

Montana Constitution & Bylaws

Updated May 2025



**MONTANA DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

**CONSTITUTION
AND
BYLAWS**

REVISED May 2025

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CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC.

As adopted September 9, 1936 and including all revisions to 2013.

HISTORY

In a meeting April 21, 1936, at Great Falls, a resolution was passed calling for the organization of the Montana District Council of the Assemblies of God. The North Central District Council in session June 24, 1936, ratified this action. Presbyters of the Northwest District Council in regular session July 1, 1936, granted a petition from eastern Montana ministers that western Montana ministers and churches be given permission to withdraw from the Northwest District to form the new Montana District Council. The western Montana brethren, in session August 6, 1936, at Missoula, accepted the invitation of the eastern Montana brethren to form the new district. The action was consummated September 8, 1936 at Roundup.

WE BELIEVE

That God's purpose concerning man's fulfillment is a priority reason-for-being; 1) to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world, 2) to be a corporate body in which man 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.

That the Montana District Council of the Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason-for-being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit, which enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs, adding a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God, and enabling them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression on fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ.

Therefore, we recognize ourselves to be a cooperative fellowship of Pentecostal, Spirit-baptized saints from local Pentecostal Assemblies of like precious faith in the Montana District of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, hereinafter called "General Council," Whose purpose is neither to usurp authority over the various local assemblies, nor to deprive them of their scriptural and local rights and privileges; but to recognize and promote scriptural methods and order for worship, unity, fellowship, work, and business for God so that results of our efforts may be conserved and assemblies established and developed along the line of our distinctive testimony; and to disapprove unscriptural methods, doctrines, and conduct, *"endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace...till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"* (Ephesians 4:3, 4:13)

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME

(See Article 1 - General Council Constitution)

The name of this body shall be “The Montana District Council of the Assemblies of God.”

ARTICLE II. TERRITORY

The Montana District Council includes the entire state of Montana. For efficiency and to expedite the work, the District shall be divided into Fellowship sections.

ARTICLE III. NATURE AND PRINCIPLES (FOR FELLOWSHIP)

The Montana District Council of the Assemblies of God is a cooperative fellowship based on mutual agreements voluntarily entered into by its members. As nearly as possible, the district shall seek to represent the body of Christ as described in the New Testament Scriptures, recognizing the principles inherent in that body as also inherent in this Fellowship, particularly the principles of unity, fellowship, cooperation, and equality. (Resolution 9/11) It recognizes that adherence to those principles will enable it to achieve its priority reason-for-being, and to maintain conditions under which it can, as a Fellowship, demonstrate those principles and their consequent development.

ARTICLE IV. PREROGATIVES

(See Article III and Article X – General Council Constitution)

- a. To encourage and promote the evangelization of the world.
- b. To encourage and promote the worship of God.
- c. To encourage and promote the edification of believers.
- d. To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like precious faith.
- e. To respond to human need with ministries of compassion. (Resolution 3/11)
- f. To supervise all the activities of the Assemblies of God in its prescribed field in accordance with the rights conferred by Article X of the General Council Constitution.
- g. To establish and maintain such sub-divisions, departments and institutions as may be necessary for the propagation of the Gospel and the work of the Pentecostal fellowship.
- h. To establish churches and provide for their development.

- i. To examine and recommend candidates to the General Council who qualify as certified ministers, licensed ministers, or ordained ministers. They shall meet the standards of the Scriptures (I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9) and the requirements of the District and the General Council as set forth in their Constitution and Bylaws. It shall be amenable to the General Council of the Assemblies of God in matters of doctrine, and the discipline of all ministers who are permitted to have district endorsement. (Resolution 4/11)
- j. To approve all scriptural teachings, methods, and conduct, and to disapprove all unscriptural teachings, methods, and conduct. As the creature of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, it is subordinate thereto, and cannot be authorized in any way, to violate the principles of the General Council of the Assemblies of God constitutional agreements or bylaws. In the prosecution of the work in its prescribed field the District Council, shall be expected to keep vigilant watch against any violation of the principles of spiritual unity and cooperative fellowship to which the Assemblies of God Fellowship is especially and unalterably dedicated.
- k. To elect its own officers and committees, to arrange for its own meetings, and to govern itself.
- l. Incidental to, or in connection therewith, it shall have the right to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of such property, real or chattel, as may be needed for the prosecution of its work.

ARTICLE V. TENETS OF FAITH

This District Council adopts the Statement of Fundamental Truths currently adopted by the General Council (Resolution 10/11):

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 New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21).

2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10, 11; Matthew 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 Spirit, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).

(c) Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Accordingly, therefore, there is that in the Father which constitutes Him the Father and not the Son; there is that in the Son which constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Spirit which constitutes Him the Holy Spirit and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore, the Father is the Begetter; the Son is the Begotten; and the Holy Spirit is the One proceeding from the Father and the Son. Therefore, because these three persons in the godhead are in a state of unity, there is but one Lord God Almighty and His name one (John 1:18; 15:26; 17:11, 21; Zechariah 14:9).

(d) Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are never identical as to person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the godhead; nor opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father, as to authority. The Holy Spirit is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation, and authority. Hence, no person in the godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17-30, 32, 37; 8:17, 18).

(e) The Title, Lord Jesus Christ

The appellation *Lord Jesus Christ* is a proper name. It is never applied in the New Testament either to the Father or to the Holy Spirit. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God (Romans 1:1-3, 7; 2 John 3).

(f) The Lord Jesus Christ, God With Us

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

(g) The Title, Son of God

Since the 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 Spirit that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God may be all in all (Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Romans 14:11; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28).

(j) Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son

Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only the express duty of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is an unspeakable joy in the Holy Spirit to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the godhead except those which express relationship (see 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 to Salvation. Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).
- b. The Evidences of Salvation. The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12).

6. The Ordinances of the Church

- a. Baptism in Water. The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47, 48; Romans 6:4).
- b. Holy Communion. The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements—bread and the fruit of the vine—is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word, and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

8. The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 28), but different in purpose and use.

9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Romans 12:1, 2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). By the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:15, 16).

Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:1-11,13; 8:1,2,13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12,13; 1 Peter 1:5).

10. The Church and Its Mission

The Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her Great Commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22,23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

Since God's purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshiped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world, the priority reason for being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is (Resolution 3/11):

- a. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15,16).
- b. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- c. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).
- d. To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27). (Resolution 3/11)

The Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason for being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. This experience:

- a. Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3,4).
- b. Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12-14).
- c. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ and care for the poor and needy of the world (Galatians 5:22-26; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29). (Resolution 3/11)

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the fourfold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20), (2) worship of God (John 4:23, 24), and (3) building a Body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11,16), and (4) meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27). (Resolution 3/11)

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).

ARTICLE VI. RELATIONSHIPS

(See Article VI. and Article X – General Council Constitution)

Section 1. To the General Council and other District Councils

The Montana District Council of the Assemblies of God is an integral part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, a non-profit religious corporation with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri, is subordinate and amenable to the said General Council as prescribed in its constitution and bylaws, and has a cooperative working relationship with other District Councils in matters of mutual concern.

The Montana District Council of the Assemblies of God shall prosecute its activities through its district office and sectional leadership.

ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP

(See Article VII – General Council Constitution)

Section 1. Ministers

All ordained, licensed, and certified ministers holding accredited fellowship certificates from the General Council, and having their permanent residence within the boundaries of the district, or serving outside the Montana district while retaining affiliation with the Montana district, are considered members of the Montana District Council. Voice and vote are extended to nationally appointed U.S. and world missionaries on furlough for whom Montana is their home district. (Any

further exceptions must conform to General Council Bylaws Article VII Sections 8b and 9). (Resolution 4/11)

Section 2. Assemblies

All General Council and District affiliated churches, the individual members of which are considered members of the Assemblies of God, are considered to be member churches. Each assembly has the right of representation at the District Council according to the provision in the bylaws. (Article XI, Sections 3 and 4)

ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS

(See Article IX – General Council Constitution)

Section 1. Executive Officers

- a. Superintendent: The term of office shall be for four years commencing sixty days after date of election.
- b. Assistant Superintendent: The term of office shall be for four years, commencing sixty days after date of election.
- c. Secretary: The term of office shall be for four years, commencing sixty days after date of election expiring in a year alternating from the expiration of the superintendent's term of office.
- d. Treasurer: The term of office shall be for four years, commencing sixty days after date of election. This office may be combined with the secretary or assistant superintendent. (Resolution 4/07)

Section 2. District Presbytery

The district presbytery shall consist of the executive officers, sectional presbyters, and up to three specialized presbyters, including a Native American. The term of office for sectional and specialized presbyters shall be two years commencing at the time of election or appointment. (Resolution 2024)

Section 3. Other Officers

Other officers may be appointed as required.

ARTICLE IX. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

Section 1. Relationships

The local assembly (church) is recognized as God-ordained (I Corinthians 1:2; I Thessalonians 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Revelation 1:11,20). Groups of believers holding Pentecostal standards and associating themselves in local bodies, accepting their full share of responsibility for maintaining scriptural order in the local body, and having a standard of membership in keeping with scriptural principles shall be recognized as local assemblies and eligible for affiliation with this district council.

The fact that a local assembly is affiliated in the association of this District Council or the General Council shall in no way destroy its rights, or interfere with its sovereignty.

The local assembly shall recognize that this District Council or the General Council has the right to approve scriptural doctrine and conduct, and to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct, and the authority to withdraw its Certificate of Affiliation if deemed necessary.

When in need of counsel or advice, the General Council affiliated assembly may appeal to the district officers for help. It may appeal from a decision by the district officers to the Executive Presbytery of the General Council of the Assemblies of God when there is a question whether or not the assembly has received proper help from the district. When exceptions are taken to the decisions of the Executive Presbytery, either by the General Council affiliated assembly or by the district presbytery, appeal may be made to the General Presbytery. (Resolution 6/11)

Each affiliated local assembly shall be set in order.

Section 2. Prerogatives

We recognize that each local assembly has the right of self-government under Jesus Christ, its living Head, and shall have the power to choose or call its pastor, elect its official board and transact all other business pertaining to its life as a local unit.

It shall have the right to administer discipline to its members according to the Scriptures and its bylaws.

It shall have the right to acquire and hold title to property in its own right, either through trustees or in its corporate name as a self-governing unit.

When the local assembly is in need of counsel or advice, it may appeal to this District Council for help. It may appeal from a decision by this District Council to the General Council where it may be questioned whether or not there has been proper help from this District Council.

Section 3. Planting, Replanting, and/or Multi-site Churches (Resolution 04/18)

In planting, replanting, or establishing multi-site churches, contact and consultation must first be made with the superintendent and the presbyter of the area affected.

