

Grace Crossing Assembly Of God, Inc.

“GRACE CROSSING CHURCH”

OFFICIAL CHURCH BYLAWS

1553 Beaver Valley Rd ♦ Beavercreek, OH 45434 ♦ 937-320-9111(phone) ♦ 937-320-9603(fax)
www.gracecrossingchurch.net

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**OFFICIAL BYLAWS OF
GRACE CROSSING ASSEMBLY OF GOD**

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 available means, both at home and in foreign lands; we, the members of this assembly, do hereby recognize ourselves as a local assembly in fellowship with, and as a part of, the General Council of the Assemblies of God; and that we do hereby adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this assembly shall be Grace Crossing Assembly of God, doing business as “Grace Crossing.”

ARTICLE II – PREROGATIVES AND PURPOSES

The prerogatives and purposes of a General Council affiliated assembly shall be:

1. Govern

This Assembly shall have the right to govern itself and to conduct its own affairs according to the standard of the New Testament Scriptures and of the Ohio District Council and the General Council of the Assemblies of God. This right shall specifically include such matters as the calling of a pastor, election of the church board, and the discipline of its members and the conducting of its own services and church programs.

2. To Acquire and Dispose

In connection therewith, or incidental thereto, this assembly 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 chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes, and to exercise all other powers conferred upon it by its charter or by the applicable nonprofit corporation law of this state; all in accordance with its bylaws as the same may be hereafter amended.

3. To Worship, Fellowship and Propagate

The purpose of this assembly shall be to establish and maintain 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, and 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.

4. To Cooperate

This assembly shall cooperate with the Ohio District Council and the General Council to extend the work and kingdom of God throughout the world. It shall support the missionary program as agreed upon. It shall participate in District Council and General Council sessions through its chosen delegates and share in the support of the ministries of these bodies.

5. To Recognize

This assembly shall recognize that the Ohio District Council and the General Council have the authority and the right to approve scriptural doctrine and conduct; also to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct and to withdraw their certificates of membership if deemed necessary.

ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION

While maintaining its inherent right to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs as herein set forth, this assembly shall voluntarily enter into full cooperative fellowship with assemblies of like precious faith, associated in the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God, and the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri; and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation. Officers of the Ohio District Council and General Council shall be recognized and respected by the pastor and members of this assembly.

As a member of the General Council, this assembly has the right to request the assistance of both the General Council and the Ohio District Council in dealing with any of its problems, upon the request of the pastor, a majority of the church board, or a petition signed by at least twenty (20%) percent of the active voting members of the assembly. Only those members who have regularly attended services of, and supported this assembly for a period of at least three consecutive months prior to signing the petition shall be counted.

It is understood and agreed that this assembly shall conform its standards of membership, qualifications for church board, and requirements for a pastor to those standards set by the Ohio District Council and the General Council.

By its affiliation, the assembly – trustees, officers, and members – agree to submit to the authority of and be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of both the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God and the General Council of the Assemblies of God as now in effect or hereafter amended.

ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH

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, I 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 of 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 Timothy 3:15-17; I Thessalonians 2:13; II Peter 1:21).

2. The One and True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent “I AM,” the Creator of heavens 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

1) 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; II Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16, 17).

2) 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; I Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14; I John 1:3, 4).

3) 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).

4) 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, 33; 8:17, 18).

5) 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; II John 3).

6) 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; I John 4:2, 10, 14; Revelation 1:13, 17).

7) 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; II John 3; I John 3:8; Hebrews 7:3, 1:1-13).

8) 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; I John 2:22, 23; 4:1-5; Hebrews 12:2).

9) 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; 15:24-28).

10) 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 2, 3, and 4), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22, 23; I 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:

- 1) His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31-35).
- 2) His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; I Peter 2:22).
- 3) His miracles (Acts 2:22, 10:38).
- 4) His substitution work on the cross (I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21).
- 5) His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; I Corinthians 15:4).
- 6) 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.

1) 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 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).

2) 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 righteous and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12).

6. The Ordinances of the Church

1) 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).

2) 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 Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (I Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers “til He comes!”

