

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**  
as Revised by NJ District Council, May 2-4, 2022

**NEW JERSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

**CONSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION**

**WE BELIEVE:**

**WHEREAS**, God's purpose concerning man is: **(1)** *to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world, (2) to be a corporate body in which man may worship God, (3) to be a channel in building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son; and (4) to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world; and*

**WHEREAS**, In these last days God is pouring out His Spirit upon all flesh in Pentecostal fullness (*Acts 2:17*), resulting in the formation of Pentecostal assemblies of saved and Spirit-baptized believers; and

**WHEREAS**, These Pentecostal assemblies have associated themselves in general unity for the propagation of their distinctive testimony under the name of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; 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 gladly assemble ourselves in scriptural order and recognize ourselves as a district of the Assemblies of God, and agree to be governed by the following constitution and bylaws.

**ARTICLE I. NAME**

The name of this body shall be "*New Jersey District Council of the Assemblies of God,*" hereinafter referred to as the "*district.*"

**ARTICLE II. TERRITORY**

The New Jersey District Council shall include the State of New Jersey.

**ARTICLE III. NATURE**

The principles of voluntary unity and cooperative fellowship as set forth in the Constitution of The General Council of the Assemblies of God are the principles which shall govern this district.

**ARTICLE IV. PREROGATIVES**

**Section 1.**

To promulgate the gospel of Jesus Christ by all scriptural means, both at home and abroad; to promote Christian fellowship among its members; to establish assemblies for divine worship; to promote the edification of believers in accordance with our Pentecostal distinctives; and to respond to human need with ministries of compassion.

**Section 2.**

To supervise all the activities of the Assemblies of God in its prescribed field, in accordance with the rights conferred by Article X of The General Council

**Section 3.**

To examine ministerial candidates who have met the requirements of the district fellowship as set forth in its constitution and bylaws.

**Section 4.**

To elect its own officers and committees, to arrange for its own meetings, and to govern itself. It shall be subordinate to the General Council and amendable thereto in all matters of doctrine and the conduct of ministers who shall have the district endorsement.

**Section 5.**

To establish and maintain such departments and institutions for the fellowship as may be required for the propagation of the gospel in its borders, such as camp meeting grounds, Bible schools, orphanages, homes for the aged, missionary rest homes, and any other institutions which would be beneficial to the community, as well as printing and publishing facilities.

**Section 6.**

Incidental to, or in connection therewith, it shall have the right 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.

**Section 7.**

To approve all scriptural teachings, methods, and conduct; and to disapprove unscriptural teachings, methods, and conduct.

**ARTICLE V. TENETS OF FAITH AND OTHER SINCERELY HELD BELIEFS**

**Section A. STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS**

This district shall stand for the Holy Scriptures as the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice, and adopts the Statement of Fundamental Truths approved by The General Council of the Assemblies of God. This Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e. we all speak the same thing, I Cor. 1:10; Acts 2:42). The phraseology employed in this Statement is not inspired or contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full-gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all Biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines.

**1. The Scriptures Inspired**

The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct (*II Tim. 3:15-17; I Thess. 2:13; II 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 (*Deut. 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matt. 28:19; Luke 3:22*):

### THE ADORABLE GODHEAD

- a. **Terms Defined** - The terms "*trinity*" and "*persons*," as related to the Godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from "*gods many and lords many*." We therefore may speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is One Lord, as a trinity or as one Being of three persons, and still be absolutely scriptural (*examples, Matt. 28:19; II Cor. 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; I Cor. 1:24; Matt. 11:25-27; 28:19; II Cor. 13:14; I John 1:3,4*).
- c. **Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit** - Accordingly, therefore, there is **that** in the Son which constitutes Him **the Son** and not the Father; and there is **that** in the Holy Spirit which constitutes Him **the Holy Spirit** and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore the Father is the Begetter; the Son is the Begotten; and the Holy Spirit is the One proceeding from the Father and the Son. Therefore, because these three persons in the Godhead are in a state of unity, there is but one Lord God Almighty and His name one (*John 1:18; 15:26; 17:11,21; Zech. 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; II 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 (*Matt. 1:23; I John 4:2,10,14; Rev. 1:13,17*).
- g. **The Title, Son of God** - Since the name "*Immanuel*" embraces both God and man in the one Person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that the title, Son of God, describes His proper deity, and the title Son of Man, His proper humanity. Therefore, the title, Son of God, belongs to the **order of eternity**, and the title, **Son of Man** to the **order of time** (*Matt. 1:21-23; II John 3; I John 3:8; Heb. 7:3; 1:1-13*).

