

First Assembly of God

BYLAWS OF ALPENA FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 20____



A church with the community at heart!

BYLAWS OF

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 20_____

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PREAMBLE

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Spirit may be honored according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands; we, whose names appear on the assembly roster under above date, do hereby recognize ourselves as a local assembly in fellowship with and a part of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District; and declare that we hereby adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this church shall be First Assembly of God located in the city of Alpena, state of Michigan.

ARTICLE II. PREROGATIVES

Section 1.

This Assemblies of God church shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures, "making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." (Eph. 4:3,13)

Section 2.

In connection therewith, or incidental thereto, it shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest, or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of any real estate or personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or property of whatever kind as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes; all in accordance with its constitution and bylaws or as the same may be hereafter amended.

ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION

We believe that God's purpose concerning mankind finds fulfillment in our priority reason-for-being: 1) to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world, 2) to be a corporate body in which people may worship God, and 3) to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints, being perfected in the image of His Son.

We exist 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, as evidenced by speaking in tongues, which enables us to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs, adding a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God, and enabling us 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.

While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs as herein set forth, this church declares itself to be voluntarily in full cooperative fellowship with all other churches affiliated with the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, with headquarters in Farmington Hills, Michigan, and The General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri; and shares in the privileges and assumes the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation. "Voluntary cooperation" means that once a church, out of its own free will, decides to be a cooperating church of the Assemblies of God, this cooperation becomes obligatory and not optional.

This church agrees to:

- a. Abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the District and General Councils, and conform to the decisions of the District and General Councils in the interests of general unity.
- b. Participate in and financially support the missionary programs agreed upon by the District and General Councils in order to extend God's work and kingdom throughout the world.
- c. Participate in District and General Council sessions via duly chosen delegates.
- d. Invite the counsel of the District Officiary when a pastoral change occurs and in the event of church difficulty.
- e. Participate in and financially support the District and General Councils [District Bylaws Article XVII. Section 1. b.; General Council Bylaws Article XIII. Section 1. c. (2)].
- f. Recognize that the District Council or General Council shall have the right and authority to:
 - 1) Approve scriptural doctrine and conduct.
 - 2) Disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct as stated in the General Council Constitution [Article IX]
 - 3) Withdraw the church's Certificate of Affiliation if deemed necessary.

ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH

This church shall accept the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God, the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice; and, for the purpose of maintaining the general unity, adopt the Statement of Fundamental Truths approved by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

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

1. The Scriptures Inspired

The Scriptures, both the Old and the 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 Ghost (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

THE ADORABLE GODHEAD

a. Terms Defined

The terms *trinity* and *persons* as related to the godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God as distinguished from "gods many and lords many." We therefore may speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is One Lord, as a Trinity or as one Being of three persons, and still be absolutely scriptural (examples, Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16,17).

b. Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

Christ taught a distinction of persons in the godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, 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 Ghost

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 Ghost which constitutes Him the **Holy Ghost** and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore the Father is the Begetter; the Son is the Begotten; and the Holy Ghost 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 Ghost 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 Ghost 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 Ghost. It, therefore, belongs exclusively to the **Son of God** (Romans 1:1-3,7; 2 John 3).

f. The Lord Jesus Christ, God With Us

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

g. The Title, Son of God

Since the name *Immanuel* embraces both God and man, in the one person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that the title *Son of God* describes His proper deity, and the title *Son of Man* His proper humanity. Therefore, the title *Son of God* belongs to the order of eternity and the title *Son of Man* to the **order of time** (Matthew 1:21-23; 2 John 3; 1 John 3:8; Hebrews 7:3; 1:1-13).

h. Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ

Wherefore, it is a transgression of the doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title *Son of God* solely from the fact of the Incarnation, or because of His relation to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (2 John 9; John 1:1,2,14,18,29,49; 1 John 2:22,23; 4:1-5; Hebrews 12:2).

i. Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord.

The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him. And having been made both Lord and Christ, He sent the Holy Ghost 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 Ghost to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the godhead except those which express relationship (see paragraphs b, c, and d), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22,23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2:8,9; Revelation 7:9,10; 4:8-11).

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

- a. His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31,35).
- b. His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).
- c. His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
- d. His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3, 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- e. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4).
- f. His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9,11; 2:33; Philippians. 2:9-11; Hebrews 1-3).