7. The Baptism in the Holy Ghost

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 24:29; Acts 1:4, 8; I 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), and 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 Ghost

The baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (I 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; I 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” (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; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 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 firstborn, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22, 23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23). Since God’s purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshiped by man, 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:

- 1) To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16).
- 2) To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (I Corinthians 12:13).
- 3) To be a channel of God’s purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; I 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:

- 1) 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).
- 2) Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God (I Corinthians 2:10-16; I Corinthians 12:14).
- 3) Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruits, gifts, and ministries as in the New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ (Galatians 5:22-26; I Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4: 11, 12; I Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the threefold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) evangelization the world (Mark 16:15-20), (2) worship of God (John 4:23, 24), and (3) building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11, 16).

12. Diving 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 (I Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; I 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 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 burns 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 new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” (II Peter 3:13; Revelation 21 and 22).

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. In General

Membership is reserved for those who have made a commitment to the mission and ministries of Grace Crossing Church. The official membership of GCC shall consist of all those whose application has been approved for membership by the church board at any of its meetings where a quorum is present. Membership approval is at the sole discretion of the church board.

Section 2. Membership Eligibility

To be eligible for membership at GCC, one must have reached the age of eighteen (18) and must meet the following minimum qualifications:

- 1) A testimony to having a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, evidenced by post-conversion water baptism (Mark 16:16) and a commitment to the Christian faith (Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Timothy 3:16).
- 2) A commitment to a Spirit-filled life evidenced by a maturing faith (Galatians 5:6), the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), a God-honoring lifestyle (Romans 12:1-2), and to the Great Commandment (Mark 12:30-31) and Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).
- 3) Regular attendance at GCC services for at least 12 consecutive months prior to the date of application for membership (Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:23-25).
- 4) Financial support of GCC for at least 12 consecutive months prior to the date of application for membership (1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7, 9:6-11).
- 5) Agreement to uphold and abide by the current bylaws of Grace Crossing Church (Romans 13:1-5; Hebrews 13:17).

Section 3. Procedure for Membership Recognition

Those individuals eligible for membership who shall desire to become members of this church shall make written application to the pastor or church board. The church board shall have the right and authority to determine the eligibility and acceptability of all applicants for membership by majority vote. Those approved for membership by the church board shall be received into the church publicly at any of its regular services, and their names thereupon added to the church membership list. No applicant for membership shall be accepted as a member within thirty (30) days before an annual business meeting, or within ten (10) days before a special business meeting.

Section 4. Pastors and Spouses

By virtue of office, the pastor shall be considered an active voting member of the church during his tenure. The pastor's spouse shall become an active voting member simultaneously with the pastor, subject to Section 10 of this Article V. This procedure applies to all ministry staff and spouses.

Section 5. Transfer Members

A member in good standing with another Assemblies of God church, who satisfies the standards for membership eligibility specified in Section 2 of this Article VI (other than the attendance and support requirements), may apply for membership by submitting a letter of transfer from the pastor of the other assembly, upon the approval of a majority of the church board.

Section 6. Junior Membership

Junior membership shall be available for young people under eighteen (18) years of age who give evidence of the new birth, meet the scriptural standards for membership as specified in these bylaws, and are approved by majority vote of the church board.

Section 7. Associate Members

The church board, at any regular or special meeting, may approve associate members by a majority vote. Eligibility for associate membership is available to any person who is a member in good standing of an Assemblies of God church in another community, who is in this community on a temporary basis, and who intends to return to his or her home church. Associate members shall be entitled to all the privileges of a regular member, except that they shall not be eligible to vote and shall not be eligible for any of the offices described in Article VI of these bylaws.

Section 8. Honorary Members

The church board, at any regular or special meeting, may approve honorary members by a majority vote. Honorary membership is available to any member who, with good cause, is unable to regularly attend church services. 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. They shall not be eligible to vote and shall not be eligible for any of the offices described in Article VI of these bylaws.

Section 9. Inactive Membership

Active voting members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of the assembly for a period of three (3) consecutive months or more, or who cease to contribute of their means to its support for a period of three (3) consecutive months, may be declared inactive members by majority vote of the church board, and thereupon shall lose their voting privileges. They may be restored to the fellowship, their standing to be settled by the definite action of the assembly through its church board.