Since our fellowship has given itself to the expansion of the gospel message to the world predominantly through the planting of churches, the healthy expansion of churches is to be encouraged by way of planting, replanting, or establishing multi-site churches. Churches are encouraged to be in consistent contact with the Montana District as to the progression and process of establishing said churches.

Section 4.

Each assembly shall cooperate in the work of this District Council and shall support this district organization.

Section 5.

Local assemblies are expected to have an interest in the missionary enterprise and to plan for regular contributions to its support.

ARTICLE X. MEETINGS

1. Regular sessions of the District council shall be held annually pursuant to a call by the presbytery.
2. Special sessions of the District Council may be called by a two-thirds majority vote of the district presbytery.
3. The right of initiative for calling a special session shall be granted to any ordained minister of the District Council.

ARTICLE XI. DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

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

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

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any regular or special meeting of the District Council, provided the proposed amendment has been submitted first to the district presbytery for consideration, and a copy mailed to each member of the District Council at least thirty days prior to the time of meeting. A two-thirds majority of ballots cast shall be necessary for adoption.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. SECTIONS

Section 1.

The territory of this District Council shall be divided into sections.

Section 2.

The sections shall be designated upon the official map of the district.

Section 3.

Each section shall have one representative in the district presbytery.

ARTICLE II. DEPARTMENTS

Section 1.

Departments may be created and organized as needed in carrying out the purposes and intents of this District Council. A Presbytery approved Operations Manual shall provide for the officers, personnel, management, and operation of each department. Suitable means of financing the activities and caring for the expenses of each department shall be provided within the Operations Manual. Any and all future changes shall be submitted to the District Presbytery for approval.

Section 2.

There shall be a Youth and Education Department of the Montana District Council.

Section 3.

There shall be a Men's Ministries Department of the Montana District Council.

Section 4.

There shall be a Women's Ministries Department of the Montana District Council.

Section 5.

There shall be a Glacier Bible Camp Department of the Montana District Council.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS

Section 1.

All officers shall be resident ordained ministers of mature Christian experience and ability having manifested a genuine interest in and spirit of cooperation with the ministry of this Montana district.

They shall have been members of this District Council for at least one year. They shall have been members of the General Council for at least three years.

They shall have met the district policy for ministers' tithes for the preceding calendar year.

Section 2. Sectional Presbyters

The presbyter shall have been a resident pastor in the section from which he or she is nominated for office for a period of one year. (Resolution 3/79)

Section 3. Executive Presbyters

There shall be an executive presbytery consisting of the executive officers of the district, namely the District Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent/Treasurer, and the District Secretary. (Resolution 4/06)

Section 4. Specialized Presbyters

There shall be up to three specialized presbyters, including a Native American, that shall sit on the District Presbytery. They shall be a member of an underrepresented group or ministry within the Montana Ministry Network, and they shall serve as a representative of said group on the presbytery. (Resolution 2024)

Section 5. District Youth and Education Director

The district director shall be a faithful and able person of mature Christian experience, chosen from the ordained ministers of the Montana District Council. This person shall have been a member of the district council for at least one year prior to appointment. (Resolution 4/18)

ELECTIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Section 6. The officers of the District Council, except as otherwise provided, shall be elected at the annual district council in session.

Section 7. Executive Presbyters

Candidates for the Executive Presbytery (consisting of Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent/Treasurer, and Secretary) shall be nominated by any member of the District Council. The nominee names shall be submitted to the presbytery in writing by the first convening Presbytery meeting of the election year. The presbytery shall inquire as to their qualification, according to the bylaws, and willingness to serve, and then submit the nominee list to the Council membership at the opening of the first session of Council. In addition, the presbytery's inquiry for secretary shall address the suitability of the nominees for the unique duties of that office and shall select no more than three nominees to present to the council.

All names thus presented shall be balloted upon until a candidate shall have received a two-thirds majority of votes cast. If no such majority shall be reached by the third elective ballot, the two candidates having the highest number of votes in the third elective ballot shall be the only nominees to be further voted upon. (Resolution 3/06)

Section 8. District Presbyters

Nominations for the presbyter shall be made by each section at the biennial sectional council, which shall take place on or before December 31. The voting constituency shall be the ordained and licensed ministers of the section, certified ministers who pastor in the section, and delegates regularly elected by General Council-affiliated or Montana District Council-affiliated assemblies of the section. Nominations shall be by secret ballot. Voting shall continue until one nominee shall have received a majority of votes cast (Resolution 4/95).

A true record of the proceedings and results of these nominating conventions shall be sent to the district office immediately and shall be reported to the district council in session by the secretary.

Additional nominations may be made by secret ballot. Voting shall be by secret ballot and shall continue until one nominee for each section has received a majority of votes cast.

The sectional presbyter shall be in charge of the business meeting in each section. He shall notify in writing the superintendent and all ministers in the section thirty days before the annual sectional council.

Section 9. District Youth & Education Director

When a vacancy occurs with the position of DYD the process of appointment is as follows: the vacancy will be made known to the credential holders of the Network and any credential holder may submit potential candidates to the Network superintendent. The superintendent shall take specific note of input from those in Chi Alpha, youth, and children's ministry.

The superintendent shall present a name or names to the executive officers for interviews. The executive officers will then present a name to the presbytery board for ratification.

The appointment is an indefinite term and would continue until a resignation is initiated by the DYD or called for by the superintendent. Any recommendation for changes in the DYD position would be submitted to the presbytery for approval. (Resolution 05 /17, 4/18)

Section 10. Specialized Presbyters

On election years, nominations will be sought from identified underrepresented groups from the membership of the Montana Ministry Network, and from the presbytery. Nominations will be submitted to the Network executive officers. The officers will present up to two names of qualified individuals for each position to the Network Presbytery for consideration. One individual for each open position shall be nominated by a two-thirds vote of the network presbytery. Ratification will be by a majority of the voting constituency at District Council. Specialized Presbyters shall serve two-year terms and may be eligible for reappointment after serving the initial two-year term. (Resolution 2024)

Section 11 Non-Resident Executive Presbyter Nominee

At the District Council just prior to the General Council, two nominees from the Montana District shall be selected by a two-thirds vote, to be presented to the General Council along with nominees from other districts in the Northwest Area, for election as non-resident Executive Presbyter. The nominee must be an ordained minister of mature experience and ability, whose life and ministry are above question, but there is no minimum residence requirement. Election shall be by a two-thirds vote. (Resolution 1992)

Section 12. General Presbyters

The District shall be represented in the General Presbytery by three members, the District Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent/Treasurer and the District Secretary by virtue of office. (Resolution 3/06)

VACANCIES

Section 13. Superintendent

If the office of superintendent becomes vacant and the vacancy does not occur within 60 days prior to the annual network council, a special session of the Network council shall be called to fill the vacancy. (Resolution 2016)

Section 14. Assistant Superintendent-Treasurer

If the office of Assistant Superintendent /treasurer becomes vacant and it does not occur within 60 days prior to the annual Network Council, the network presbytery shall appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term, subject to ratification at the next Network Council. (Resolution 2016)

Section 15. Secretary

If the office of secretary becomes vacant, the district presbytery shall appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term, subject to ratification at the next District Council.

Section 16. District Presbyters

If the presbyter ceases to pastor in the section he was elected to represent, the office shall automatically become vacant.

In the event of a vacancy, the section shall nominate a successor and the nomination shall be ratified by the district presbytery.

Section 17. Specialized Presbyters

If a specialized Presbyter shall cease to remain in the Montana District, his or her office shall automatically become vacant .In the event of a vacancy, the Presbytery shall appoint a successor to fulfill the present term.(Resolution 2024)

DUTIES

Section 18. Superintendent

1. The superintendent shall devote his entire time to the duties of his office, and shall have supervision of all the work of the district. He shall have the general responsibility to oversee all departments of the District council and their directors in consultation with the district presbytery. (Resolution 1989)
2. The superintendent shall be responsible to emphasize and encourage spiritual life and evangelism in all its phases throughout the district.
3. The superintendent shall preside at the meetings of the District Council and the district presbytery, and shall receive all communications directed to these bodies.
4. The superintendent shall set in order newly established churches.
5. The superintendent shall be available to assist, through counsel, churches and pastors during pastoral changes.
6. The superintendent shall minister discipline in all cases when requested to do so by the presbytery.
7. The superintendent shall, in consultation with and with the approval of the district presbytery, assign portfolios not inherent in elective offices.
8. The superintendent shall be president of the corporation.
9. The superintendent shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
10. The superintendent shall preside at all meetings of the credentials committee and shall sign all district credentials.
11. The superintendent shall be a chairman of the district executive committee.

12. The superintendent shall be a member of the budget committee.
13. The superintendent shall serve as a general presbyter of the General Council by virtue of office.
14. The superintendent shall be a member of the Northwest University board of directors by virtue of office.
15. The superintendent shall be the district world ministries director by virtue of office.
16. The superintendent shall be the head of the district office and supervise its work.
17. The superintendent shall make arrangements and be responsible for advertising and correspondence regarding district council, family camp, and minister's renewal.
18. The superintendent shall perform any other function customary for the presiding officer, or such as may be directed by the district council or district presbytery.

Section 19. Assistant Superintendent-Treasurer

A. Assistant Superintendent

1. The assistant superintendent shall be a member of the district presbytery.
2. The assistant superintendent shall assist the superintendent and preside at the meetings of the district council and the district presbytery in the absence of the superintendent.
3. The assistant superintendent shall be the vice-president of the corporation and shall be authorized to sign legal and official documents when necessary.
4. The assistant superintendent shall serve as a general presbyter of the General Council by virtue of office.
5. The assistant superintendent shall be a member of the district executive committee.
6. The assistant superintendent shall perform any other function such as may be directed by the district council, district presbytery, or superintendent.
7. The office of assistant superintendent shall not be a full-time office.

B. Treasurer

1. The treasurer shall be the custodian of the district council funds.
2. The treasurer shall be responsible for an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements, and conduct the work of his office according to accepted methods of business.
3. The treasurer shall give a report as may be requested by the district presbytery.
4. The treasurer shall be required to give bond, to be provided by the district, and the district books shall be subject to a full review annually by a certified public accountant and audited when requested by the network presbytery. (Res. 04/25)
5. The treasurer shall be a member of the budget committee.
6. The treasurer shall perform such other functions as are customary to office or as may be directed by the district council or district presbytery.
7. The office of treasurer shall not be a full-time office.