4. The Fall of Man

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

5. The Salvation of Man

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

a. Conditions of Salvation. Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, 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 and divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy 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 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 Ghost 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 Ghost 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 Ghost 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, 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 worshipped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, 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 perfect in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).

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 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 (Galatians 5:22-26; 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 three fold purpose of leading the Church in (1) evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20), (2) worship of God (John 4:23,24) and (3) in building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16).

12. Divine Healing

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

13. The Blessed Hope

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

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

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

15. The Final Judgment

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

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

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

*Under Article V, the Michigan District understands that the term "man" is used to refer to humankind and includes all people except when used in gender-specific cases.

ARTICLE V. ORDINANCES AND PRACTICES

- a. The ordinance of Baptism by immersion should be observed as commanded in the Scriptures, by all who have fully repented and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:37, 38; Rom. 6:3-5.
- b. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper should be regularly observed as enjoined upon the believer. Luke 22:19, 20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26.

- c. Infants and small children may be dedicated to the Lord in the assembly when requested. Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-16.
- d. The sick should be prayed for, with the anointing with oil and laying on of hands, upon their request. Mark 16:18; James 5:14.

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP
Section 1) Membership Eligibility

Membership in this assembly shall be open to all those who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who voluntarily subscribe to its tenets of faith and agree to be governed by its constitution and bylaws as herein set forth.

Section 2) Voting Membership

All those who meet the scriptural standards for membership, whose names appeared on the original membership roll of the assembly at the time the assembly was first organized, together with those names that shall be added from time to time, shall constitute the legal voting membership of the assembly, provided they are 18 years of age or over, that they regularly attend and take part in the services, that they are living consistent Christian lives and are in agreement with our distinctive testimony.

Section 3) Standards

- a. **Born Again.** Members in this church shall be expected to give a clear testimony of having been born of the Spirit of God and show evidence of a genuine experience in regeneration (the new birth) John 1:12, 3:3-8, 5-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17,; 2 Corinthians 5:17, I Peter 1:18-25
- b. **Baptism in the Holy Spirit.** Members shall have received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues (see fundamental truth #8), or be earnestly seeking to be baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2-4).
- c. **Baptized in Water.** Members are strongly encouraged to follow the scriptural command to be baptized in water by immersion in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19).
- d. **God's Word.** Members shall believe in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures as the Word of God and the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
- e. **Holiness.** Members shall separate themselves from such worldly participation which defiles the body or corrupts the mind and spirit. They shall avoid an inordinate love of or preoccupation with pleasures, position, or possessions which lead to their misuse. They shall not manifest extreme behavior, unbecoming speech. They shall not hold any fascination or association which would lessen their affection for spiritual things. They shall separate themselves from the world by refraining from the reading, viewing, listening, and participation in any activity, material and/or media that would be contrary to Scripture as pertaining to holiness, righteousness, clean living, and the testimony of such to this world. They shall reflect the truth that each believer's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 21:34,35; Romans 8:5-8, 12:1-2, 14:17-18; 1 Corinthians. 6:9-10, 18-20; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Galatians 5:18-20; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 2:8-10, 4:12; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12; Revelation 21:8).
- f. **Habits.** Members shall abstain from the use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and the misuse of drugs (I Corinthians 6:19-20).
- g. **Christ's Return.** Members shall earnestly cherish the hope and expectancy of the premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17).
- h. **Tenets of Faith.** Members shall fully subscribe to the Tenets of Faith as set forth in the Bylaws of this church.
- i. **Cooperation.** Members shall indicate a willingness to cooperate in the work of this church, to be governed by its Bylaws, and to contribute regularly to its financial support as the Lord may prosper.
- j. **Age.** Members shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age.

- k. **Application for Membership.** Applicants shall have regularly attended the services of, and supported, this church for a period of at least three (3) consecutive months prior to the date of application for membership.

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 for membership.
- b. The Pastor shall present the names of those who apply for membership with his recommendation to the Official Board who shall act upon said recommendation and render a final decision.
- c. All persons who have met the membership eligibility and after being clearly informed of the privileges and responsibilities of membership, and have been endorsed for membership by the Pastor and Official Board may publicly be received at any service and their names added to the membership roll.