- h. **Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ** - Wherefore, it is a transgression of the Doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title, Son of God, solely from the fact of the incarnation, or because of His relation to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (*II John 9; John 1:1,2,14,18,29,49; I John 2:22,23; 4:1-5; Heb. 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 to 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 (*Heb. 1:3; I Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Romans 14:11; I Cor. 15:24-28*).
- j. **Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son** - Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only the **express duty** of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is an **unspeakable** joy in the Holy Spirit to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of Deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the Godhead (except those which express relationship, see paragraphs b, c, and d), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (*John 5:22,23; I Peter 1:8; Rev. 5:6-14; Phil. 2:8,9; Rev. 7:9,10; 4:8-11*).

### 3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

- a. His virgin birth (*Matt. 1:23; Luke 1:31,35*).
- b. His sinless life (*Heb. 7:26; I Peter 2:22*).
- c. His miracles (*Acts 2:22; 10:38*).
- d. His substitutionary work on the cross (*I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21*).
- e. His bodily resurrection from the dead (*Matt. 28:6; Luke 24:39; I Cor. 15:4*).
- f. His exaltation to the right hand of God (*Acts 1:9,11; 2:33; Phil. 2:9-11; Heb. 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 (*Gen. 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; Eph. 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 (*Eph. 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 in 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 (*Matt.28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47,48; Rom.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 (*II Peter 1:4*); a memorial of His suffering and death (*I Cor. 11:26*); and a prophecy of His second coming (*I Cor. 11:26*); and is enjoined on all believers "*till He come!*"

### 7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (*Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; I Cor. 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; Heb. 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 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 (*I Cor. 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; I Thess. 5:23; Heb. 13:12*). The Scriptures teach a life of "*holiness without which no man shall see the Lord*" (*Heb. 12:14*). By the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command: "*Be ye holy, for I am holy*" (*I 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; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 2:12,13; I 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 First-born, which are written in heaven (*Eph. 1:22,23; 2:22; Heb. 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; Matt. 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).
- b. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (I Cor. 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 (Eph. 4:11-16; I Cor. 12:28; I Cor. 14:12).
- d. To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world (Psalm 112:9; Gal. 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; 4:29-31; Heb. 2:3,4).
- b. Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God (I Cor. 2:10-16; I Cor. 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 (Gal. 5:22-26; 6:10; Matt. 25:37-40; I Cor. 14:12; Eph. 4:11,12; I Cor. 12:28; Col. 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* (Eph. 4:11-16), and (4) meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Psalm 112:9; Gal. 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; Matt. 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 (*I Thess. 4:16,17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; I Cor. 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 (*Zech. 14:5; Matt. 24:27,30; Rev. 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6*). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (*Ezek. 37:21,22; Zeph. 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 (*Matt 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Rev. 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8*).

### 16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

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

## **Section B. Other Sincerely Held Beliefs – Sanctity of Life, Gender Identity, Homosexuality, Biblical Definition of Marriage.**

### **1. Sanctity of Life**

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image (Gen. 1:27). Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death (Psalm 139:13-16). We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (1 Corinthians 3:16-17).

### **2. Gender Identity**

God created human beings in His image, male and female He created them (Gen. 1:27; 5:2). As God's creation, the body and its corresponding sexual identity is biologically determined. Consequently, the New Jersey Ministry Network ("the Network") recognizes the existence of only two genders and regards any form of alteration of one's body to redefine one's gender or sexual identity, or to otherwise present as a member of an opposite gender to the one assigned biologically by God at birth including through transvestitism, as sinful.

### **3. Homosexuality and Biblical Definition of Marriage**

God instituted and ordained marriage and defines marriage as the biblical union between one man and one woman in a covenantal commitment for a lifetime (Genesis 2:18,19-25; Matt. 19:4-6). This shall be known as the "Biblical Definition of Marriage". Sexual intimacy is properly exercised only within the boundaries of Biblical marriage (1 Cor. 6:18-20). As a natural consequence of this deeply held belief, mentally entertaining (Matt. 5:28) or otherwise submitting to a homosexual proclivity is sin.