Section 20. Secretary

1. The secretary shall be a member of the district presbytery by virtue of office.
2. The secretary shall make and keep true records of the proceedings of the district council and shall publish the same as approved and directed by the District Council.
3. The secretary shall act as secretary of the meetings of the district presbytery.
4. The secretary shall be the custodian of the official seal of the District Council.
5. The secretary shall issue and sign credentials as directed by the credentials committee.
6. The secretary shall keep a record of all classifications of credentialed ministers, and recognized assemblies in the district fellowship. (Resolution 11/11)

7. The secretary shall be authorized to sign all official and legal documents and to perform such other functions as are customary or as may be directed by the District Council or the district presbytery.
8. The secretary shall serve as a general presbyter of the General Council by virtue of office.
9. The secretary shall be a member of the Northwest University board by virtue of office.
10. The secretary shall be a member of the district executive committee.
11. The office of secretary shall not be a full-time office.

Section 21. District Youth & Education Director (Resolution 4/18)

1. Shall serve in a full-time capacity.
2. Shall operate the department in cooperation with the sectional youth representatives, and under the direction of the superintendent and the district presbytery and shall carry out the purpose of the department. (Resolution 4/06)
3. Shall be chairman of the sectional representatives committee and all standing committees.
4. Shall, with these committees, supervise all the activities of the department.
5. The district Youth and Education Director shall by virtue of office serve as a member of the district presbytery with voice but no vote. (Resolution 1999)

Section 22. District Presbytery

1. The district presbytery, whom are chosen from among their fellow ministers, shall represent the district constituency to serve in keeping with the principles of Christ relative to governing His church.
2. The presbytery shall serve as a distinctive body giving general oversight to the spiritual, executive, and legal functions of the Montana District Council assigned to it by the Constitution and Bylaws.
3. The presbyters shall comprise a board of presbyters and shall be the trustees of the district corporation. They shall have the official oversight of business and activities of the district between the annual sessions of the District Council, working in keeping with the expressed intent of the District Council in session, and shall make report to that body. Their decisions are reversible only by the District Council in session.
4. They shall be empowered as district trustees, to transact business for the district between annual sessions of the council as provided in the Constitution, Article IV, parts e and k.
5. They shall employ an office manager for the district office.
6. They shall serve as the district credential committee.
7. They shall appoint committees as may be required.
8. They shall counsel with the superintendent in assigning portfolios not otherwise assigned by the District Council or inherent in elected offices.
9. Each sectional presbyter will represent the executive officers in carrying out the directives of the District Council, and in turn represent the churches of his/her section to the District Council. Each presbyter shall be encouraged to participate in the Montana Network Ministry either as a leader or as a participant. (Resolution 1/09)
10. The presbyter shall serve as chairman and coordinate the regularly scheduled business meetings. The presbyter in cooperation with the Montana Mentoring Network leader will facilitate and urge participation in regular MNM fellowship gatherings of ministry peers in the section to encourage, mentor, and support each recognized minister and their family. The presbyter will attempt to support the ministers in the section apart from regularly scheduled events as time permits. (Resolution 1/09)

11. Each sectional presbyter shall have the supervision of the assemblies and home missions work of his or her section in cooperation with the superintendent. It is recommended that the presbyter visit each home missions work at least twice annually.
12. The presbyter shall be in charge of business meetings when called upon to do so by the pastor or official board of any assembly in the section, or as requested by the superintendent.

Section 23. Specialized Presbyters

1. Specialized Presbyters shall be a part of the district presbytery and shall help fulfill all the obligations of that body.
2. He/She shall assess the current state and needs of underrepresented ministries in the Montana District and bring that knowledge and representation to the District Presbytery.
3. He/She shall chair any assigned committees that will provide ongoing recommendation to the District Presbytery related to the development and advancement of underrepresented ministries with the Montana District. (Resolution 2024)

Section 24. General Presbyters

The general presbyters shall represent the district at the General Council and the meetings of the General Presbytery and shall report as requested. This shall be in harmony with the General Council bylaws.

REMUNERATION

Section 25. Officers

Remuneration of the superintendent, assistant superintendent-treasurer, and secretary shall be as agreed upon by the district presbytery.

Full-time district officers shall be given vacation annually with pay as determined by the district presbytery.

Section 26. District Presbyters

Expenses pertaining to the office of the district presbyters shall be assumed by the district council as may be agreed upon by the district presbytery.

Section 27. Specialized Presbyters

Expenses pertaining to Specialized Presbyters shall be assumed by the district council as may be agreed upon by the district presbytery. (Resolution 2024)

ARTICLE IV. MINISTRY

Section 1. Ministry Described

- A. Christ's gifts to the Church include apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors, and teachers (Ephesians 4:11), exhorters, administrators, leaders and helpers (Romans 12:7, 8).
- B. In terms of preparation and maturity of ministry, four classifications of ministry are recognized, viz., the ordained minister, the licensed minister, the certified minister, and a ministry acknowledgment.

A man or woman applying for ministerial recognition must give testimony to having experienced the new birth (John 3:5) and to having received the baptism of the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4. The Spirit-filled life will enable him to fulfill the threefold mission of the Church (see Article V, paragraph 10 of the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council Constitution.) (Resolutions 3/04 and 5/09)

Section 2. Qualifications

A. Ministerial Acknowledgement (Resolution 5/09)

1. Ministry Acknowledgement is not a District or General Council credential.
2. Ministry Acknowledgement is specific for people called into ministry but not able to receive a General Council Credential for specific personal reasons.
3. Ministry Acknowledgement allows ministry positions in Assembly of God churches under the oversight of a lead pastor, a district official or a district assigned mentor.
4. The requirements for Ministry Acknowledgement are:
 - a. Commitment to the Assembly of God doctrines and policies.
 - b. A visible and acknowledged call of God into church ministry.
 - c. Submission to direct oversight of a lead pastor, a district official or an assigned mentor.
 - d. Regular monthly oversight meetings with their appointed overseer.
 - e. A plan to complete assigned Berean Ministry Courses will be laid out and completed within three years of receiving the Ministry Acknowledgement with the appointed overseer.
 - f. A monthly written or oral report submitted to the appointed overseer is required. The report will include ministry activities, issues, and personal disciplines.
 - g. Persons with a Ministry Acknowledgement must be committed to relationships with other ministers in an MNM group.
 - h. The support of the District with 100% of ministerial tithes.
5. Ministry Acknowledgements will be evaluated and renewed yearly by the district presbytery. Renewals will be acted upon in the month of January during the regular presbytery meeting.
6. Removal of Ministry Acknowledgement recognition or a failure to be renewed, will result in a cessation of approved ministry in an Assembly of God church.
7. Ministry Acknowledgement does not include the right of voting regarding district matters except as the officially chosen representative delegate of the local church.

B. Certified Ministers (Resolution 4/11)

At the discretion of the credentials committee, an applicant may be required to complete a course of study.

Recognition shall be granted in one of two categories:

- a. Persons who indicate that God has called them and who manifest a desire to enter the ministry by engaging in Christian service, but whose present development may not warrant their being licensed to preach.
- b. Persons who are efficient helpers in Gospel work and devote a part of their time to Christian service.

C. Licensed Ministers (Resolution 4/11)

1. Preaching ministry

At the discretion of the credentials committee, an applicant may be required to complete a course of study.

The applicant shall have a life above reproach and becoming to a minister of the Gospel (1 Timothy 4:12).

The applicant must give clear evidence of a call to the ministry, practical experience in preaching and Christian work, together with an evident purpose to devote his or her life to this work.

D. Ordained Ministers (Resolution 4/11)

1. Qualifications for recognition as an ordained minister must be in accord with the New Testament scriptures which provide the necessary guidance in the matter of such recognition (1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9)
2. All ordinations shall take place under the auspices of this District Council, except at the discretion of the district presbytery.
3. An applicant shall have held a license to preach and shall have been actively engaged in this work of the ministry for at least two full consecutive years and shall have become twenty- three years of age.
4. Licensed ministers seeking ordination who transfer from another district shall have resided in this district for at least one year, met the requirements of this district, and received the endorsement of the officary of the district from which they transferred.
5. At the discretion of the credentials committee, an applicant may be required to complete a course of study.
6. An ordained minister shall be one of mature experience and qualification who is able to undertake the responsibilities of the ministry.
7. In order to maintain active status, ordained ministers shall be engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel except for cases of disability, retirement, or other valid circumstances as determined by the general secretary (See General Bylaws Art. VII Sect. 3 e. (6)).

Section 3. Credentials

The board of presbyters shall serve as the district credentials committee. Credentials for certified, licensed, and ordained ministers with the accompanying fellowship certificates shall be issued by the General Council. Certificates of Fellowship are renewable annually. (Resolution 4/11)

1. Application

Each applicant for credentials must apply on the appropriate form, which is obtainable from the district office. This form must be returned to the district secretary, properly executed and signed no later than October 31 in order to be processed for consideration at the following year's District Council session. (Resolution 1997)

Each person who applies for credentials to preach must obtain the signature of his pastor and presbyter.

Examination of the applicant will be arranged after the application is submitted.

Candidates for license or ordination are expected to appear in person before the board of presbyters.

All names approved for credentials shall be posted twelve hours previous to the ordination service.

2. Renewal

Supporting the district financially as outlined in Article VIII of the bylaws will be one criterion for renewal of credentials. (Resolution 4/11)

Section 4. Relations

All ministers shall be amenable to this District Council in matters of doctrine and conduct.

All ministers, ordained and licensed, who move into this district from another to reside shall be required to file with the district secretary a certificate of transfer from the former district within sixty days, consistent with General Council bylaws.

A pastor shall notify the district superintendent and the local presbyter of his resignation and shall advise the local assembly of his intention at least one month prior to his departure.

Any recommendations by the outgoing pastor concerning a successor shall be made through the superintendent or presbyter. Names of all ministers desiring to be recommended to the church should be submitted to the church board.

Ordained and licensed ministers who are members of the Montana District Council shall refrain from holding an elected office of board member, church secretary, or church treasurer in a local church, other than the one of which he is pastor.

Certified ministers who are not on the staff of the local church, may be elected to these offices. (Resolution 3/83 and 7/11)

We recommend that all our pastors and affiliated assemblies refrain from engaging any minister who is not endorsed by the General Council until they have communicated with the district office.

We disapprove of any General Council minister performing a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former companion is still living unless his case is included in the exceptional circumstances described in District Bylaws Article V, Sect. 6, 4 and General Council Bylaws Article IX Sect. 5 b.

Any minister of our fellowship who performs a ceremony for a disapproved marriage (indicated above), unless he has been innocently deceived into doing so, may be dismissed from our Fellowship. (Resolution 3/04)

All ministers of the Montana District council are requested to attend all district functions.

Section 5. Ministerial Courtesy

All discourteous conduct is disapproved and all ministers are advised against interfering with pastors in charge of assemblies, whether it be by going in upon their work without consent, or by such communication with members of the assembly as will hurt the influence of the leader. Ministers desiring services of persons from another congregation shall first obtain approval from the pastor involved.