Section 5) Pastor and Spouse

The Pastor and Pastor's spouse shall be considered active voting members of the church during the tenure of the Pastor.

Section 6) Inactive Members

Enrolled members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the regular services of the assembly for a period of three consecutive months or more or who cease to contribute of their means to its support, or who may be out of harmony with its teachings, or who shall be under charges of misconduct, or who may have fallen under condemnation through sinful or worldly practices, shall be classified as inactive members and shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to the fellowship, their standing to be settled by the definite action of the assembly through its elected officers. They shall be notified in writing of such action and shall not be qualified to participate in the business of the church.

Such inactive members may be restored to full membership following their resumption of church attendance of not less than thirty (30) days, and if they have not departed from the standard of membership of the church. Their names may be returned to the active list upon their request and by action of the Official Board without public reception into membership again.

Section 7) Honorary Members

Honorary members shall consist of those members who have entered the ministry as district officers, pastors, evangelists, missionaries, religious educators, or those serving in the Armed Services, making it impossible to serve as active members. Honorary membership recognition shall continue as long as the member maintains a consistent Christian life, remains sound in doctrine, and maintains a cooperative attitude toward the home assembly. Voting privilege may be granted at the discretion of the assembly.

Section 8) Associate Members

Membership shall be available for young people under 18 years of age, who give evidence of the new birth, having received Christ as personal Savior, and who meet the usual qualifications for membership established by this assembly. They shall have voting privileges at 18 years of age. In addition, The Pastor and Official Board shall be authorized to make provision for associate (nonvoting) members when such persons may have to be absent from their home assembly for prolonged periods of times, such as attending college in the city where this church is located. Associate membership may also be granted to those who maintain dual seasonal residences in different locations.

Section 9) Revision of Membership and Discipline of Members

- a. The pastor and Board of Elders/Trustees shall be authorized to revise the membership roll of the assembly annually, and to remove from the list of active members all names of those who may have become deceased during the year, together with the names of those who may have withdrawn from the fellowship, or who may have fallen into sin and whose lives may have become inconsistent with the standards and teachings of the assembly, or who willfully cause discord within the church by word or action (Romans 16:17,18). The following rules and instructions shall be observed as occasion may require. Matthew 18:15-17, Romans 16:17-18, I Corinthians 5:1-5, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15.
- b. Any member of the assembly who shall willfully absent himself from the regular services for a period of 3 consecutive months, or who is under charges may be suspended from active voting membership pending investigation and final decision in his or her case.
- c. Unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith held by this assembly shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member. Matt. 18:15-18; Romans 16:17, 18; 1 Corinthians 5:11; Gal. 1:8,9; Titus 3:1-15.
- d. Written notification will be given to a member so removed. It is understood that no such action shall be taken until patient and persistent effort shall have been made to win such individuals back to the standard of faith and conduct of the church.
- e. An individual removed from membership may appeal the action by presenting a written request to the Secretary of the Official Board for a hearing before the active membership of the church at a business meeting called for that specific purpose. Such meeting shall take place within sixty (60) days of the request being received by the Secretary and a majority vote of the active members at the meeting shall be considered final.
- f. Upon the receipt of the appeal by the Secretary, the Pastor and/or Official Board shall notify the District Superintendent for counsel. The Superintendent, or the Superintendent's designee, shall chair the business meeting at which the appeal will be presented. Other than the Superintendent, or the Superintendent's designee, only active members of the church shall be permitted to attend such a business meeting. Others may attend the business meeting at the discretion of the Superintendent in consultation with the Official Board of the church.

Section 10) Transfer of Membership

- a. **Transfer to another church.** A letter of transfer of membership signed by the Pastor shall be granted upon the request of the individual desiring the membership transfer. The letter shall be addressed to the Pastor of the receiving church and shall state whether or not the member is in good standing.
- b. **Transfer from another church.** When an individual desires to transfer membership to this church from another Assemblies of God church, a letter of transfer of membership shall be required. The transferring church should state whether or not the individual is in good standing. Responsibility for accepting or rejecting the transferee shall rest with the Official Board of this church.
- c. **Transfer from other denominations.** Transfers from other denominations and responsibility for accepting or rejecting the transferee shall rest with the Pastor and the Official Board of this church.

