supper

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, a memorial of His suffering and death, and a prophecy of His second coming, and is enjoined to all believers "until He comes". (II Pet. 1:4; I Cor. 11:26)

Section 7. The Promise of the Father

All believers are entitled to, and should ardently expect and earnestly seek, the promise of the Father; the baptism in the Holy Ghost 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 bestowing of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry. This wonderful experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4; 1:8; 10:44-46; I Cor. 12:1-31)

Section 8. The Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost

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

Section 9. Entire Sanctification

The scriptures teach a life of holiness without which no man shall see the Lord. By the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to obey the command, "Be ye holy, for I am holy." Entire sanctification is the will of God for all believers, and should be earnestly pursued by walking in obedience to God's Word. (Heb. 12:14; I Pet. 1:15,16; I Thes. 5: 23,24; I John 2:6)

Section 10. The Church

The church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer born of the Spirit is an integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the Firstborn, which was written in heaven. (Eph. 1:22,23; 2:22; Heb. 12:33)

Section 11. The Ministry and Evangelism

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for a two fold purpose: 1) The evangelizing of the world. (2) The edifying of the Body of Christ. (Mark 16:15-20; Eph. 4:11-13)

Section 12. Divine Healing

Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement and is the privilege of all believers. (Isa.53:4-5; Matt. 8:16,17)

Section 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. (I Thes. 4:16; Rom. 8:23; Titus 2:13; I Cor. 15:51,52)

Section 14. The Millennial Reign of Jesus

The revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ from heaven, the salvation of national Israel, and the millennial reign of Christ on earth as the scriptural promise and the world's hope. (II Thes. 1:7; Rev. 19:11-14; Rom. 11:26,27; Rev. 20:1-7)

Section 15. The Lake of Fire

The devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, and whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, shall be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. (Rev. 19:20; 20:10-15)

Section 16. The New Heavens and a New Earth

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

ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP

Individuals shall be eligible to membership in this assembly who give evidence of a personal living faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who voluntarily subscribe to its tenants of faith and agree to be governed by its constitution and by-laws as herein set forth.

ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS

The officers of the church shall be the Pastor, three or more spiritually and scriptural qualified persons, one of whom shall serve as Secretary/Treasurer.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

There shall be no meetings, special or annual unless due notice thereof is given on the two Sundays prior.

ARTICLE X. FINANCES

The assembly shall be financed according to the Scriptural method by the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the organization. (Mal. 3:10; Matt. 23:23; Heb. 7:4-9)

ARTICLE XI. PROPERTY

Section 1. All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the corporate name of the assembly.

Section 2. No real or chattel property of the assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise disposed of unless the same shall have first been recommended by a vote of at least two-thirds of the voting membership who are in attendance at a regular or special business meeting which has been properly notified and called for the consideration of the proposal. The pastor and the secretary of the assembly shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized by the vote of the membership. Such certificates shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

Section 3. In the event that the assembly herein mentioned ceases to function as an Assembly of God church, then the said property, real or chattel, shall become the property of the Assemblies of God, Oregon District and Oregon Corporation. The latter shall have full authority to use or dispose of the property at its discretion in the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ, and shall be so stated in the deed of said property.

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution may be made by a two-thirds majority of membership present at any regular or special business meeting of the church in which the voting members of the church have been properly notified of such a purpose at least two Sundays preceding the time of such meeting, and that the proposed amendment is posted in the assembly's hall over the same period.

BY-LAWS

Adopted 3-28-1999, Revised 10-21-01, 3-17-02, 2-9-03, 2-29-04, 3-1-2009

ARTICLE 1. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Standard of Membership

- A. Evidence of a genuine experience in regeneration; the new birth. (John 1:12,13; I Pet. 1:18-25)
- B. Evidence of a consistent Christian life. (Rom. 6:4; 13:13,14; Eph. 4:17-32; 5:1,2,15; I John 1:6-7)
- C. Full subscription to the tenants of faith as set forth in the Constitution.
- D. Willingness to contribute regularly to the support of the assembly according to his or her ability.
- E. Completion of the Membership Class.