All correspondence which concerns the assembly as a whole shall be addressed to the pastor in charge, and not to individual members. Where there is no pastor, all correspondence concerning the work should be addressed to the officers of the assembly. Any minister who so offends shall be subject to scriptural treatment as an offender by this district council, and such discourtesy shall seriously affect the granting of credentials and may be the basis of their credentials' recall.

Council evangelists and workers coming into a field for the purpose of establishing a new work or conducting evangelistic meetings independently where there is already a council work, must obtain the approval of the district presbytery in consultation with the church or churches affected.

Section 6. Discipline (Resolution 12/11)

Occasions sometimes arise which make it necessary to deal with ministers who have credentials with us who, for some reason, seem to have reached the place where, in the estimation of district leadership, endorsement can no longer be given.

The credentials committee, which has the authority to recommend them to the General Council for credentials also has the right to withdraw its approval and to recommend that the General Council recall the credentials.

Part 1. The Nature and Purposes of Discipline

Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible. The aims of discipline are that God may be honored, that the purity and welfare of the ministry may be maintained, and that those under discipline may be brought to repentance and restoration. Discipline is to be administered for the restoration of the minister, while fully providing for the protection of the spiritual welfare of our local assemblies. It is to be redemptive in nature as well as corrective, and is to be exercised as under a dispensation of mercy.

Part 2. The Relationship Between the District and General Council Credential Committees
The Executive Presbytery of the General Council is the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God (Constitution, Article X, Sections 4 and 6). It shall have the final authority in matters of doctrine and the personal conduct of all certified, licensed, and ordained ministers. District actions related to the termination of credentials or the remedial discipline of rehabilitation are to be in the form of recommendations to the General Council Credentials Committee. All references to the discipline of ministers within this article of the Bylaws relate solely to certified, licensed, and ordained ministers.

Part 3. Causes of Disciplinary Action

Violations of Assemblies of God principles as stated in these Constitution and Bylaws may give cause for disciplinary action by the credentials committees. Among such causes for action shall be:

- a. Moral failure involving sexual misconduct.
- b. Moral failure involving pornography.
- c. Any moral or ethical failure other than sexual misconduct.
- d. General inefficiency in the ministry.
- e. A failure to represent our Pentecostal testimony correctly.
- f. A contentious or non-cooperative spirit.
- g. An assumption of dictatorial authority over an assembly.
- h. An arbitrary rejection of district counsel.
- i. A declared open change in doctrinal views.

- j. Immoral, unethical, or illegal practices related to personal, church, or ministry finances.
- k. A marriage in violation of our stand on marriage and divorce. (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraphs d and e.)
- l. Violations of ministerial courtesy. (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 8.)
- m. Ministry without prior approval in a non-Assemblies of God church. (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 9.)
- n. An improper attitude toward those dismissed from the Fellowship. (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 10.)

Notwithstanding the above, when more than 7 years have elapsed from an occurrence that is cause for disciplinary action, a district credentials committee may recommend to the General Council Credentials Committee that no discipline be administered when, in view of all the circumstances, it would appear that such discipline would serve only as punitive in nature rather than rehabilitative. In all such cases, final determination shall be made by the General Council Credentials Committee.

Part 4. Right of Initiative

- a. Authority. Occasions sometimes arise which make it necessary to deal with ministers who for some reason seem to have reached the place where, in the opinion of the leaders, endorsement can no longer be given. Credentials committees which have the authority to ordain ministers and to recommend them for credentials also have the right to withdraw their approval and to recommend the recall of credentials.
- b. Prior right of district. The officers of the district in which an alleged offense is reported to have occurred shall be recognized as having the prior right of initiative in matters of discipline.
- c. Responsibility of district of affiliation. If the district in which an alleged offense is reported to have occurred for some reason cannot take action, the General Council Credentials Committee shall refer the matter, together with the facts and supporting instruments, to the district with which the minister is affiliated.
- d. Responsibility of General Council Credentials Committee. In the event a district fails to take action within 90 days after a matter has been referred to it, it shall be the responsibility of the General Council Credentials Committee to see that action is initiated.

Part 5. Investigation of Reports or Complaints of Alleged Violations or Confessions of Violations of Assemblies of God Principles

- a. Within the Districts of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Reports or complaints of alleged violations of Assemblies of God principles (Bylaws, Article X, Section 3) or confessions of such by a minister shall be investigated. The superintendent of the district in which the alleged offense is reported to have occurred, or an appointed representative, shall conduct the investigation to determine their source and validity. It is the responsibility of the district superintendent to safeguard the church, the minister, the district, and the Fellowship. In the event such reports or complaints against a minister are filed with the General Council Credentials Committee, they shall be referred to the district in which the offense occurred for investigation. A copy shall be sent to the district with which the minister is affiliated.
 - (1) Interview with complainants. The persons involved shall be interviewed to ascertain the facts in the case and the reasons underlying the persistence of the reports or complaints.
 - (2) Interview with accused minister. The accused minister shall be given an opportunity to be interviewed to discuss the complaints received in the hope that the matter can be resolved.
 - (3) Signed complaints. In the event the investigation so warrants, a signed complaint shall be filed with the district office by each complainant describing the alleged offense.

(4) Conditions for ministry during investigation. Conditions of continuing ministry may be subject to restriction during the time of investigation at the discretion of the appropriate district officers on the basis of evidence at hand and the nature of the alleged offense. Such conditions are subject to review in 3-month intervals until such investigation has been completed resulting in either clearing the person of the allegations or filing formal charges.

Part 6. Preparation and Filing of Charges

If after due investigation it is determined that charges should be made, proper charges shall be prepared and filed in the district office. If no one appears to sign the charges, the district officers making the investigation may file charges based on the evidence in their possession. The person against whom charges have been filed shall be informed in writing by certified mail, at the last address furnished to the district, of the charges made in keeping with Bylaws, Article X, Section 3.

Part 7. District Hearing and Discipline

a. District hearing. In the event the reports or complaints cannot be dealt with privately to the satisfaction of all concerned, the superintendent of the district in which the alleged offense is said to have occurred, or the superintendent of the district with which the minister is affiliated, shall arrange for a hearing by the district credentials committee for the accused minister. The minister shall be required to appear at the hearing in the hope the matter can be resolved.

b. Forfeiture of rights of accused. A hearing shall not be considered as final disposition of the case until the accused be present and be allowed all rights and privileges granted herein. However, an accused member may be found guilty of charges and disciplined for failure to appear at the hearing, or if proof is found of willful neglect to take advantage of rights and privileges provided in these Bylaws.

c. Discipline

(1) Cause for discipline. A minister who has been found guilty of violating any of the Assemblies of God principles set forth in Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, either by a confession of the minister involved or by deliberation of the district presbytery, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

(2) Determination of discipline. It shall be the responsibility of the credentials committees to determine whether the circumstances of the case merit rehabilitation or dismissal. The credentials committees shall weigh decisions on: (a) the basis of the offense itself, (b) the manner and thoroughness of repentance, (c) the attitude of the offending minister toward the discipline, and (d) the willingness manifested to cooperate.

(3) Administering discipline redemptively. If the district determines that guilt has been established, discipline shall be administered prayerfully and in the fear of God, in accordance with the Scriptures, and as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of this ecclesiastical body (Bylaws, Article X, Sections 8 and 9).

d. Surrender of credentials. Disciplined ministers shall be required to surrender their ministerial credentials and their current fellowship card to the district office. In the event of rehabilitation the credentials shall be held in the district office. In the event of dismissal the district shall forward the credentials to the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Refusal to surrender ministerial credentials and current fellowship card may result in placing an additional charge against the minister.

Part 8. Rehabilitation

Recognizing that the underlying principle involved in discipline is redemptive, and that man's conscience frequently brings him to judgment and confession, and that justice can sometimes be best served with mercy, an effort should be made to lead the offending minister through a program

of rehabilitation, administered in love and kindness. The following provisions for rehabilitation shall apply.

a. Basis. Those found to have violated any of the Assemblies of God principles (Bylaws, Article X, Section 3) may request a program of rehabilitation as an alternative to dismissal. Rehabilitation is a privilege granted out of mercy and not a right to be expected or demanded. The primary purpose is to restore a person to God, spouse, and family, with the results leading to possible restoration to ministry. Granting such request shall be at the discretion of the district and General Council credentials committees.

b. Procedure and requirements. The following procedure shall be used by the district presbytery in determining the specific requirements for rehabilitation for the individual minister.

(1) Rehabilitation requirements. The specific terms and conditions of the rehabilitation program as recommended by the district credentials committee are to be forwarded to the General Council Credentials Committee for approval. After such approval they shall be given to the minister.

(a) Suspension. The minister shall be considered to be under suspension during the entire period of rehabilitation.

(b) Terms and Conditions

(1) Period of time. The program for rehabilitation shall continue for not less than 1 year except when the violation involves misconduct defined in Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, paragraph a, in which case it shall continue for not less than 2 years.

(2) Authority. The General Presbytery shall be authorized to establish guidelines and policy in regard to terms and conditions of rehabilitation. Such guidelines and policy shall be consistent with provisions of the Bylaws.

(c) Extent of ministry. The extent to which ministry may be permitted, if any, shall be determined by the district presbytery, subject to the approval of the General Council Credentials Committee and compatible with the guidelines and policy established by the General Presbytery.

(d) District membership. The minister shall not be permitted to transfer his or her membership to another district during the period of rehabilitation.

(e) Publication. While the minister's credentials are in a state of suspension, the minister's name shall not be removed from the ministerial roster, nor shall the minister's disciplinary status be published in either the General Council or district council official publications.

(f) Credentials renewal. The minister shall renew his or her credentials annually in the regular manner.

(g) Supervision. In the event his or her ministerial activity has been terminated, the minister must become established in a local church working under the supervision of a pastor or presbyter.

(h) Reports. The minister must submit reports quarterly to the district superintendent.

(i) Ministerial benefits. During the program of rehabilitation the minister shall continue to be eligible for benefits such as the ministers group insurance and Ministers Benefit Association.

(j) Program administration. The approved rehabilitation program shall be administered by the district presbytery.

(2) District progress reports. The credentials committee of the district shall submit to the General Council Credentials Committee on February 1 and August 1 of each calendar year a progress report relative to the rehabilitation of ministers under discipline.

(3) Completion of rehabilitation. When the rehabilitation program has been satisfactorily completed, the suspension shall be lifted and the minister shall be restored to good standing.