Section 11) Arbitration

Inasmuch as the Scriptures require Christians to take their disputes to other believers and not to the civil courts (1 Corinthians 6:1-8), all disputes which may arise between any member of this church and the church itself (including any officer or director thereof), while the individual is a member, shall be resolved by binding arbitration if efforts to mediate or conciliate the dispute have failed. Either party to the dispute may initiate the arbitration process by filing with the other party a written request for arbitration

within a reasonable time after the dispute has arisen and efforts to mediate or conciliate have failed. In such a case, the member and the church shall each name an arbitrator, and the two so selected shall name a third. All arbitrators must be born-again Christians, who have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit (according to Acts 2:4) and who are members in good standing of an Assemblies of God church. The third arbitrator chosen by the other two shall disclose, before the appointment, any financial or personal interest in the outcome of the arbitration, and any existing or past financial, professional, family or social relationships which are likely to affect impartiality or might reasonably create an appearance of partiality or bias. Either of the parties to the arbitration, on the basis of such disclosures, may disqualify such a candidate from serving as a third arbitrator. A third arbitrator who serves without objection from either party has a continuing duty to disclose relationships or interests which may impair impartiality. Either party, regardless of the stage of the arbitration process, may, on the basis of such disclosures, disqualify such a person from further participation. The arbitration process shall not proceed until the third arbitrator is selected.

The arbitrators shall appoint the time and place for the hearing and cause notification to the parties to be served personally or by registered mail not less than five (5) days before the hearing. Appearance at the hearing waives such notice. The arbitrators may adjourn the hearing from time to time as necessary, and, on the request of a party and for good cause upon their own motion, may postpone the hearing to a later date. The arbitrators may hear and determine the controversy upon the evidence produced notwithstanding the failure of a party duly notified to appear. The parties are entitled to be heard, to present evidence material to the controversy, and to cross-examine witnesses appearing at the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by all arbitrators, but a majority of them may determine any question or render a final award. If during the course of the hearing, an arbitrator for any reason ceases to act, the arbitrator shall be replaced in the same manner in which the arbitrator was originally selected. The arbitrators may, in their absolute discretion, admit as evidence any affidavit or declaration concerning the matter in dispute, a copy thereof having been given at least three (3) days previously to the party against whom the same is offered, but that person whose evidence is so taken shall be subject to cross-examination by such party. The arbitrators shall have the power to order and direct what they shall deem necessary to be done by either of the parties relating to the matters in the dispute. Costs and awards of the arbitration shall be assessed at the discretion of the arbitrators. Any submission of a dispute shall not be revoked by the death of any party to the dispute and award will be binding upon such person's heirs and successors.

The decision of the arbitrators shall be binding on both parties, and both parties shall submit themselves to the personal jurisdiction of the courts of Michigan, both state and federal, for the entry of a judgment confirming the arbitrator's award. The arbitration process is not a substitute for any disciplinary process set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, and shall in no way affect the authority of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, to investigate reports of misconduct, conduct hearings, or administer discipline. Any matter not provided for herein shall be governed by the provisions of the Uniform Arbitration Act.

ARTICLE VII. ADMINISTRATION

Section 1) Official Board and Church Officers

There shall be an **Official Board** comprised of the Pastor, and Elders /Trustees. The office of Elder and Trustee is one office. Elder is a biblical term and Trustee is a legal term. (The office of trustee is given to us by the law of the land for the purpose of deeding and supervising property.) One of the Elders/Trustee shall be appointed to serve as the Secretary of the Board. Other members shall be added as needed.

Section 2) Duties

a. **Pastor.** The Pastor shall:

- 1) Be a licensed or ordained minister of the Assemblies of God and be in good standing with the District and General Councils.
- 2) Be recognized as the spiritual leader of the church.
- 3) Have general oversight of the church and shall direct all its activities in conjunction with the Official Board. All other officers or committees who may be appointed shall serve under the Pastor's supervision. The Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- 4) Provide for all the services of the church and arrange for all special speakers and meetings; no person shall be invited to speak, preach, or minister in the church without the Pastor's approval, except where provided for elsewhere in these Bylaws or the Bylaws of The General Council or Michigan District.
- 5) Be the President of the Corporation. With the Sectary of the Board, sign all legal documents on behalf of the church.
- 6) Act as chairperson of the Official Board and as chairperson of all business meetings of the church, except as provided for elsewhere in these Bylaws.
- 7) Serve as the chairperson of the nominating committee for the selection of Elder/Trustees nominees.