Section 10. Discipline

1. GROUNDS

Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible (Matthew 16:19; 18:15-20; Luke 17:3; John 20:23; Acts 16:4; Ephesians 5:11; I Timothy 5:20; II Timothy 4:2; Hebrews 13:17). The purpose of discipline is to promote repentance and restoration through exposing sinful behavior. It is to be redemptive in nature, as well as corrective. Any member of the assembly is subject to discipline on the basis of unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the Tenets of Faith of this assembly. The discipline of the pastor is administered by the District Presbytery.

2. PROCEDURE

The assembly will follow the disciplinary procedure set forth in Matthew 18:15-20. This procedure consists generally of the following steps: (1) The pastor or a designated member of the church board discusses the charges with the member in an effort to resolve the matter privately; (2) if the first step does not resolve the matter, then the member shall meet with the pastor and church board or with a designated committee of the church board in an effort to resolve the matter privately. The church board will possess the authority to render disciplinary action as appropriate, depending on the circumstances of each case; (3) if the first or second steps do not resolve the matter, then the member or the church board may submit the matter to the membership of the assembly in a special business meeting called for that purpose. Only active voting members of the church shall be permitted to attend such a special business meeting. The decision of a majority of the voting members present at such a meeting shall be final. Based upon the outcome of the membership vote, the church board may impose disciplinary sanctions, up to but not limited to dismissal from church membership (Matthew 18:17).

3. RESIGNATIONS

Members who are under discipline by this assembly forfeit and waive the right to resign from membership in this assembly. Resignations from membership are possible only by those members in good standing who are not under any disciplinary action, unless authorized by the church board.

ARTICLE VI. GOVERNMENT AND MINISTRY

1. IN GENERAL

The government of this assembly shall be vested in the active membership. However, routine business of the assembly shall be the responsibility of the church board (trustees and officers), in accordance with the duties defined in these bylaws, to the extent that such authority is not limited by district supervision as provided for under the bylaws of the Ohio District Council, a copy of which can be obtained by contacting the Ohio District Council offices.

The ministries and daily activities of the church shall be carried out under the leadership of the pastor by the ministry staff, deacons, lay leaders, members and support staff.

2. CHURCH BOARD

(1) General

There shall be a church board, consisting of the pastor and at least three (3), but not more than seven (7), members of the assembly. The pastor, by virtue of office, shall be the chairman of the church board. The actual number of church board members shall be reviewed and determined by the church board on an annual basis.

(2) Qualifications

Board members shall be persons of mature Christian experience and knowledge, which shall be expected to meet the requirements set forth in I Timothy 3. Board members shall be at least twenty-three (23) years old, and shall have been members of the assembly for at least one year. They shall currently support the church with their tithes and offerings, have a cooperative spirit, and regularly attend church services. They shall not hold ministerial credentials.

(3) Duties and Responsibilities

1. The church board shall have general charge and management of the affairs, funds, and property of the assembly. The church board shall have the authority to carry out the purposes of the assembly according to its charter and these bylaws.
2. Members of the church board shall serve as trustees of the church, as is defined by applicable state and/or federal law.
3. The church board shall determine the compensation, if any, of all ministry staff and support staff positions. Pastoral compensation shall be according to Article X, Section 3.
4. The church board shall act in the examination of applications for membership and in the administration of discipline.
5. For so long as the church is temporarily without a pastor, the remaining members of the church board shall be empowered to select a temporary chairman of the church board from among its existing members.
6. The church board shall elect the church secretary from among the active church membership.
7. The church board shall elect the church treasurer from among the active church membership.

3. OFFICERS

(1) General

The officers shall consist of a president, secretary, and treasurer. The pastor, by virtue of office, shall be the president of the assembly. The offices of secretary and treasurer may not be held simultaneously by the same individual.

(2) Qualifications

(a) Pastor/President

The pastor shall be in good standing with both the General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Ohio District Council, holding a current credential card.

(b) Secretary

The secretary shall be a member of the church for at least one year prior to election to office, shall currently support the church with tithes, shall have a cooperative spirit, and shall be faithful in attendance at church services. A church member elected to serve as secretary by the board cannot become a member of the board unless elected by the membership as is prescribed in these church bylaws.

(c) Treasurer

The treasurer shall be a member of the church for at least one year prior to election to office, shall currently support the church with tithes, shall have a cooperative spirit, and shall be faithful in attendance at church services. A church member elected to serve as treasurer by the board cannot become a member of the board unless elected by the membership as is prescribed in these church bylaws.