(4) Transfer of information. A rehabilitation information form for district use, prepared and distributed by the general secretary, shall be completed by the district in which the rehabilitation

occurred when the rehabilitated minister requests a transfer to a new district. The completed rehabilitation form shall accompany the Certificate of Transfer to another district. A disciplined minister shall, as a condition of entering a rehabilitation program, sign a Limited Disclosure Agreement approved by the General Presbytery allowing the basis of his or her rehabilitation program to be disclosed by the district superintendent or district secretary of a transferring district. The information shall be preserved for future reference in the files of the district in which the rehabilitation occurred and the General Council.

c. Eligibility of previously dismissed. In the event a minister who has been dismissed requests reinstatement, the district shall first obtain permission from the General Council Credentials Committee before submitting an appropriate rehabilitation program as prescribed in Section 8 of this article. The dismissed minister shall not be eligible for reinstatement until the requirements for rehabilitation have been completed. Consideration may also be given to a minister if in the opinion of the credentials committees he or she has satisfactorily fulfilled the remedial requirements of such rehabilitation.

Part 9. Referral for Action to the General Council Credentials

Committee a. District recommendation

(1) Rehabilitation. When a minister is to be placed in a rehabilitation program in accordance with Section 8 of this article, the district shall forward to the General Council Credentials Committee the specific charges and recommended terms of rehabilitation. The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation.

(2) Dismissal. When a minister has been found guilty of violating any of the Assemblies of God principles as set forth in Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, and it is determined that rehabilitation is not feasible or fails, a minister's credentials are to be terminated by dismissal. The district shall forward to the General Council Credentials Committee the specific charges and its recommendation for dismissal. The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation.

(3) Subsequent dismissal. Should evidence come to light following a minister's resignation, or the lapse of his or her credentials, of conduct occurring prior to his or her resignation or lapse of credentials that would constitute grounds for disciplinary action under Article X, Section 3, of these Bylaws, the district at its discretion may request the General Council Credentials Committee to change that minister's status from lapsed or resigned to dismissed. The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation. All rights of appeal will apply.

Part 10. Right of Appeal

a. Filing of appeal to the General Council Credentials Committee. The right of appeal applies to all actions of discipline and termination of credentials other than lapsing or resigning on the initiative of the minister. An accused minister shall have 30 days from the date notification of the General Council Credentials Committee decision was mailed to appeal to the General Council Credentials Committee. The minister shall be apprised officially of this right at the time notification is given to the minister of the decision of the General Council Credentials Committee. The appeal is to be sent to the office of the general superintendent and should include any new or exculpatory information not previously considered, with copies sent to the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation and any other districts involved.

b. Consideration of appeal by the General Council Credentials Committee. The General Council Credentials Committee may respond to the appeal in one of the following ways:

(1) Remanding of case to the district. If in the judgment of the General Council Credentials Committee, justice has not been served, the case shall be remanded to the district presbytery for review and reconsideration. The district shall report the results of its review to the General Council Credentials Committee for final disposition.

(2) Denial of appeal.

(a) Forfeiture of right of appeal. No appeal shall be granted by remanding the case to the district presbytery if proof is found of willful neglect on the part of the accused to take advantage of available rights and privileges during the district hearing (see Section 5, 6, & 7 of this Article).

(b) Insufficient grounds. The General Council Credentials Committee shall have the prerogative to determine whether there is sufficient cause to grant an appeal and remand the case to the district.

c. Right of appeal to the General Presbytery. A disciplined minister whose appeal has been denied by the General Council Credentials Committee may appeal to the General Presbytery. An accused minister shall have 30 days from the date notification of the General Council Credentials Committee decision was mailed to appeal to the General Presbytery. The appeal is to be sent to the office of the general superintendent and should include any new or exculpatory information not previously considered, with copies sent to the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation and any other districts involved. The decision of the General Presbytery shall be final.

Part 11. Reinstatement of Credentials

a. Authorization. Application for reinstatement may be made through the district council within which territory the applicant resides. The application shall be considered subject to the approval of the district in which the termination was made.

b. Minimal time-lapse for dismissed ministers. The minimal time-lapse required before a minister who has been dismissed is eligible for reinstatement shall be 1 year, except it shall be 2 years for a minister who has been dismissed because of charges as stated in Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, paragraph a. The time-lapse shall be computed from the date of the district presbytery action as it appears on the ministerial status report filed with the General Council Credentials Committee. (See Bylaws, Article VII, Section 10, for other renewals and reinstatements.)

c. Rehabilitation obligatory. When a minister has been dismissed from our Fellowship and applies for reinstatement, he or she shall comply with the procedures for rehabilitation outlined in Section 8, paragraph c, of this Article.

When a minister connected with our fellowship shall have been removed from our rolls or shall have ceased to be connected with us for any cause; and when such minister shall show an attitude of noncooperation with our agreements and principles; for the unity and spiritual welfare of the work that God has committed to us, we recommend:

That all our ministers and laymen refrain from cooperation and association with his work, and inviting said minister to speak or conduct services in their assemblies. Ministers who violate this principle shall be considered as having opened the door for censure or charge which may necessitate the recall of their credentials.

Article V. CHURCHES

CLASSIFICATION

Section 1.

Churches of the Montana District have been classified as General Council-affiliated, district-affiliated and cooperative churches.

Section 2.

General Council-affiliated churches are those which are set in order and affiliated with the Montana Ministry Network (MMN) and the General Council and meet the requirements listed below (in accordance with General Council Constitution Art. XI Sec. 1 and General Council Bylaws Art. VI Sec. 4 and 5):

- a. **Requirements for affiliation.** Churches desiring to be affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall meet the following requirements. They shall:
 - (1) Accept the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God;
 - (2) Adopt a standard of membership that may be determined either by the local assembly or by agreement with the district council;
 - (3) Have a minimum active voting membership of 20 persons who shall accept responsibility to maintain scriptural order in the local body. In cases where there are fewer than 20 voting members, an exception may be granted by the MMN to be a non-dependent assembly under the qualifications of MMN Bylaws Art. V Sec. 3a;
 - (4) Adopt Articles of Incorporation, a constitution or bylaws compatible with models recommended by the MMN or the General Council that provide for adequate accountability, amenability, and safeguards so that a pastor and/or governing body cannot directly or indirectly exert dictatorial control over a church;
 - (5) Have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of the church called for in its constitution or bylaws; and
 - (6) Make provision for a pastor who is a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council and a district council; and
 - (7) Demonstrate a willingness to contribute to Assemblies of God missions.
- b. **Relationship to and support of the General Council and Montana Ministry Network.** A General Council affiliated assembly should cooperate in the work and support the programs of the General Council and the MMN and may send delegates to the General Council and the Montana Network Council.

c. Right of self-government (sovereign rights). Each General Council affiliated assembly has the right of self-government under Jesus Christ, its living Head, and shall have the power to choose or call its pastor, elect its official board, and transact all other business pertaining to its life as a local unit. It shall have the right to administer discipline to its members according to the Scriptures and its constitution or bylaws. It shall have the right to acquire and hold title to property, either through trustees or in its corporate name as a self-governing unit. The fact it is affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall in no way destroy its rights as above stated or interfere with its sovereignty. The governance model adopted by the local assembly shall conform to the guidelines of General Council Constitution, Art. XI, Sec. 1(a)(4) and the MMN.

d. Subordinate in matters of doctrine and polity. A General Council affiliated assembly shall recognize that the MMN and The General Council of the Assemblies of God have the right to approve scriptural doctrine and polity and to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and polity and the authority to withdraw its Certificate of Affiliation if deemed necessary. (See General Bylaws Art. VI, Sec. 4) If a General Council affiliated church is unable to meet any of the criteria for affiliation it shall seek the assistance of the MMN officers for help in maintaining the minimal requirement for General Council affiliation. The MMN may use any means prescribed by its bylaws to assist the church in returning to a position of strength. If the minimal requirements have not been attained, the church shall revert to district affiliated status until the minimal requirements for General Council affiliation have been attained, unless an exception has been granted by the Network in accordance with the provisions of MMN bylaws Art. V Sec. 3.

e. Organizational assistance. The services of the MMN are available to assist the General Council affiliated church in dealing with any of its problems, either internal or external, when requested by the pastor or a majority of the official board of the church or a petition signed by 30 percent of the voting members, with the petitioning process and delivery to the MMN taking no more than 30 days in total to complete. When MMN officers receive such requests, they will first verify that scriptural principles of reconciliation, such as those found in Matthew 18:15–17 and 1 Timothy 5:19, have been reasonably attempted by the requesting party in situations involving interpersonal conflict. Officers shall respond by investigating problems and, if necessary, recommending remedial actions to the MMN presbytery. At its discretion, the presbytery may act to bring the church under district supervision and, when necessary, revert it from General Council status to district affiliated status until the MMN considers the problem resolved.

f. Right of appeal. When in need of counsel or advice, the General Council affiliated assembly may appeal to the Montana Ministry Network officers for help. It may appeal from a decision by the MMN officers to the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God when there is a question whether or not the assembly has received proper help from the

29district. When exceptions are taken to the decisions of the Executive Presbytery, either by the General Council affiliated assembly or by the Network Presbytery, appeal may be made to the General Presbytery.

g. Preservation of affiliation. In the event the termination of affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God is under consideration by an affiliated assembly, the pastor or board shall invite the MMN officers to participate in a specially called business meeting where such matters will be discussed and voted upon for the express purpose of giving the MMN officers the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation. A decision to disaffiliate shall require a two-thirds vote of the membership, or a more restrictive rule prescribed by the governing documents of the church. (Resolution 05/17)

Section 3.

District-affiliated churches are those which are functioning without the twenty voting members required to become General Council-affiliated. These are recognized in two categories:

a. Non-dependent Assemblies:

In order to qualify as a district affiliated non-dependent assembly, a church must:

- (1) Make application to the district presbytery for non-dependent status.
- (2) Have an adult membership (age 18 or over) of no less than twelve.
- (3) Be able to govern itself with district-approved constitution and bylaws.
- (4) Be prepared to incorporate with the state with proper Articles of Incorporation and officers as required for non-profit corporations and for holding of title.
- (5) Maintain financial integrity for pastoral care, operational expenses and obligations to the district or lending institutions.

Should an assembly fail to meet the above criteria for a period of one year or more after being granted non-dependent status it shall be reviewed by the district presbytery and may revert to district-dependent status.

When a non-dependent assembly has had an adult membership (age 18 and over) of at least 20 for a period of one year and meets other qualifying criteria, they shall strongly be urged to become a General Council affiliated church.

b. Dependent Assemblies. (Resolution 4, 09)

(1) Definition of "Dependent Assembly."

All district-affiliated churches which are neither General Council- affiliated nor Non-Dependent District-affiliated shall be considered Dependent Assemblies of the Montana District Council.