b. **Official Board.** The Official Board shall:

- 1) Serve as trustees of the Corporation. Their fiduciary responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, the duties of due care and diligence, loyalty, avoidance of conflicts of interest, expending designated contributions for the purposes specified, and not co-mingling personal and corporate funds
- 2) Act in the examination of applications for membership and in the administration of discipline. They shall review the membership list at least annually and prior to all business meetings.
- 3) Meet at least quarterly, and at the call of the Pastor, who shall determine the time and place. A majority of the Official Board members present shall constitute a quorum.

c. **Elders/Trustees.** The Elders/Trustees shall:

- 1) There shall be a minimum of 4 Elders/Trustees.
- 2) Function under the leadership of the Pastor. They are to assist the Pastor and make themselves available for advice and counsel.
- 3) Serve for the good of the church and handle the routine and administrative business of the church as directed by the Pastor, except in matters otherwise specified in these Bylaws.
- 4) The Board of Elders/Trustees is chosen to serve the church and therefore shall act in an official capacity with the pastor in all matters pertaining to the assembly in its spiritual life and in the ministry of its ordinances.
- 5) Serve as the Pulpit Committee in the case of the pastorate becoming vacant. They shall contact the District Superintendent as soon as the vacancy occurs and work in conjunction with the Superintendent. In the event a deacon's term ends during a Pastoral search, the deacon will continue to serve on the Pulpit Committee, along with any newly elected deacons, until a Pastor is elected.
- 6) A simple majority present at any meeting of the Official Board shall constitute a quorum, provided all the members have been notified to be present. In the event the assembly is temporarily without a pastor, the board shall appoint a chairperson to act as chairperson of the board. If the pastor is unavailable, he may appoint a designee to temporarily act as chairperson that would be authorized to transact business for the assembly.
- 7) The Board of Elders/Trustees shall be the custodians of all the real property of the assembly.
- 8) The Board, except in matters affecting the entire body, shall carry on administrative affairs of the church. In such cases they shall present their recommendations to the church for ratification. The Board shall be able to authorize normal operating expenditures without church ratification.

They shall also be able to authorize special expenditures up to \$5,000.00. However, during emergencies or extreme circumstances i.e. boiler or roof problems etc., they are authorized to take care of emergencies.

Of this Board of Elders/Trustees, one may be the Secretary.

d. **Secretary.** The Secretary shall:

- 1) Keep the minutes of the meetings of the Official Board and of the annual and special meetings of the church.
- 2) Keep a record of the membership of the church and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of the duties of the office.
- 3) With the President, sign all legal documents on behalf of the church. In the case of a pastoral vacancy, be authorized to sign all legal documents as directed by majority vote of the Official Board.

Section 3) Qualifications of Officers

The minimum requirements for Officers shall be:

- a. Meet the minimum requirements for membership.
- b. Be at least twenty-three (23) years of age. The Elders/Trustees shall be men/women of mature Christian experience and knowledge, who shall be expected to meet the requirements as set forth in I Tim. 3 and Acts 6.
- c. Elders/Trustees shall be men/women who have demonstrated their willingness to lead by serving faithfully in some ministry capacity for a minimum of one year in the assembly. They shall have the full confidence of the Pastor, Elders and Trustees, before they can serve on the Official Board of Elders/Trustees
- d. They shall currently support the church with their tithes and offerings, have a cooperative spirit, and have a higher expectation of regular attendance at church services, so that Elders/Trustees fulfill the role in Scripture (1 Cor 11:1 NIV) Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.
- e. Be an active member of the church for at least one (1) year prior to election.
- f. Meet the high standards that Scripture sets for leadership in regards to maturity, attitude and behavior (1 Timothy 3:8-13; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 13:17; Ephesians 4:1-3).

1 Tim 3:8 NIV) Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. (9) They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. (10) They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. (11) In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. (12) A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. (13) Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

(Titus 1:5 NIV) The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. (6) An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. (7) Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless--not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. (8) Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. (9) He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

Heb 13:17 NIV) Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

(Eph 4:1 NIV) As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. (2) Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. (3) Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

g. As a general council church, we exercise the prerogative (as it relates to divorced persons and the standards for elder/trustees) as set forth by the Assemblies of God (in accordance with Article XI of the General Council Constitution).

h. No individual, other than the Pastor, can be a member of the Official Board if that individual is a credentialed minister.