(3) Duties and Responsibilities

(a) Pastor

1. Shall be the spiritual overseer of the assembly and shall direct its activities.
2. Shall, as chairman of the church board and president of the assembly, act as chairman of all the business meetings of the assembly and of the church board.
3. Shall provide for all services of the assembly and shall specifically arrange for all special meetings, conventions, etc. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the assembly without his approval.

4. Should conduct a training class as needed on the responsibilities of the church board (trustees and officers), deacons, and other church leaders. Such a training course shall be based upon the Scriptural directives for the church leadership and the church bylaws.
5. Shall be an ex officio member of all committees.
6. Shall sign legal documents on behalf of the church.
7. Shall have the authority to hire or dismiss staff personnel following consultation with the church board.

(b) Secretary

1. Shall keep minutes of the official meetings of the church board, and of the annual and special business meeting of the assembly.
2. Shall keep a record of the membership of the assembly and perform any other clerical work necessary to proper discharge of his duties.
3. Shall be the custodian of all legal documents.
4. Shall file corporation reports with the Ohio Secretary of State, as may be required by state law.
5. Shall sign legal documents on behalf of the church.

(c) Treasurer

1. Shall be entrusted with all the finances of the assembly, subject to the supervision of the church board, and shall deposit all funds in federally insured accounts in the name of the assembly. All checks issued on behalf of the church must be signed by the treasurer and one additional officer authorized by the church board.
2. Shall keep an itemized account of receipts and disbursements, shall present a report for each regular meeting of the church board, and shall present an annual report to the assembly in its annual business meeting.
3. Shall assist the assembly in acquiring and maintaining available tax exemptions under state and local law.
4. Shall provide a record of all identified giving to each donor at least annually.
5. Shall be the custodian of all the financial records of the church.
6. Shall oversee a team comprised of bookkeeper(s) and offering counters to ensure accountability and integrity in the handling of all church finances.

4. MINISTRY STAFF (ASSOCIATE PASTORS & LAY MINISTERS)

(1) General

Under the leadership of the pastor, the ministry staff, comprised of both associate pastors and lay ministers, shall oversee specific church ministries for the purpose of “equipping the saints for the work of ministry” (Eph. 4:12). The ministry staff shall be selected by the pastor after consultation with the church board.

(2) Qualifications

(a) Associate Pastor(s)

1. Shall be a person of Christian character, high moral standards, and possess leadership abilities.
2. Should have a minimum of one year of ministry training (i.e. Bible College, Masters Commission or equivalent).
3. Should hold ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God or a recognized Christian credentialing body.

(b) Lay Minister(s)

1. Shall be a person of Christian character, high moral standards, and possess leadership abilities.

2. Should have training in the area of responsibility or be willing to acquire such training as deemed necessary.
3. May be a commissioned minister through this assembly.

(3) Duties and Responsibilities

- (a) Shall provide direct supervision to one or more church ministries and shall direct, equip, and train appropriate lay leadership.
- (b) Shall function as ministry coaches and mentors to the lay leaders within their ministry portfolios.

5. DEACONS

(1) General

Under the leadership of the pastor, deacons shall serve the church body by maintaining spiritual harmony/unity through prayer, conflict resolution, counseling, visitation, benevolence and other practical means (according to Acts 6:1 – 8) as well as actively support the ministry staff and lay leaders within the congregation.

(2) Qualifications

- (a) Shall meet the Scriptural qualifications as established in Acts 6:1 – 8 and I Timothy 3:8 – 13.
- (b) Shall be at least twenty-three (23) years old.
- (c) Shall be an active member of this assembly.
- (d) Shall faithfully support the church with tithes and offerings, be faithful in church attendance and shall maintain a cooperative spirit toward the pastor and church leadership.

(3) Selection

Deacon candidates, selected by the pastor and affirmed by a majority vote of the church board, shall be presented to the congregation for ratification as outlined in Article VII, Section 1 (6).

6. LAY LEADERS

Under the direction of the pastor or a ministry staff member designated by the pastor, lay leaders shall provide leadership and oversight to a church ministry. Lay leaders shall be appointed annually by the pastor.