Included in this classification shall be all Montana home-missions churches, all Dependent Native American churches, all new church plants which have not yet achieved classification as District Non-Dependent churches, and any Assembly which requests District supervision.

(2) Requirements for Dependent Assemblies:

- (a) Pastoral Appointments. District-Dependent Assemblies shall have a pastor appointed by the Montana District Presbytery. Pastors shall be appointed to the church for a designated period of time, to be determined by the District Presbytery, and shall not be novices, as the responsibilities involved in growing a church will call for a person of some proven pastoral experience.
- (b) Supervisory Board. District-Dependent Assemblies shall function under the oversight of a supervisory board consisting of the appointed presbyter or minister, the pastor, the District Superintendent (ex-officio member) and other members as shall be appointed by the District Presbytery or Executive Presbytery.

The supervisory board shall meet on a regular basis to oversee the development of the Assembly and to assess the church's progress toward Non-Dependent status, including the review of financial reports, the approval of expenditures, matters pertaining to church membership, the consideration of disciplinary concerns, and any other items relative to the life and health of the assembly.

The supervisory board, at its discretion, shall have the authority to temporarily suspend the official membership of the local Assembly and its prerogatives until such a time as the church returns to or achieves Non-Dependent status.

- (c) Constitution and Bylaws. Each Dependent Assembly shall operate under the District-approved Constitution and Bylaws.
- (d) Finances. The finances of all dependent assemblies shall be administered by the fore-mentioned Supervisory Board, which may appoint a qualified person to serve as interim treasurer of the Assembly. This person shall be directly amenable to the Supervisory Board and shall prepare accurate financial reports for all regular and special meetings of that board. He or she shall not be authorized to make financial decisions for the assembly.

The Assembly shall attempt to provide both financial support for its pastor and to cover the basic fiscal operations of the Assembly to the best of its ability.

- (e) Property and Titles. The titles to property and vehicles of all District-Dependent Assemblies shall be held in the name of the Montana District Council of the Assemblies of God until such time as the local assembly is approved for District Non-Dependent church status.
- (f) Annual Presbytery Review. Each District-Dependent Assembly shall have its operations examined annually at the initial meeting of the District Presbytery to evaluate its viability and progress.

Section 4.

Cooperative: A church which does not have affiliated status, but which enjoys fellowship with the Montana District Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Section 5

- a. Essential resolutions and district policies pertaining to local assemblies should be read publicly by the pastor at regular business meetings of the church.

- b. Churches seeking pastors should consult with the district superintendent and their presbyter concerning all potential candidates.
- c. Churches should consider their pastor for a term of at least three years.
- d. Churches needing assistance should first call their sectional presbyter. If additional assistance is needed they may call the district superintendent.
- e. Since all ministers are requested to attend all district functions, churches are urged to make provision for the expense of the pastor and spouse in attending such meetings.
- f. Assemblies contemplating a building program where a part of the cost is to be financed by others than members are requested to present their plans to the district presbytery.
- g. All district officials, pastors, associate pastors, board members, and other persons with official titles in our district and churches should not use their official titles in writing to newspapers, and in giving television and radio interview concerning their opinions on controversial issues unless, and if, their district presbyters or church boards should specifically authorize the content of communication. (Resolution 1980)
- h. Assemblies receiving the ministry of district officials and department heads should reimburse the district for expenses incurred.
- i. It is recommended that churches voluntarily contribute one percent (1%) of their general fund revenue in 1978 to the district, and two (2%) of their general fund revenue in 1979 and future years. (Resolution 1978)
- j. Each church is encouraged to subsidize the development of Glacier Bible Camp.

Section 6. Doctrines and Practices Disapproved

In accord with the constitutional prerogatives, the General Council of the Assemblies of God has declared itself pertaining to disapproval of certain matters as follows:

1. Unconditional Security

In view of the Biblical teaching that the security of the believer depends on a living relationship with Christ (John 15:6), in view of the Bible's call to a life of holiness (I Peter 1:16; Hebrews 12:14), in view of the clear teaching that a man may have his part taken out of the Book of Life (Revelation 22:19), and in view of the fact that one who believes for a while can fall away (Luke 8:13), the General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the unconditional security position which holds that it is impossible for a person once saved to be lost.

2. Legalism (Resolution 13/11)

a. Matters of conscience.

The Montana District Council strongly affirms that the Scriptures teach a life of holiness without which no man shall see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). However, since sincere commitment to holy living sometimes results in sharp differences of opinion among believers on debatable matters of personal conscience, we disapprove the practice of pressing these debatable matters of personal conscience upon others (Romans 14:1-4).

b. Adding conditions to salvation.

The Montana District Council strongly affirms that salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8,9). Therefore, we disapprove of any teaching or practice that seems to add conditions to salvation (Galatians 3:1-5).

3. Eschatological Errors

a. The Restitution of All Things

The Assemblies of God understands the teaching of Acts 3:21 to limit the restoration to that of which the prophets have spoken, thus denying the universal redemption theory. We are opposed to all forms of universalism (Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:10).

b. Setting a Date for the Lord's Return

It is unwise to teach that the Lord will come at some specified time, thereby setting a date for His appearing (Mark 13:32, 33; Luke 12:37-40; I Thessalonians 5:2). It is also unwise to give out from the platform or publish visions of numbers and dates fixing the time of the second coming of the Lord.

c. Post-Tribulation Rapture

The General Council of the Assemblies of God has declared itself in the Statement of Fundamental Truths that it holds to the belief in the imminent coming of the Lord as the blessed hope of the Church; and since the teaching that the Church must go through the Tribulation tends to bring confusion and division among the saints, it is recommended that all our ministers teach the imminent coming of Christ, warning all people to be prepared for that coming, which may occur at any time, and not lull their minds into complacency by any teaching that would cause them to feel that specific Tribulation events must occur before the rapture of the saints.

d. Amillennialism

The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the amillennial teaching and its attendant erroneous philosophy which denies the fact of a literal one-thousand years' reign of Christ on the earth, and substitutes for it the theory that this Christian or Church dispensation is the spiritual millennium of which, its proponents say, the Bible writers prophesied.

e. Credentials jeopardized if made an issue (Resolution 14/11)

We recommend that those ministers who embrace any of the foregoing eschatological errors refrain from preaching or teaching them. Should they persist in emphasizing these doctrines to the point of making them an issue, their standing in the Fellowship will be seriously affected. (Luke 21:34-36, I Thessalonians 5:9, 10; 2 Thessalonians 1:4-10; Revelation 3:10, 19, 20)

f. Membership in Secret Orders

Ours is a last-day message in preparation for the coming of the Lord (Matthew 24:14), leaving us no alternative but whole-hearted devotion to the cause of spreading the gospel (Luke 9:62); and it is well known that the various secret orders require much valuable time and interest, thus, diverting the servant of the Lord out of the way (Ephesians 5:16)

The nature of such organizations demands secrecy (John 18:20; Acts 26:26) reinforced by religious oaths (Matthew 5:34) and strong attachment by binding obligations to persons who are for the most part unregenerated (2 Corinthians 6:14). The spirit, philosophy, and general influence of such secret orders aim at the improvement of the natural man only (I Corinthians 2:14; Colossians 2:8), thus wrongly channeling by incorrect interpretation important spiritual truths (2 Peter 3:16).

Confidence in these secret orders and their teachings has always tended toward the embracing of a false hope of salvation through good works and improved moral service (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

In consideration of the foregoing, all ministers affiliated with us should refrain from identifying themselves with any of the secret orders which the district council recognizes as essentially of the world, worldly, and we advise any who may have identified themselves with such orders to sever their connections with them (2 Corinthians 6:17). Furthermore, our ministers are requested to use their good influence among our lay ministers to dissuade them from such fraternal affiliations (1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:24-26).

4. Divorce and Remarriage

a. Membership

- (1) There are now among Christians, people who became entangled in their marriage relations in their former lives of sin and who do not see how these matters can be adjusted. We recommend that these people be received into the membership of local assemblies and that their marriage complications be left in the hands of the Lord (1 Corinthians 7:17, 20, 24).
- (2) We recommend that in no case shall persons be accepted into membership who are known to be living in a common-law state of matrimony.

b. Remarriage

Low standards on marriage and divorce are very hurtful to individuals, to the family, and to the cause of Christ. Therefore, we discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching. We positively disapprove of Christians getting divorces for any cause except fornication and adultery (Matthew 19:9). Where these exceptional circumstances exist or when a Christian has been divorced by an unbeliever or prior to conversion, we recommend that the question of remarriage be resolved by the believer as he walks in the light for God's Word (1 Corinthians 7:15, 27, 28). (Resolution 3/04)

c. Local Church Leadership

- (1) Since the New Testament restricts divorced and remarried believers from the church offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon, we recommend that this standard be upheld by all our assemblies (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:12), except when the divorce occurred prior to conversion (II Corinthians. 5:17) or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (I Corinthians 7:10-15). (Resolution 8/11) However, we recommend that all other opportunities for Christian service for which these believers may be qualified be made available to them. (Resolution 3/04)
- (2) It is understood that recommendations are not binding, but local assemblies shall maintain the prerogative of setting their own standards (in accordance with provisions of General Council Bylaws Art. XI Sect. 1c.)

d. Performing Marriage Ceremonies

- (1) We discourage any Assemblies of God minister performing a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former companion is still living unless his case is included in the exceptional circumstances described in district bylaws Art. V, Sect. 6, 4b: "Remarriage" above. (See also general council bylaws Art. IX B Sect. 5b).

(Resolution 8/11) Any minister of our fellowship who performs a ceremony in a disapproved marriage (indicated above), unless he has been innocently deceived into doing so, may be dismissed from the Fellowship. An Assemblies of God minister is required to counsel applicants for marriage ceremonies with scriptural guidelines for Christian marriage prior to the performing of the ceremony. A minister may not perform ceremonies for persons who, in the minister's opinion, approach marriage without proper forethought, wisdom and sobriety. (Resolution 8/11)

(2) We realize that the remarrying of such persons included in the exceptive circumstances in Article V Sect .6, 4b, could violate the conscience of a minister, and if this should be the case, the minister should not be required to perform such ceremonies. (Resolution 3/06)

(3) No minister shall perform any type of marriage, cohabitation, or covenant ceremony for persons who are of the same sex. Such a ceremony would endorse homosexual practices which are a sin and strictly forbidden in God's Word (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26,27; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Timothy 1:9-11). Any minister of our Fellowship who performs a ceremony for these types of disapproved relations, unless innocently deceived into doing so, shall be dismissed from the Fellowship. (Resolution 8/11)

e. Ministerial Credentials

We disapprove of any married minister of the Assemblies of God holding credentials if either minister or spouse has a former spouse living, unless the divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness

(Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (I Corinthians 7:10-15). or in the case of domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (Psalms 11:5; 146:5-9; Proverbs 6:16-17; Ephesians 4:1-3, 31-32; Ephesians 5). (See also, Article VII, Section 2, paragraph j General Council Bylaws). (Resolution 04/20)

The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether the applicant's annulment of a former marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the Fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials; or, in the case of a divorce or dissolution whether the circumstances would more appropriately be classified as calling for an annulment; or if the divorce occurred prior to conversion. In those cases involving pre-conversion divorce or domestic violence, they shall be decided on an individual basis just as those that deal with annulments are decided. The application for an annulment must be accompanied by clear and satisfactory evidence of an illegal marriage through deception or fraud. Appeals from decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the General Presbytery. (Resolution 04/20)

5. Worldliness

In view of the alarming erosion of national moral standards, we reaffirm our intention of holding up Bible standards against all forms of worldliness. We urge all believers to "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world...For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 John 2:15, 16).