Section 2. Classifications of Membership

- A. Active membership is for those who regularly attend the services of this assembly.
- B. Honorary membership is for those who are either physically unable to attend the services of this church or who must be away from this area on a temporary basis of two months or more to attend college or for employment purposes. This classification will not have voting privileges, but can be transferred back to active membership upon their return to regular worship.
- B. Inactive membership is for those who shall willfully absent themselves from the regular services of this assembly for a period of three consecutive months. This classification will not have voting privileges.

Section 3. Voting Privilege

- A. All active members, 18 years of age, or older, constitute the legal voting membership of the assembly.
- B. Membership applications cannot be accepted within sixty days of any business meeting.

Section 4. Reception of Members

- A. Persons desiring to become active members of the assembly shall make the fact known to the pastor, who shall examine the applicant according to the standard of membership.
- B. The pastor shall present the names of those applying for membership, with his recommendations, to the church board. If no reason for denying them membership appears, they shall be received publicly at one of the regular services and their names inscribed on the church roster.
- C. Transfers of membership from another Assembly of God church to this church shall be granted upon approval of the pastor and the church board when requested by the new persons desiring the transfer.

Section 5. Discipline, and Revision of Roster

- A. Any member of the assembly who shall willfully absent himself from the regular services for a period of three consecutive months shall be considered inactive. If inactivity continues for a period of one-year, membership will be removed from the roster of the assembly. A formal letter will be sent notifying the member of this change in membership status. If, after membership has been removed from the roster, a former member desires to renew membership they may do so by following the standard membership procedure.
- B. Non-scriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the tenants of faith held by this assembly shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member. If a person is under charges they shall be suspended from active voting membership pending investigation and final decision in the case. Discipline shall be prayerfully administered according to the scriptures. (Matt.18:15-17,35; Rom. 16:17; I Cor. 5:9-13; II Thes. 3:11-15)

Section 6. Membership of Pastors and Spouses

- A. The senior pastor of this church and respective spouse, shall by virtue of such election and acceptance become active members of this church, except for times of election of pastor.
- B. Pastoral staff and spouses upon appointment to the ministerial staff of this church shall be deemed active members.

ARTICLE II. BOARD

Section 1. Senior Pastor

A. Duties

- (1) The assembly finds its headship under the Lord Jesus Christ in its pastor. He should be honored in his sacred office as the spiritual overseer of the assembly and shall be general supervisor of all its activities.
- (2) He shall be the president of the corporation and shall act as chairman of all the business meetings of the assembly and of the board.
- (3) He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and departments.
- (4) He shall provide for all the services of the assembly and shall arrange for all special meetings, giving due regard to the assembly. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the assembly without his approval.
- (5) He shall be designated attorney in fact for the corporation by virtue of this office.

- B. Qualifications: The pastor shall be a member in good standing of the general and/or the district of the Assemblies of God and shall comply with the scriptural and Assemblies of God standards for ministry. (I Tim. 3:2-7; Titus 1:6-9; I Pet. 5:2-3)

Section 2. Deacons

A. Duties

- (1) The church board together with the pastor shall be responsible for the management of the affairs, funds and property of the Assembly. The board shall be responsible for the legal matters along with the comfort, discipline and oversight of the membership.
- (2) The board shall select from the active membership rolls a Secretary and Treasurer and the office may be a combined position.
- (3) The board shall be authorized to transact business for this assembly between annual membership meetings as is provided for or limited by the constitution and bylaws of this assembly.
- (4) Together with the pastor, all new applications for membership will be examined and decisions made concerning membership.
- (5) In the event the assembly is temporarily without a pastor, the board shall be empowered to provide a chairman in order to transact business for the assembly.
- (6) The board shall serve only in an advisory capacity with the pastor in matters pertaining to the spiritual life of the church and fulfill any functions that are customary to their position.