7. SUPPORT STAFF

Under the direction of the pastor or a ministry staff member, board member or deacon designated by the pastor, support staff shall serve the congregation in support functions such as accounting, administration, office systems, secretarial, custodial, building maintenance, etc.

8. DISTRICT SUPERVISION

Should there arise irreconcilable differences among or between the pastor, members of the official church board, and members of the congregation, destroying unity and the successful ministry of the local assembly, the District Executive Presbytery, along with the Sectional Presbyter, upon request from the pastor and/or the majority of the official church board, or by a petition signed by at least twenty percent (20%) of the active members of the congregation, shall investigate such differences and make their recommendations to the District Presbytery, which may declare that the church be brought under district supervision until unity is restored. If the pastor is a presbyter, then the Executive Presbytery shall appoint another member of the District Presbytery in his place.

Should it be questioned that the District Presbytery has given proper help, the church may appeal a decision of this body to the Executive Presbytery of the General Council. When exceptions are taken to the decision of the Executive Presbytery, either by the General Council affiliated assembly or by the District Presbytery, appeal may be made to the General Presbytery of the General Council.

ARTICLE VII. ELECTIONS, RATIFICATIONS, VACANCIES, REMOVALS, AND APPOINTMENTS,

Section 1. Elections/Ratifications

1. PASTOR

- (1) The pastor shall be nominated by the church board. Recommendations may be made to the church board by any member of the assembly.
- (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 assembly, or at a special business meeting called for that purpose. Only one candidate shall be considered at a time.
- (4) A two-thirds majority vote of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election.
- (5) In the event either the pastor or any other member or members of the assembly shall challenge the validity of an election, the validity of the election shall be arbitrated by the District Executive Presbytery, or any three persons of its choice, and its decision final.

2. CHURCH BOARD NOMINATING COMMITTEE

There shall be a nominating committee representative of the membership of the church, appointed by the church board. The majority of the nominating committee shall consist of non-board members of the congregation. The nominating committee shall present nominees for the office of church board member, and for any other office as assigned by the church board, except the office of pastor. The chairman of the church board shall serve as the chairman of the nominating committee. The chairman shall privately interview those nominated, ascertaining their eligibility and availability to serve. The chairman shall submit the names of the eligible and available nominees to the church board for affirmation by majority vote.

3. CHURCH BOARD MEMBERS

Church board members shall be nominated by a nominating committee appointed by the church board (Article VII, Section 1 (2)). Active voting members may recommend nominees to the nominating committee; however, nominations shall not be accepted from the floor during any business meeting. They shall be elected by a majority vote of those active voting members present at any business meeting of the assembly at which an election is to be conducted. The term of a church board member shall be up to a maximum of three (3) years to commence at the next regularly scheduled board meeting. The terms should be staggered appropriately so that approximately one-third of the church board is elected each year. Board members may be nominated to serve consecutive terms without limit, so long as they continue to meet the qualifications (Article VI, Section 2 (2)).

4. SECRETARY

The secretary shall be elected by the church board from among the active church membership. The term of office shall be one year. The secretary may serve consecutive terms without limitation.

5. TREASURER

The treasurer shall be elected by the church board from among the active membership. The term of office shall be one year. The treasurer may serve consecutive terms without limitation.

6. DEACONS

Deacon candidates shall be selected by the pastor and affirmed by a majority vote of the church board. They shall be ratified by a majority vote of those active voting members present at any business meeting of the assembly at which an election is to be conducted. The term of a deacon shall be one (1) year. At the request of the pastor, a deacon may serve subsequent terms without additional ratification from the congregation, so long as they continue to meet the qualifications (Article VI, Section 5 (2)).

Section 2. Vacancies and Removals

1. PASTOR

When a vacancy in the office of the pastor shall occur, a temporary replacement shall be arranged for by the church board until a pastor shall be chosen as prescribed in Article VII, Section 1 (1). The counsel of the District Superintendent should be sought. If a pastor's credentials are withdrawn by the General Council or he resigns his credentials and/or elects not to renew his credentials, the pastor's term of office shall be automatically terminated. In the event a special business meeting is called by petition as provided in Article VIII, Section 3, for the purpose of considering the status of the pastor, a majority vote of all voting members present and voting shall be required to remove a pastor from office before his term expires. Severance shall be governed by Article X, Section 3 (4).