Notwithstanding the aforementioned, no sin is beyond the redemptive and restorative power of the gospel of Jesus Christ for those who acknowledge and repent of their sin. In all circumstances, the Network is eager to treat all individuals with respect, compassion, love, and dignity, regardless of an individual's lifestyle in the fervent hope and prayer that each individual will repent from their sin of any nature, including sins of sexual immorality, and accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, thereby establishing and/or restoring their relationship with God.

**ARTICLE VI. RELATIONSHIPS**

**Section 1. General Council and Other District Councils**

The New Jersey District Council of the Assemblies of God is an integral part of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a nonprofit religious corporation with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri, and is subordinate and amendable to the said General Council as prescribed in its constitution (Article X) and bylaws (Article V), and has a cooperative working relationship with other district councils in matters of mutual concern.

**Section 2. Fellowship Sections**

The New Jersey District Council of the Assemblies of God shall prosecute its activities through its district office and fellowship sections.

**Section 3. Fellowships**

There shall be a Hispanic Fellowship and Filipino Fellowship of the New Jersey District Council to facilitate the needs of our Hispanic and Filipino constituencies, respectively.

**Section 4. Local Assemblies**

Local assemblies in full fellowship with the New Jersey District Council shall be subject to that body to the extent indicated in the General Council Constitution (Art. XI) and Bylaws (Art. VI).

**ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1.**

All Ordained and Licensed ministers of the gospel, holding accredited fellowship certificates from the General Council and having their permanent residence within the boundaries of the district, shall be recognized as members. Exceptions may be made for ministers moving to serve at general headquarters, for those who are retired from active ministry, for those who are in the armed forces currently on active duty, for those who are serving on the faculties of our schools, for those who are appointed home missionaries retaining membership in their home districts, and for students in schools outside of their home districts. Ministers who reside in one district but pastor or serve on the staff of a church located in another district shall be required to be a member of the district in which the church is located. (Article VII, section 8, b. (1), General Council Bylaws.) Those members who fit the exception classification, like any member, may be eligible to be elected to an office of the New Jersey District Council of the Assemblies of God, if they meet the necessary requirements outlined in the bylaws as pertains to the various departments.

**Section 2.**

All Certified ministers who shall hold accredited certificates issued by the district officary shall be recognized as members, including those exceptions in Section 1, and may be eligible for office, if they meet the necessary requirements outlined in the bylaws as pertains to the various departments.

**Section 3.**

Members in good standing in local assemblies of the New Jersey District Council are regarded as members of the New Jersey District Council.



**Section 4.**

Each assembly holding an accredited Certificate of Fellowship from the General Council and duly recognized district assemblies, shall have the right to representation in the District Council meetings by lay delegates who shall submit a standard official delegate card signed by the secretary and the pastor of the church. Representation shall be based on the membership roll of the assembly. Those assemblies having a membership roll of one hundred or less shall be entitled to one lay delegate. Assemblies having more than one hundred members shall be entitled to two lay delegates. All delegates from district home missions assemblies shall be approved by the Sectional Home Missions Secretary.

**ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS**

**Section 1. District Presbytery**

The District Presbytery shall consist of the members of the Executive Presbytery together with a district presbyter elected biennially from each of the sections of the district, any honorary presbyters, the district Youth Director, all general presbyters, and ethnic/culture fellowship presbyters. No district presbyter shall hold any other executive office at the same time.

**Section 2. Executive Presbytery**

The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the superintendent, the assistant superintendent, and the secretary.

**Section 3. Honorary Presbyters**

Mature men who have served on the District Presbytery for fifteen years or more may be recommended as honorary presbyters by the District Presbytery and approved by the District Council.

**Section 4. General Presbyters**

In compliance with Article IX, Section 3, of the General Council Constitution, each district shall have the privilege of representation on the General Presbytery by three members, the district superintendent together with two others who shall be elected by the District Council, one of whom shall be an ordained pastor of a church located in the district. They shall take office immediately. The assistant superintendent and the executive secretary, by virtue of their office, shall serve as general presbyters.

**Section 5. Youth Director**

By virtue of his office, the Youth director shall serve on the District Presbytery Board.