ARTICLE VIII. ELECTIONS, VACANCIES AND REMOVALS

Section 1) Elections

a. Pastor

1) The Pastor shall be nominated by the Pulpit Committee. Recommendations may be made to the Official Board by any member of the church, but the recommendation of the District Superintendent shall be sought before any nominee is contacted.

2) The Pastor shall be elected to serve for an indefinite period of time.

3) Election shall be by secret ballot at the annual business meeting of the church or at a special business meeting called for that purpose. Such business meeting shall be chaired by the District Superintendent or Superintendent's designee. Only one (1) candidate shall be considered at a time.

4) A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election.

b. Elders/Trustees

1) A nominating committee appointed by the Official Board shall nominate Elders/Trustees, and they shall be elected by a majority vote of those active voting members present at an annual business meeting of the assembly at which an election is to be conducted.

2) Active voting members may recommend nominees to the nominating committee; however, nominations for Elders/Trustees shall not be accepted from the floor.

3) Elders/Trustees shall be elected for a three (3)-year term, and shall hold office until the annual business meeting at which their successor is elected.

4) Elders/Trustees shall be elected for three (3) year terms with their terms being staggered appropriately. An Elder/Trustee may only serve two (2) consecutive three (3) year terms, and then be eligible for election again after one (1) year of not serving on the Official Board. If an Elders/Trustee has been previously elected or appointed to serve a vacated, partial term, the individual shall be eligible to serve two (2) full consecutive terms.

5) Elders/Trustees shall be elected by secret ballot by a majority vote at the annual business meeting of the church or at a special business meeting called for that purpose. When a nominee receives a majority of all votes cast, the individual shall be declared elected. If a majority for each office shall not have been reached by the first three (3) ballots, all nominees except those receiving the highest number of votes shall be eliminated from further balloting. The number of nominees remaining shall be determined by the number of open offices plus one (1) additional nominee.

c. Secretary

The secretary shall be elected from the Official Board annually. He/She may serve consecutive terms. Terms shall be for one year.

d. (Administrative Assistant) Treasurer

The Administrative Assistant shall be selected by the Pastor and ratified by the Official Board. The term of office shall be indefinite as the church staff of the Pastor serves at his pleasure.

The (Administrative Assistant) Treasurer shall:

- 1) Be entrusted with all the finances of the assembly, subject to the supervision of the Official Board.
- 2) Be the custodian of the funds of the church and deposit the same in the name of the church in federally insured accounts and in a financial institution approved by the Official Board.
- 3) Keep an itemized account of receipts and disbursements, shall present a report for each regular meeting of the Official Board and shall present an annual report to the assembly in its annual business meeting, shall keep an accurate record of all departments and conduct the work of the office according to accepted methods of business.
- 4) Assist the assembly in acquiring and maintaining available tax exemptions under state and local law.
- 5) Provide a record of all identified giving to each do-nor at least annually.
- 6) Be the custodian of all the financial records of the church.
- 7) File annual corporation reports with the Secretary of State as required by State law.
- 8) Have the financial reports of the church reviewed at least once a year, and reviewed or audited, as directed by the Pastor or Official Board.

Section 2) Nominating Committee

- a. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Official Board and two (2) members of the congregation, which are appointed by the Official Board.
- b. The Pastor shall serve as the chairperson of the Nominating Committee.
- c. The Nominating Committee shall consider names to fill all offices, except the Pastorate, submitted to it by the active members of the church.