2. CHURCH BOARD MEMBERS

The term of a church board member shall expire at the end of the designated term of office at the time of election, or upon the termination of a church board members active membership, whichever shall occur first.

3. SECRETARY

The office of secretary shall be vacant upon the expiration of the term of office, or upon the termination of the secretary's active membership, whichever shall occur first.

4. TREASURER

The office of treasurer shall be vacant upon the expiration of the term of office, or upon the termination of the treasurer's active membership, whichever shall occur first

5. IN GENERAL

Any office or position of leadership in the church (other than that of the pastor or church board member) may be declared vacant by action of the church board.

Section 3. Appointments

Any office or position of leadership in the church (other than that of the pastor or church board member) may be filled by appointment of the church board for the remainder of the term that has not yet expired.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings for Worship

Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under the direction of the pastor. In the event of a pastoral vacancy, the church board shall be responsible for ensuring that worship meetings are held.

Section 2. Annual Business Meeting

There shall be an annual business meeting of the assembly at which time the election of board members and the ratification of deacons shall take place and the report of the church board shall be presented. The date of the meeting shall be established by the church board. Notice of the date, time, and place of each annual business meeting shall be communicated to the active membership at least two weeks prior to the meeting date.

Section 3. Special Business Meetings

Special business meetings of the assembly may be called by the pastor, or by a majority of the church board, or by a petition signed by not less than twenty percent (20%) of the active voting members of the assembly. Only those members who have regularly attended services of and supported this assembly for a period of at least three (3) consecutive months prior to signing the petition shall be counted.

Petitions pertaining to the business affairs of the church shall be submitted to the pastor or secretary of the church board.

No more than one petition on a given subject shall be recognized in any twelve (12) month period. Notice of the date, time, place, and purpose of each special business meeting shall be communicated to the active membership at least two weeks prior to the meeting date.

No business other than that specified in the notice of meeting shall be transacted at any special meeting of the assembly.

Section 4. Parliamentary Order

All business meetings of the church shall be governed by parliamentary procedures as set forth in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Revised, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

Section 5. Voting Constituency

1. QUALIFYING OF VOTERS

The voting constituency at all business meetings of the assembly shall consist of all active voting members who are present and who meet the membership requirements as set forth in Article V, Section 2.

2. TRANSFER MEMBERS

Transfer members shall have voting privileges after 30 days of transfer of membership (Article VI, Section 4).

3. MEMBERS UNDER PROCESS OF DISCIPLINE

No member under the process of discipline shall be entitled to a vote until the process is completed (Article V, Section 10).

Section 6. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of twenty percent (20%) of the active voting membership list.

Section 7. Order of Business

The regular order of business for the annual business meeting of this assembly shall be as follows:

- 1) Devotion
- 2) Reading of previous minutes
- 3) Report of treasurer
- 4) Report of committee
- 5) Election of Board Members
- 6) Ratification of Deacons
- 7) Unfinished business
- 8) New business
- 9) Adjournment

Section 8. The Church Board

The church board shall meet bi-monthly (at least 6 times per year) or at the call of the pastor for the transaction of business for the assembly. Time and place shall be announced by the pastor. All members shall be notified and a majority of the church board members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 9. Active Voting Membership

The church board shall review the membership list preceding the annual business meeting and compile a current list of active voting members.

ARTICLE IX. DEPARTMENTS

Section 1. In General

This assembly shall create and maintain such departments and sub-organizations as may be necessary and advisable for the extension of its ministries. All such departments and organizations 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 and church board, and the pastor shall be an ex officio member of all committees or departments.

ARTICLE X. 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 supporters of the organization and/or by others means as determined by the church board. Offerings shall be accepted by the assembly at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the church board, and shall be administered by the treasurer under the direction of the church board (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38; I Corinthians 16:1, 2; II 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 receipt form shall be signed in duplicate by those counting the offering, with one copy going to the 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. All funds shall be deposited in federally insured accounts.

Section 3. Pastoral Compensation

1. COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

The compensation committee shall consist of the elected members of the church board under the direction of the treasurer. The chair shall be appointed by the church board from among its members and shall be responsible to coordinate the annual compensation committee meeting(s). The purpose of the compensation committee shall be to define the compensation plan for the pastor, including but not limited to, remuneration, allowances, expense reimbursement, benefits, and severance. The compensation committee shall meet at least annually. The compensation committee shall have the ability to meet in the Pastor's absence for the sole purpose of discussing and/or voting on any proposed compensation plan.