In its teaching regarding worldliness, the Scripture warns against: participation in activity which defiles the body or corrupts the mind and spirit; the inordinate love of, or preoccupation with pleasures, position, or possessions, which lead to their misuse; manifestations of extreme

behavior, unbecoming speech, or inappropriate appearance, any fascination or association which lessens one's affection for spiritual things (Luke 21:34, 35; Romans 8:5-8, Romans 12:1, 2; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 2:8-10, 4:12; 1 John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12; James 4:4)

6. Abuses of Stewardship

a. Tithing

- (1) According to the Scriptures, tithes should be used for the support of the active ministry and for the propagation of the gospel and work of the Lord and not be given to charity or used for other purposes. In tithing, the ministers ought to be examples.
- (2) We recognize the duty of tithing and urge all of our people to pay tithes to God. It is recommended that arrangements satisfactory to the pastor and the church be made by all pastors and churches, so that the pastor may receive regular and adequate support. We disapprove however, of the teaching that all tithes necessarily should belong to the pastor for his or her support.

b. Solicitation of Funds

- (1) It is considered improper and unethical for ministers and missionaries to solicit funds by letter or otherwise for anything or any reason whatsoever without proper authorization.
- (2) The purpose of this section is not to hinder or discourage legitimate projects but to protect the Fellowship from those who employ methods not in harmony with Assemblies of God principles or policies.

Leaders in local projects shall have unquestioned freedom in local churches or communities. Projects of general interest to the district must have the authorization of the district officary. Projects or institutions of national scope must have authorization of the Executive Presbytery of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Promotion of all projects of a missionary character must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery.

- (1) The obtaining and use of mailing lists for promotional purposes not having the proper authorization or which are not in keeping with policies of the General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be considered improper and unethical, whether it be under the name of a prayer chain beyond a local scope, chain letters, or appeals to the constituency for the support of ventures of strictly local or personal character. All offenders guilty of the practices expressed in the foregoing paragraphs shall be subject to discipline.

c. Private Ownership of Religious Institutions

The General Council of the Assemblies of God approves the holding of title to all church buildings, schools, or other institutions that are supported by funds solicited for the work of God by properly constituted corporations. It disapproves the holding title to such properties by the ministers of the Assemblies of God, through private ownership, corporation of sole, closed corporation or any other type of ownership where initiative of action or final authority is not vested in a corporation of the whole. In the event a local congregation is not incorporated or set in order by the District Council, title should be vested in properly qualified trustees. Where private ownership exists, a properly incorporated body shall be formed and title to the property shall be transferred to the corporation taking into consideration equity that the title holder may legitimately have.

A disregard of this principle and recommendation shall seriously affect the relationship to the Assemblies of God of members involved in such ownership.

7. Violations of Ministerial Courtesy

All discourteous conduct is disapproved, and all ministers are advised against interfering with pastors in charge of assemblies, whether it be by going in upon their work without consent or by such correspondence with members of the assembly as will hurt the influence of the leader. All correspondence which concerns the whole assembly shall be addressed to the one in charge and not to individual members. Where there is no pastor, letters concerning the work shall be addressed to the officers of the assembly.

Any minister who so offends shall be subject to scriptural discipline as an offender by the district officary or by the Executive Presbytery. Such discourtesy will seriously affect the granting of annual Fellowship certificates and may be the basis of their recall.

8. Ministry in a Non-Assemblies Church (Resolution 15/11)

Inasmuch as unity is a vital principle for growth and spiritual development our Assemblies of God fellowship, it is essential that we recognize our relationship to each other, and that we practice Christian cooperation in all our pastoral, evangelistic, missionary, and local church work. We recommend, therefore, that our ministers confer with District Council officials before engaging in ministry in any church group or organization not affiliated with the Assemblies of God so as to ascertain whether such ministry might result in confusion or misunderstandings. If the minister does not have district approval, he or she shall be expected to refrain from conducting services for the church. Ministers who violate this principle shall be subject to discipline.

9. An Improper Attitude toward those Removed from the Fellowship (Resolution 16/11)

In order to render effective decisions made in the interest of proper discipline and for the protections of our assemblies, all who hold credentials and local churches holding certificates of affiliation shall refrain from taking any attitude toward offenders that would tend to nullify or set at naught the solemn verdict of those entrusted with this responsibility. Those who fail to support said verdict shall be subject to reprimand or, if persisted in, appropriate discipline.

10. Interdenominational or Ecumenical Relationships (Resolution 17/11)

The General Council of the Assemblies of God encourages ministers or churches to fellowship with other Christians of like precious faith who hold to the inspiration of Scripture, the deity of Christ, the universality of sin, the substitutionary Atonement, the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and His second coming.

The Montana District Council shall not belong to any interdenominational or ecumenical organization that denies the evangelical beliefs stated in the above paragraph, and urges its ministers and churches to avoid entanglement with such interdenominational or ecumenical organizations except as opportunity may arise to support biblical values in the culture or provide opportunity to bear witness to our evangelical and Pentecostal faith and experience.

Article VI. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees

Standing committees shall be established or appointed as necessity may indicate.

They shall be appointed by the district superintendent in cooperation with the district presbytery. The term of office shall continue from the date of appointment to the adjournment of the next regular meeting of the District Council.

Section 2. Sectional Committees

Special committees may be created at the District Council in session or by the district presbytery between sessions as may be required.

Section 3. District Executive Committee

This committee shall be composed of the superintendent, assistant superintendent-treasurer and secretary.

The committee shall meet as necessary at the call of the superintendent for prayer, counsel, and decisions in matters relating to the district.

Section 4. Credentials Committee

This committee shall be composed of the board of presbyters.

The committee shall have the authority to examine, approve, and recommend candidates who qualify as certified ministers, licensed ministers and ordained ministers to the General Council Credential Committee. (Resolution 4/11)

Applicants for credentials shall be examined by a committee of three ordained ministers, one of whom shall be the presbyter, along with two ordained, mature ministers of the section to be chosen by the sectional presbyter. (Resolution, 1977)

1. Findings of the examiners will be reported to the credentials committee for final action.
2. At the discretion of the credentials committee, an applicant may be required to complete a course of study before credentials are issued.
3. Candidates for license or ordination are expected to appear in person before the board of presbyters.

Applications for renewal of credentials shall be reviewed and approved by the district executive committee. Applications not approved and the reasons for non-approval shall be reported to the credentials committee for final action.

Section 5. Budget Committee

This committee shall be composed of the superintendent, treasurer, two pastors who are not members of the presbytery and two laymen. The pastors and laymen shall be appointed annually by the presbytery. Heads of departments may be consulted regarding their departmental budget.

The committee shall meet annually, and as requested by the district presbytery, to review the district's financial operation, to prepare an annual budget and to make recommendations to the district presbytery.

Section 6. Home Missions Advisory Committee

This committee shall be comprised of three people, the district superintendent, the assistant superintendent and the sectional presbyter. It shall have the privilege of input such as direction of building plans, church leadership, church finance, and other related areas of church planning.

All home missions and district-dependent churches are required to seek the counsel and advice of this committee in all the above-mentioned areas. (Resolution 3/80)

Section 7. Resolutions Committee

This committee shall be appointed by the district superintendent in cooperation with the district presbytery. It shall meet as necessary preceding District Council, and proceed as follows:

1. Review, consolidate and edit resolutions for clarity.
2. Check proposed resolutions for conflict with Constitution and Bylaws
3. Submit resolutions and any recommendations to the district office in a timely manner to allow for review, approval, and subsequent distribution to the district membership. (Resolution 18/11)

Article VII. WORLD MINISTRIES

Section 1.

World ministries cover the scope of General Council ministries including those of the Montana District Council. These ministries include those described in the current Assemblies of God Organizational Manual. (Resolution 19/11)

Churches are credited with World Ministries giving for any of the above areas.

Section 2. World Ministries

Recognizing our obligation to fulfill the great commission (Mark 16:15), we shall endeavor by all proper and scriptural means to promote World Ministries beginning at home and extending to all the earth. It is customary to consider gospel work in our nation as home missions and ministry in other lands as foreign missions. For convenience that distinction is made.

General guidelines for apportioning missionary offerings are seventy percent to foreign missions, twenty percent to district home missions, five percent to national home missions, and five percent to foreign missions administration expense.

Home missions and district-related offerings shall be sent by the local churches through the district office and foreign missions and national ministries offerings shall be sent directly to the General Council office. (Resolution 3/79)

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Section 3. Policy

The Montana District council subscribes wholeheartedly to the foreign missions policy of the General Council as stated in its bylaws, and purposed to promote this program at home and abroad to the extent of its capabilities. Each assembly in this district is encouraged to assume definite responsibility toward the support of missionaries.

Section 4. World Ministries Director

The superintendent shall serve as world ministries director by virtue of office.

The superintendent shall direct the missions program.

The superintendent shall arrange missionary interviews.

Section 5. Personnel and Recruitment

To qualify for Assemblies of God missionary appointment, an individual must be an ordained minister, have served as a pastor for at least two years and be approved by the district presbytery.

Section 6. Itineraries

It is the responsibility of each district to provide, to the best of its ability, the financial needs of its members who are missionaries. To accomplish this objective, it therefore becomes the responsibility of all ministers and churches of this district to accept the obligations for supporting Montana missionary personnel as a prior obligation.

The district world ministries director shall arrange itineraries for all Montana missionaries at the request of the missionary.

Other missionaries desiring to itinerate in Montana should consult the district world ministries director.

HOME MISSIONS

Section 7. Home mission's works within this district are defined as projects that are supported wholly or in part by district home mission's funds. Home missions may include incorporated dependent assemblies. (Resolution 1974)

RELATIONSHIP

Section 8. All assemblies established as a result of efforts supported by district home missions shall be considered as Assemblies of God in fellowship and cooperation with this District council without formal vote on the matter.