**Section 6. Credentials Committee**

The District Presbytery shall constitute the Credentials Committee.

**Section 7. Board of Trustees**

The District Presbytery shall constitute a Board of Trustees, into whose hands shall be committed all the property of the district, both real and personal.

**ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES**

**Section 1. Standing Committees**

Standing committees shall be considered to be the Executive Presbytery, the Credentials Committee, the Resolutions Committee, the Benevolence Committee, the Finance Committee, and such other committees as may be provided for in the future.

**Section 2. Special Committees**

Special committees may be created, appointed, and dissolved by the District Presbytery as the need arises.

**ARTICLE X. MEETINGS**

**Section 1.**

The District Council shall meet annually, time and place to be announced by the District Presbytery. Announcement shall be published not later than one month prior to the time of meeting.

**Section 2.**

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

**Section 3.**

The right of initiative in the matter of calling a special session shall be granted to any ordained minister of the district. A statement setting forth the reasons for the special session and signed by not less than twenty percent of the ordained ministers of the district may be considered sufficient reason for such a call, said statement to be filed with the District Presbytery, who shall issue the call, setting the time and place for the meeting.

**ARTICLE XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES**

All true Pentecostal believers, associating themselves in local bodies as assemblies, may apply for recognition by the district. They shall be classified as follows:

**Section 1. General Council Affiliated Assemblies**

An assembly that has received recognition from The General Council of the Assemblies of God, has a Certificate of Affiliation and fulfills the criteria of the General Council Constitution (Article XI) and Bylaws (Article VI).

Requirements for Affiliation according to General Council Constitution Article XI are as follows:

- 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 20 persons who shall accept responsibility to maintain scriptural order in the local body;

- 4 Adopt a constitution or bylaws compatible with those recommended by the district council;
- 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.

**Section 2. District Affiliated Assemblies**

Pursuant with the General Council's Constitution, Article XI, Section 2, any assembly that has not moved to the General Council Affiliated status shall be considered a District Affiliated Assembly. Type of affiliation and criteria for affiliation shall be outlined in the Policy and Procedures Manual.

**Section 3. Parent Affiliated Churches**

Pursuant to the General Council's Constitution, Article XI, Section 3, Parent Affiliated Assemblies shall be under the supervision of a parenting church, in accordance with the parenting church's Constitution and Bylaws.

**Section 4. Cooperative Assemblies**

A Not affiliated / Cooperative Assembly is any independent assembly which is interested in fellowship, but has not as yet become affiliated with the district.

**Section 5. Reverter Clause / District Funding**

If a church has been built with General Council or District Funds, or the District has facilitated the funding through an A/G Loan Fund, then the deed to the property owned by that church shall contain the following provision:

- A. This property shall be used for the purposes set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of the New Jersey District Council of the Assemblies of God.
- B. In the event that the said church shall ever convey the herein described property, or any portion thereof, or enter into a lease for the property longer than two years in length, without the prior written approval of the New Jersey District Council of the Assemblies of God, its successors and/or assigns, or if the church shall cease to be affiliated with the New Jersey District Council of the Assemblies of God, its successors and/or assigns, then the title to the said property shall immediately thereupon revert to and vest in the New Jersey District Council of the Assemblies of God, its successors and/or assigns, in fee simple absolute.

**ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION CLAUSE**

In the event this District Council shall cease to function for the purposes herein set forth, then all property, real or personal, and all assets remaining after satisfying debts and obligations, shall revert to the parent body, The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Missouri not-for-profit corporation, with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri. The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall have full authority to sell such property and to use the proceeds derived therefrom for the extension of the work of the Assemblies of God.

In the event of cessation of this District Council, its Board of Trustees (or Directors) shall transfer all properties and any remaining assets, in accordance with the foregoing provisions, within one year after the date of such cessation. If such transfer is not made within the time prescribed above or if the aforesaid General Council shall be unable or unwilling to accept the aforesaid transfer, then disposition thereof shall be made by the court of the county in which the District Council headquarters office is located, provided that in such case proceeds of the dissolution

## **CONSTITUTION**

## **ARTICLE XIII**

shall be distributed to organizations having purposes nearest the purposes of the Assemblies of God.

### **ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS**

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