- B. Qualifications : The Board shall be individuals of mature Christian experience and knowledge who's lives and conduct conform to the scriptural standards found in Acts 6 and I Timothy 3. They shall be at least 23 years of age and have been a voting member of this assembly for at least one year. They shall faithfully support the church with their tithes, have a cooperative spirit and regularly attend the assembly's services. They shall not hold ministerial credentials.

Section 3. Secretary-Treasurer

A. Duties:

- (1) The secretary shall keep the minutes of the official meetings of the board, and of the annual, regular and special business meetings of the assembly.
- (2) The secretary shall keep a record of membership of the assembly and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of duties.
- (3) The secretary shall be the custodian of all legal documents, and be in possession of the corporate seal.
- (4) The treasurer shall be entrusted with all the finances of the assembly and shall deposit all funds in a responsible bank in the name of the assembly, and shall disburse the same by check. All checks shall be countersigned.
- (5) The treasurer shall keep an itemized account of the receipts and disbursements. The treasurer shall make a financial report at the regular meetings of the assembly. The accounts shall be audited under the direction of the board.

B. Qualifications: The secretary and treasurer should be persons having clerical ability, faithfulness in character, and possessing a spirit of hearty cooperation.

ARTICLE III. ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES

Section 1. Senior Pastor

- A. The board, acting in the capacity of a pulpit committee after prayerful inquiry, and with judicious counsel, full consideration being given to the leading of the Holy Spirit, shall select an available, scripturally qualified minister as nominee to the office of Senior Pastor, and present his name for the vote of the Assembly without undue delay.
- B. The pulpit committee is required to seek advice and counsel from the district office in the selection of a Senior Pastor.
- C. Any member of the assembly may offer a minister's name for the consideration of the committee.
- D. Election shall be by secret ballot, a two-thirds majority vote of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election. The pastor shall be elected for an undetermined amount of time.
- E. In the event a pastor has serious charges preferred against him, or his ministry has ceased to be effective, or no provision has been made for the termination of his ministry, power is vested in the board to ask for the resignation of the pastor at any time. If such resignation is refused, the pastorate shall not be considered vacant until the action of the board has been confirmed through a secret ballot by a majority of the members present at a meeting called for the purpose, giving due notice, and presided over by the district official.
- F. When a vacancy in the pastorate shall occur, an interim pulpit ministry shall be arranged for by the board until a pastor shall be chosen. In the case of a pastor's removal from office a report of such action shall be made to the district official.

Section 2. Associate Pastor

- A. The senior pastor and board shall work together in securing associate pastoral help as the need arises, subject to the ruling of the pastor and board.
- B. Any associate pastor shall be a member in good standing with the general council and/or the Oregon district council of the Assemblies of God and shall comply with Assemblies of God standards for the ministry in conformity with the scriptures. (I Tim. 3:2-7; Titus 1:6-9; I Pet. 5:2,3)
- C. Portfolios shall be assigned by the senior pastor dealing primarily in the areas of youth, music, Christian education, visitation, evangelism, and any other duties as they may arise, working directly under the senior pastor.
- D. This office may be declared vacant by an act of a majority membership of the board any regular or special business meeting. Grounds for such action shall be non-scriptural conduct, doctrinal departure from the tenants of faith, or incompetence in office. Any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing of his case before the assembly if he so desires..

Section 3. Deacons

- A. The deacons shall be chosen from the membership of the assembly. They may be nominated by the pastor and board or members may submit possible names to the pastor for consideration by the board.
- B. They shall be elected by majority vote at the annual business meeting.
- C. Their term of office shall be a one, two or three year term or they may be nominated for another one, two, or three year term, not to exceed two consecutive terms. Upon the expiration of the terms of office, outgoing deacons shall not appear as nominees for a period of one year.
- D. Any office may be declared vacant by an act of a majority membership of the board at any regular or special business meeting. Grounds for such action shall be non-scriptural conduct, doctrinal departure from the tenants of faith, or incompetence in office. Any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing of his case before the assembly if he so desires. The board is empowered to fill by appointment any irregular vacancy until the next annual election of officers.