2. REGULAR COMPENSATION

The pastor shall be compensated for his services as agreed upon by the compensation committee and the pastor. The compensation committee shall review the pastor's compensation at least annually.

3. EVENT EXPENSES

As determined by the church board, the church shall cover the expenses incurred by the pastor's attendance at District Councils, General Councils, and other ministerial functions.

4. SEVERANCE

In the event the pastor is removed from office by a vote of the active voting membership of the church or agrees to resign at the request of the church board, he shall be given a minimum of one (1) month's regular compensation as severance.

ARTICLE XI. PROPERTY

Section 1. Title

All property of the assembly shall be deeded to the assembly, and held in its name or, if required by law, to trustees acting on behalf of the assembly and their successors in office. Should the assembly choose to do so, it may request the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God to act as its trustee to hold title.

Section 2. Property Rights

All purchases and sales of real property shall be authorized by a vote of at least two-thirds of the voting membership who are in attendance at a regular special meeting of the assembly. No real property shall be bought, sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without the same having been authorized by at least a two-thirds majority vote of the voting membership at a regular or special meeting of the assembly.

Section 3. Disposition of Property

No property of the corporation, real or chattel, shall be sold, mortgaged, or otherwise disposed of without affirmative vote of the trustees of the corporation in a meeting called to consider such proposal. The president and secretary of the corporation shall certify in such conveyance, or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized and recommended by the required vote. Such certificate shall be deemed to be conclusive evidence thereof.

Section 4. Discontinuation of Church Services

Should this assembly cease to maintain a weekly worship service for a period of six (6) months under the direction of a leader duly authorized by and in good standing with the District Council, it shall be dissolved and its properties disposed of according to Article XI, Section 6, of these bylaws.

Section 5. Disaffiliation

Title to all right property now owned or hereafter acquired by the assembly shall be held in trust as a place of divine worship in full cooperative fellowship and affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, of Springfield, Missouri, and the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God. In the event that the assembly shall be divided over doctrinal or any other issues, or shall vote to disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God, all property of the assembly shall remain with those members, whatever their number, desiring continued affiliation with the Assemblies of God and adhering to its Statement of Fundamental Truths. 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 arbitrated by the District Presbytery of the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God, and its decision shall be final and binding. If all of the members of the assembly shall vote to disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God for doctrinal or any other reasons, then all of the property of such assembly shall revert to said District Council and shall be used by the district as an Assemblies of God church if possible, and if not possible, the district may sell the property and apply the proceeds in any manner consistent with its stated purpose.

Section 6. Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the assembly, none of its funds or assets shall be distributed to any officer, church board member, deacon, trustee, or any other individual. The church board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the assembly, dispose of all of the funds and assets of the assembly by conveying the same to the Ohio District Council, Inc. of the Assemblies of God, for the purposes of the assembly, and provided that said District Council at the time qualifies as an exempt organization under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Law). Any such funds or assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Circuit Court of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, to such organization as said Court shall determine, which is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes.

ARTICLE XII. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

No person shall be liable to GCC for any loss or damage suffered by it on account of any action taken or omitted to be taken by him as a board member, pastor, or officer of GCC, if such person performs his duties, including his duties as a member of any committee of the Board of GCC upon which he may serve, in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believes to be in the best interests of GCC, and with the care that an

ordinarily prudent person in a like position would use under similar circumstances. In performing his duties, a board member, pastor, or officer is entitled to rely on information, opinions, reports or statements, including financial statements and other financial data, that are prepared or presented by: (1) one or more board members, pastors, officers, or employees of GCC whom the board member, pastor, or officer reasonably believes are reliable and competent in the matters prepared or presented; (2) counsel, public accountants or other persons as to matters that the board member, pastor, or officer reasonably believes are within the person's professional or expert competence; (3) a committee of the church board upon which he does not serve, duly established in accordance with a provision of the bylaws, as to matters within its designated authority, which committee the board member, pastor, or officer reasonably believes to merit confidence.