Section 3) Vacancies and Removals

- a. **Any office, other than that of Pastor**, shall become vacant:
 - 1) Upon the death of the officeholder.
 - 2) Upon the resignation of the officeholder.
 - 3) If the officeholder ceases to meet the requirements for election to the office.
 - 4) If the officeholder is removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Official Board due to departure from the Tenets of faith, declared open change in doctrinal views, moral depravity, mental or physical incapacity, dereliction of duty or any good and sufficient cause.
 - 5) An individual removed from an office may appeal the action by presenting a written request to the secretary of the Official Board for a hearing before the active membership of the church at a business meeting called for that specific purpose. Such meeting shall take place within sixty (60) days of the request being received by the secretary. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the active members at the meeting shall be considered final.
 - 6) Upon the receipt of the appeal by the secretary, the Official Board shall notify the District Superintendent for counsel. The Superintendent, or the Superintendent's designee, shall chair the business meeting at which the appeal will be presented. Other than the Superintendent, or the Superintendent's designee, only active members of the church shall be permitted to attend such a business meeting. Others may attend the business meeting at the discretion of the Superintendent in consultation with the Official Board of the church.
- b. **Pastor.** The office of Pastor shall become vacant:
 - 1) Upon the death of the Pastor.
 - 2) Upon the resignation of the Pastor.
 - 3) Upon the action of the District or General Council that suspends or withdraws the ministerial credentials of the Pastor due to departure from the Tenets of Faith, declared open change in

doctrinal views, moral depravity, mental or physical incapacity, dereliction of duty or any good and sufficient cause.

- 4) If serious charges are preferred against the Pastor, or the Pastor's ministry has ceased to be effective, and no provision has been made for the termination of the Pastor's ministry, the Officers may ask for the resignation of the Pastor at any of its regular Official Board meetings by a two-thirds majority vote. If such resignation is refused, the pastorate shall not be considered vacant until the action of the Officers has been sustained by a two-thirds majority vote of the active members at a special business meeting called for that purpose, such meeting to be presided over by the District Superintendent, or Superintendent's designee.
- 5) By a two-thirds majority vote of active members at a special business meeting called for that purpose, initiated by a petition signed by not less than twenty (20) percent of the active members of the church. The business meeting shall be chaired by the District Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.
- 6) Other than the Superintendent, or the Superintendent's designee, only active members of the church shall be permitted to attend such a business meeting. Others may attend the business meeting at the discretion of the Superintendent in consultation with the Official Board of the church.

Section 4) Filling Vacancies

Any office or position of leadership in the church (other than that of Pastor) may be filled by appointment of the Official Board for the unexpired term.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

Section 1) Meetings for Worship

Meetings for public worship shall be provided for under the direction of the Pastor or the Official Board if the pastorate is vacant.

Section 2) Annual Business Meeting

There shall be an annual business meeting of the church, at which time the election of officers shall take place and the report of all officers shall be presented. This meeting shall be held in February each year. The time and place shall be announced on each of the two (2) Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting or notice may be given to all active members by first class mail postmarked not less than seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

The regular order of business for the annual business meeting of this church shall include:

- a. Devotional.
- b. Reading of previous minutes.
- c. Report of treasurer.
- d. Report of committees.
- e. Unfinished business.
- f. Election of officers.
- g. New business.
- h. Adjournment.

Section 3) Special Business Meetings

Special business meetings of the assembly may be called when necessary, after proper notice has been given by the Pastor or by the secretary of the assembly, provided the meeting has been called by the Pastor or by a majority of the Board of Elders/Trustees. Special meetings may also be called by petition

having been signed by not less than one-third of the active membership of the assembly, the petition to be placed in the hands of the Pastor or the Secretary and announcement made on the two Sundays immediately prior to the date of meeting. However, before the right of petition is exercised, the church should request the help of the District Officials.

Section 4) Parliamentary Order

In order to expedite the work of the church and to avoid confusion in its deliberations, all business meetings of the church shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Section 5) Voting Constituency and Quorum

The voting constituency of the church shall consist of all active members. A quorum shall consist of all active members present at any duly called business meeting. Absentee ballots shall not be allowed.

ARTICLE X. DEPARTMENTS

All departments and committees shall exist to help carry out the declared purposes and intents of this church. They shall operate under the direct supervision of the Pastor, under their approved policies and guidelines.

Section 1) Education

The assembly shall hereby provide for the establishment of departments and committees as the needs of the ministry may require. All such departments shall be subordinate to the Assembly and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the Pastor who shall be the ex-officio chairman of all committees and departments. All officers of these departments and committees shall be active members of this Assembly and appointed by the Senior Pastor or to whom he delegates the responsibility for such matters.

Section 2) Other Ministries

Other ministries as deemed necessary shall be established for building the Body of Christ. Their leadership shall be approved by and directly responsible to the Pastor or his designated associate. Guidelines will be adopted as ministries are needed.