Section 4. Secretary and Treasurer

- A. The secretary and treasurer shall be appointed by the board from the board or the active membership of the assembly. The appointment to this office shall be subject to the ratification of the assembly by a majority vote at its annual business meeting and where feasible combined into one office. If the duties of the treasurer in keeping the financial records are given to a bookkeeper, said person shall not be any of the pastoral staff or their immediate families.
- B. This office may be declared vacant by an act of a majority membership of the board at any regular or special business meeting. Grounds for such action shall be non-scriptural conduct, doctrinal departure from the tenants of faith, or incompetence in office. Any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing of his case before the assembly if he so desires. The board is empowered to fill by appointment any irregular vacancy until the next annual election of officers.

ARTICLE IV. DEPARTMENTS

Section 1. Create and Maintain

- A. The assembly shall create and maintain such departments and sub-organizations as may be necessary and advisable for the extension of its work.
- B. All such departments and organizations shall be subordinate to the assembly and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole.
- C. They shall be under the general supervision of the pastor and church board and the pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees or departments.
- D. The pastor and board shall be authorized to appoint, hire, or replace such directors, staff and department personnel as is needed for the effective operation and ministry of the assembly.
- E. All hired staff persons are directly amenable to the Pastor.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section 1. Public Worship

Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day, and during the week as may be determined by the assembly.

Section 2. Annual Business Meeting

There shall be an annual business meeting of the assembly, at which time reports shall be given and the election of officers shall take place. This annual meeting shall convene within ninety days after the calendar year end with due notice given and posted two Sundays prior.

Section 3. Special Business Meetings

Special business meetings may be called when necessary by the pastor or by the majority of the board. Special meetings may also be called by petition having been signed by not less than one fourth of the active membership. The petition is to be placed in the hands of the pastor or the secretary. No meeting will be held without due notice. No business other than that specified in the notice of the meeting shall be transacted at any special meeting of the assembly.

Section 4. Order of Business

In order to facilitate the conduct of business in an orderly and satisfactory manner, business meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of parliamentary procedure. All business should be conducted in the spirit of Christ and in brotherly counsel. The order of business for the annual meeting shall be as follows: a. Devotional b. Reading of the minutes c. Report of the Secretary d. Report of the Treasurer e. Reports of the committees f. Unfinished business g. Election of Officers h. New business i. Adjournment.

Section 5. Legal Meetings

No record of any meeting of the assembly shall be made or considered legal unless a quorum of active members is present. The active members present shall constitute a quorum.

Section 6. Board Meetings

The board shall meet quarterly, or as the need may require.

ARTICLE VI. FINANCES

Section 1. Support

The support of the ministries and expenses of this assembly shall be provided by the voluntary contribution, tithes and offerings of its members and friends.. These funds shall be faithfully administered by the pastor and board.

Section 2. Giving

All offerings shall be properly counted by two or more persons with amounts duly recorded. All funds shall be appropriately deposited in a federally insured bank. A record of all giving shall be kept and receipts of such to be given to all donors. Monthly financial reports shall be provided to the pastor and board.

Section 3. Salaries

The board shall determine all salaries for the pastoral and church staff. An annual review of all salaries shall be made in order to maintain proper and adequate remuneration for pastor and staff.

Section 4. Missions

The missions ministry of the General Council shall be a part of this local assembly's mission.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments of the By-laws may be made by a two-thirds majority of the active membership present at any regular or special business meeting of the church in which the voting members of the church have been properly notified of such a purpose at least two Sundays preceding the time of such meeting and that the proposed amendment is posted in the assembly's hall over the same period.