OWNERSHIP

Section 9. When churches developed by district home missions request property to be deeded to them from the District Council, the deed shall contain a clause stating that in the event the church ceases to function as an Assembly of God, the property shall revert to the Montana District Council of the Assemblies of God.

SUPERVISION

Section 10. All home missions' assemblies that have not developed sufficient maturity to provide for themselves proper scriptural order and church government shall be supervised by the district

presbytery. The presbytery shall provide for pastoral care and appointment of necessary officers until such time as the assembly gives evidence of sufficient maturity to be recognized as a non-dependent assembly.

PERSONNEL

Section 11. All workers who are under appointment by the district presbytery, or who are ministering in district home mission's projects or assemblies, shall be considered home missions workers.

All workers in home mission's fields, in assemblies not yet sovereign, where district money has been loaned, shall be required to submit an annual report of progress, attendance, and finance through their sectional presbyter, the pastor shall keep the church informed of its financial progress and obligations.

Section 12. Initiative may be taken in opening new works by:

1. The district presbytery;
2. Established churches which establish branch works or help responsible persons in cooperation with the district presbytery; and,
3. Individuals in cooperation with the district presbytery.

ADMINISTRATION

Section 13. The home missions program of this district shall be administered by the district presbytery who shall:

1. Supervise the district home missions extension program;
2. Have oversight of the home missions work;
3. Have oversight of the district home missions workers and make appointments and replacements where it deems advisable;
4. Administer home missions funds;
5. Cooperate with pastors and churches in local areas where home missions projects are promoted;
6. Evaluate all proposed home missions building projects; and
7. Approve all plans before any construction begins.

FINANCES

Section 14. Sources

The home missions program of this district shall be financed by the following means:
(Resolution 2/11)

1. World Missions Plan (See Article VII, Section 2 of the bylaws)
2. Home missions returns from Speed the Light contributions
3. Borrowed funds
4. Contributions for MUCH (Montanans Uniting, Caring, Harvesting)

Section 15. Disbursements

Home mission's funds shall be disbursed under the supervision of the district presbytery. Designated contributions shall be accepted.

Money received for home missions may be used for support of workers, home mission's grants, and loans for the purchase of property, and/or construction of facilities.

Section 16. Programs

1. Chi Alpha Campus Ministries (Refer to the Chi Alpha portion of the Network Operations Manual) (Resolution 4/18) There shall be a concerted effort to minister to the students on all college and university campuses in the Montana district. Support of this ministry may be obtained from Speed the Light returns, home missions' funds, MUCH funds, and other funds designated for this purpose.

2. Native American Ministries

One facet of the Montana home missions program shall be known as Native American Ministries, which shall operate under the following guidelines:

- a. There shall be a District Native American Ministries Director who shall be appointed every two years by the board of presbyters. The district-appointed Native American missionaries and pastors shall have the opportunity of submitting to the district superintendent recommendations for director, ninety days prior to such appointment.
Responsibilities of the Native American Ministries Director shall be as follows:
 - i. The director shall have general oversight of the Native American ministries program.
 - ii. The director shall have oversight of missionary and personal evangelism outreach.
 - iii. The director shall have oversight of mass evangelism, such as tent crusades, etc.
 - iv. The director shall conduct surveys of prospective ministry stations and develop such.
 - v. The director shall be responsible for having oversight in the development of new churches on reservations.
 - vi. The director shall be responsible to develop Bible education programs for Native American congregations and church leaders,
 - vii. The director shall review monthly Native American ministry reports and submit copies of such to the district superintendent.
 - viii. The director shall oversee the district Native American ministries camping program.
 - ix. The director shall bring recommendations to the board of presbyters in regard to developments of Native American ministries program.
 - x. The director shall perform other duties relating to the Native American ministries program as requested by the presbytery.
- b. There shall be a separate Native American Ministries Fund for the purpose of collecting and disbursing finances in relationship to its ministries.

Management of funds shall be under the jurisdiction of the presbytery or those appointed by the presbytery for the administering of Native American Ministries Fund. (Resolution 3/80)

Article VIII. FINANCES

Section 1. General Fund

The work of the District Council, in its oversight and development of the district, incurs considerable expense, including financial support of the full-time district officials and other help needed in maintaining its work, maintaining district headquarters, and taking care of office expenses, travel, mailing expense, etc.

These expenses shall be paid from the general fund.

Primary sources for the general fund include ministers' tithes, contributions from churches, and offerings for the superintendent's expenses.

Section 2. Ministers' Tithe

- a. Aside from General Council requirements for ordained, licensed, and certified ministers, each minister including ministry acknowledgement, affiliated with our district and receiving ministerial income, is required to contribute all of his/her tithe from ministerial income to the Montana District Council. Ministerial income shall take into consideration salary and benefits that constitute financial or material increase to the minister. Whether in fulltime ministry or not, all licensed, certified, and ministry acknowledgment shall give a minimum of \$120 per year and all ordained ministers shall give a minimum of \$180 per year.

Regular tithe-giving is the responsibility of the minister. It may be sent directly to the district office or given through the local church where they serve. All tithes should be designated to the Montana District as "Minister's Tithes." (Resolutions 1987, 1989 and 2/10)

- b. Retired Montana District ministers shall be exempt from the minimum annual requirements and are directed to simply tithe on any ministerial income they receive.

Montana evangelists, while ministering within the district, shall send all of their tithes to the district office. While ministering in another district, they shall send fifty percent (50%) of their tithe to the Montana District.

- c. Evangelists from other districts ministering in Montana are expected to send fifty percent (50%) of their tithe to the district office.
- d. Tithing of missionaries should be in accord with General Council policy.
- e. Quarterly reports of minister's tithes will be sent to the members of the presbytery. The district presbytery shall review the annual report of ministers' tithes when considering applications for renewal of credentials. Financial support of the district in keeping with the bylaws will be a criteria for renewal. (Resolution 3/81)
- f. Full time campus ministers may give fifty percent (50%) of their tithe to the national college ministries department. (Resolution 1/83)

Section 3. (Resolution 04)

Five percent of the ministers' tithe income to the district shall be designated for Christian Higher Education, and shall be disbursed at the discretion of the Montana district presbytery.

Section 4. World Ministries Policy covering funds for home missions and foreign missions is included under Article VII, World Ministries.

Section 5. Departments

Policy covering funds for departments is included under the bylaws for each department.

Article IX. PROPERTY

Section 1. The board of presbyters shall be the legal custodians and trustees of all property, real and /or personal, now owned or hereafter acquired by the Montana District Council of the Assemblies of God, Incorporated.

Section 2. All properties of the district council shall be bought, taken, held, sold, transferred, mortgaged, leased, assigned, or conveyed by the trustees in the corporate name.

Section 3. No real property of the district council shall be bought, taken, or otherwise alienated without the same shall have been authorized by at two-thirds vote of the trustees at a regular or a special meeting called for that purpose.

Section 4. The superintendent (president) and the secretary of the district council are hereby designated to be the council's officers to sign, execute, and deliver in the name and behalf of the District council all necessary instruments affecting the properties of the District Council that have been authorized by the trustees, and when required shall furnish certificates that the same have been duly authorized.

Article X. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Section 1. Northwest University

The Montana District Council shall be a co-owner of Northwest University of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Administration

The Montana District Council, together with other co-owner districts shall share in the policies, administration and support of Northwest University.

Section 3. The superintendent and secretary, by virtue of their offices, shall be members of the board of directors of Northwest University. A third member of the board shall be elected by the district council to a three-year term.

Article XI. MEETINGS

Section 1. District Council Sessions

Regular sessions of the district council shall be held annually pursuant to a call by the district presbytery. (Resolution 2/11)

Section 2. Special Council sessions

Special sessions of the district council may be called by a two-thirds majority vote of the district presbytery.

The right of initiative for calling a special session shall be granted to any ordained minister of the district council.

The statement setting forth the reason for the special session, signed by at least twenty percent of the ordained ministers, may be considered sufficient reason for such a call.

Said statement shall be filed with the district presbytery which shall setting time and place for the meeting.

Section 3. Voting Constituency

The voting constituency shall be all members present and registered at the annual or special council sessions, specifically:

- a. Ordained, licensed and certified ministers, including those being granted credential at the District Council presently in session. (Resolution 4/18)
- b. Authorized delegates of General Council-affiliated assemblies and District Council-affiliated non-dependent Assemblies.
- c. Department heads who do not meet the above criteria may be granted voting rights on matters pertaining to their departments.

Section 4. Delegates

Each delegate must be at least twenty-one years of age and must present an official letter of appointment signed by the pastor and secretary of the church they represent.

When possible, the church delegate should be other than a member of the pastor's household.

Section 5. Quorum

All ministers and delegates who respond to the announcement of time and place of a district meeting shall constitute a quorum.

A majority of the district presbytery assembles for a meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 6. Parliamentary Procedure

To expedite the work of the council and to avoid confusion in its deliberations, the council shall be governed by Roberts Rules of parliamentary procedure, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

Section 7. Resolutions

Any resolution to the district council is to be received by the superintendent's office at least 45 days prior to the council. (Resolution 18/11)

Except:

1. Resolutions growing out of the presbyters meeting preceding District Council.
2. Emergency resolutions-these may be presented at the District Council, but must first be approved by the Executive Presbytery. (See Article VI, Section 7) (Resolution 3/82)

Section 8. Order of Business (Resolution 2/11)

A written order of business shall be presented by the superintendent for approval at the opening session of any duly called district council meeting. Order of business can be suspended as per current Robert's Rules.

The annual report shall be put online no later than 15 days prior to the opening of the annual district council and hard copies will be made available at district council. All reports will be highlighted at council. (Resolution 3/10)

Section 9. Biennial Sectional Council (Resolution 4/95)

1. Voting Constituency

The voting constituency shall be ordained, licensed and certified ministers residing in the section, and one delegate from each General Council-affiliated or district council, non-dependent affiliated assembly of the section. (Resolution 4/18)

2. Nominations and Elections

Each section will be required to hold a sectional business meeting. This meeting is to take place on or before December 31. Elections shall be effective immediately with the exception of the sectional presbyter. (Res. 3/86)

- a. Sectional presbyter (See Bylaws, Article III, Section 7)
- b. Youth and education Representatives (Refer to Youth and Education portion of the Network Operations Manual)
- c. Men's Ministries Representative (Refer to Men's Ministries portion of the Network Operations manual)
- d. Women's Ministries Representative (Refer to Women's Ministries portion of the Network Operations Manual)

Article XII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the bylaws may be made at any regular or special meeting of the district council. A two-thirds majority of votes cast shall be necessary for adoption.