ARTICLE XIII. INDEMNIFICATION

GCC shall indemnify any person who was or is a party, or is threatened to be made a party, to any threatened, pending, or completed civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative action, suit, or proceeding, other than an action by or in the right of GCC, by reason of the fact that he is or was a board member, pastor, officer, employee, or agent of or a volunteer of GCC, or is or was serving at the request of GCC as a trustee, director, officer, employee, or agent of or a volunteer of another domestic or foreign nonprofit corporation or corporation for profit, or a partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise, against expenses, including attorney's fees, judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with such action, suit, or proceeding, if he acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of GCC, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, if he had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit, or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, or conviction, or upon plea of "no contest" or its equivalent, shall not create, of itself, a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of GCC, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, a presumption that the person had reasonable cause to believe that his conduct was unlawful.

GCC may indemnify any person who was or is a party, or is threatened to be made a party, to any threatened, pending, or completed action or suit by or in the right of GCC to procure a judgment in its favor, by reason of the fact that he is or was a board member, pastor, officer, employee, or agent of or a volunteer of GCC, or is or was serving at the request of GCC as a trustee, director, officer, employee, or agent of or a volunteer of another domestic or foreign nonprofit corporation or corporation for profit, or a partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise against expenses, including attorney's fees, actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit, if he acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of GCC, except that no indemnification shall be made in respect of any of the following:

(a) Any claim, issue or matter as to which such person is adjudged to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of his duty to GCC unless, and only to the extent that, the court of common pleas or the court in which the action or suit was brought determines, upon application, that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses as the court of common pleas or such other court considers proper;

(b) Any action or suit in which liability is asserted against a board member and that liability is asserted only pursuant to Section 1702.55 of the Ohio Revised Code.

To the extent that a board member, pastor, officer, employee, agent, or volunteer has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit, or proceeding referred in this Article, or in defense of any claim, issue, or matter in such an action, suit, or proceeding, he shall be indemnified against expenses, including attorney's fees, actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with that action, suit, or proceeding.

Unless ordered by a court and subject to the above provision, any indemnification under this Article shall be made by GCC only as authorized in the specific case, upon a determination that indemnification of the board member, pastor, officer, employee, agent, or volunteer is proper in the circumstances because he has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in this Article. Such determination shall be made in any of the following manners:

(a) By a majority vote of a quorum consisting of board members of GCC who were not and are not parties to or threatened with the action, suit, or proceeding referred to in this Article.

(b) Whether or not a quorum as described above is obtainable, and if a majority of a quorum of disinterested board members so directs, in a written opinion by independent legal counsel other than an attorney, or a firm having associated with it an attorney, who has been retained by or who has performed services for GCC or any person to be indemnified within the past five years;

(c) By the members of GCC;

(d) By the court of common pleas or the court in which the action, suit, or proceeding referred to in this Article was brought.

If an action or suit by or in the right of GCC is involved, any determination made by the disinterested board members under this Article or by independent legal counsel under this Article shall be communicated promptly to the person who threatened or brought such action or suit and, within ten days after receipt of such notification, such person shall have the right to petition the court of common pleas or the court in which such action or suit was brought to review the reasonableness of such determination.

Expenses, including attorney's fees, incurred by a board member, pastor, officer, employee, agent, or volunteer in defending any action, suit, or proceeding referred to in this Article may be paid by GCC as they are incurred, in advance of the final disposition of the action, suit, or proceeding, as authorized by the board members in the specific case, upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the board member, pastor, officer, employee, agent, or volunteer to repay the amount if it ultimately is determined that he is not entitled to be indemnified by GCC.

The indemnification authorized by this Article is not exclusive of, and shall be in addition to, any other rights granted to those seeking indemnification, pursuant to the Articles of Incorporation, these Regulations, any agreement, a vote of members or disinterested board members, or otherwise, both as to action in their official capacities and as to action in another capacity while holding their offices or positions, and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a board member, pastor, officer, employee, agent, or volunteer and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators of such person.

Any indemnification authorized herein shall be permitted only to the extent that it does not constitute an act of self-dealing as defined in Section 4941(d) of the Internal Revenue Code or a taxable expenditure as defined in Section 4945(d) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the assembly by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership present, except as otherwise indicated herewith.