Section 3) Committees

From time to time it may be necessary for committees to be formed to provide research, fund-raising, guidance, or oversight to a particular project. Any such committee shall be formed by majority vote of the Pastor and the Official Board of Elders/Trustees. The scope of the committee's responsibilities, authority, and term of existence shall be described in writing before formation of such committee. The committee shall be directly responsible to the Official Board and the Pastor.

ARTICLE XI. FINANCE

Section 1) In General

All funds for the maintenance of the assembly shall be provided by the voluntary contributions, tithes, and offerings of the members and friends of the organization. Offerings shall be accepted by the assembly at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the Official Board and shall be administered

by the Administrative Assistant under their direction (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

Section 2) Handling of Offerings

All offerings shall be counted by at least two authorized persons before the funds are removed from the church building. An offering receipts form shall be signed in duplicate by those counting the offering, with one copy going to the administrative assistant (treasurer) and the other to the Pastor. A record shall be kept of all receipts and disbursements of the local assembly and of all individual giving.

ARTICLE XII. PROPERTY

Section 1) Property

All property of the assembly shall be deeded to First Assembly of God Church and held in its name. No property of the assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise disposed of without 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 meeting or special meeting of the assembly which has been called for the consideration of the proposal. Notice of meetings where such business is to be considered must be announced and published for two consecutive Sundays or made by mail not less than three weeks prior to the meeting. Members who cannot be in attendance shall have the right to vote by absentee ballot. Absentee ballot voting only applies to this type of business. The Pastor and the Secretary of the Board of the assembly shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized and recommended by a vote of the assembly. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

Section 2) Gifts and Donations

Before any gifts or donations are received by First Assembly approval must be received by the Pastor and Official Board of Elders/Trustees. Gifts and donations must be given with "no strings attached." It is further understood that discretion is given to the Pastor and Official Board to best decide how gifts and donations are received, used, and disposed.

Section 3) Defection

In the event defection shall occur from the Tenets of Faith of this church as the same are stated in the Statement of Fundamental Truths in the Constitution of The General Council, any portion of the membership subscribing to and practicing the aforesaid Tenets of Faith and retaining membership with First Assembly of God Church shall retain possession of, and title to, all properties of said church with full rights thereto as provided in its Bylaws.

The determination of which group of members desires continued affiliation with the Assemblies of God and adheres to its Statement of Fundamental Truths shall be determined by the Presbyter Board of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District, and its decision shall be final and binding.

Section 4) Disaffiliation

This church may disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God by a 100% vote of all active members of the church present at a special business meeting called for that purpose [see Article 7, Section 3 and Section 5], provided that the District Superintendent, or Superintendent's designee, shall be present and actively participate in such meeting.

Section 5) Dissolution

In the event the church shall cease to function for the purposes as declared heretofore in its Articles of Constitution, then after providing for the payment of its debts, the remaining assets will not inure to the benefit of any private person or persons but all such remaining assets shall revert to, and be transferred to, the parent body The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Missouri 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 within the Michigan District and under the direction of the presbytery of said district.

In the event of cessation of this church, its Board of Elders/Trustees shall within 1 year thereafter transfer all properties and any remaining assets to The General Council of the Assemblies of God in accordance with the foregoing provisions. If such transfer is not made within the time prescribed herein or if the aforesaid The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be unable or unwilling to accept the aforesaid transfer as an organization operated exclusively for religious purposes with tax-exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, then disposition thereof shall be made by the court of the county in which this church is located, provided that in such case proceeds of the dissolution shall be distributed to an organization or organizations that have purposes nearest the purposes of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and which are organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes, and which shall have established tax-exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS

The Bylaws of this church may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of ballots cast at any regular or special business meeting of the church, except as otherwise indicated herein. The proposed change(s) shall be available in written form and announced at least two (2) Sundays prior to the date of the meeting, or notice may be given to all active members by first class mail postmarked not less than seven (7) days prior to the meeting. A written copy of the proposed change(s) shall be included in the mailing.

Article III of these Bylaws is not subject to amendment, except to conform to any amendments made to the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God by The General Council. All amendments must be consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of both The General Council of the Assemblies of God and those of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District.