
BYLAWS

of the

Central District/Distrito Central Council of the Assemblies of God

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CENTRAL DISTRICT / DISTRITO CENTRAL
COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

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BYLAWS
CENTRAL DISTRICT / DISTRITO CENTRAL
COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

(Adopted October 3, 2020)

HISTORY

The Assemblies of God began ministry to Hispanics in 1918, when the Texas / New Mexico District commissioned Henry C. Ball to develop ministry to Latinos wherever found. As a result, the Latin American Conference was formed in Kingsville, Texas and consolidated in San Antonio, Texas where it functioned until 1929 under the leadership of H.C. Ball. In 1929 the Latin American Conference was officially recognized as the Latin American District Council in the U.S.A. In 1939 Demetrio Bazan was elected Superintendent and moved the office of the LADC to El Paso, Texas. In 1953 the office was moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico where it remained until 1972 when the LADC dissolved and gave birth to four new Districts, which included the Central Latin American District Council.

The CLADC has its roots in three of the eleven conferences organized by H.C. Ball and Demetrio Bazan. In the 1930's the Colorado Conference included Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana and Utah. In 1940, because of the growth of churches in Colorado, a second conference was formed: The Eastern Colorado Conference. A third conference called the Central Conference included New Mexico, Arizona and East Texas. In 1949 the Eastern Colorado Conference merged with the Central Conference. Utah and Idaho had become part of the Southern California Conference, but in 1951, Utah asked to become part of the Central Conference. In 1960 Jose Giron was elected Superintendent of LADC. The LADC grew under his leadership and as a result in 1971 he proposed dividing the LADC into four new Districts. Under his leadership the Midwest Latin District, the Gulf Latin District, the Pacific Latin American District and the Central Latin American District were recognized and began to operate as Districts in 1972.

The Central Latin American District Council was organized to serve the Hispanic Assemblies of God churches in the states of New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho and Utah. The Campgrounds in Chama, New Mexico were purchased under the leadership of Demetrio Bazan, Kenzy Savage and Rubel Benavidez in 1946 when the first 10 acres of campground were purchased for \$4,000.00. Official camp-meetings began in 1949. The second 10 acres were purchased in 1969. The CLADC began operations in 1972 with offices in Albuquerque, New Mexico under the leadership of Superintendent Nestor Bazan. In 1973 the office moved to Salt Lake City under the leadership of Superintendent Frank Trevino. In 1993 the office moved back to Albuquerque under the leadership of Jose Leyva and in 2001 under the leadership of Superintendent Dennis Rivera a permanent office was purchased in Denver, Colorado.

In 2010 the Central Latin American District Council changed their name to Central District / Distrito Central Council of the Assemblies of God in order to reflect the reality of their bi-lingual churches and ministries.

PREAMBLE

For the purpose of promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ, by all available means in our particular district, so that the results of our efforts may be conserved and assemblies established and developed in general unity, and cooperative fellowship along the lines of our distinctive testimony; and for the further purpose of cooperation with all other like districts in the work of the General Council at home and abroad; we who are members of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, hereby associate ourselves as the Central District/Distrito Central of the Assemblies of God, and agree to be governed by the following Bylaws.

1 **ARTICLE I. RELATIONSHIP**

2
3 **Section 1. General Council**

4 The Central District/Distrito Central is an integral part of the General Council of the Assemblies of
5 God with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri. Therefore, the principles of voluntary unity and
6 cooperative fellowship, as set forth in the Constitution of the General Council, are the principles that
7 shall govern this District Council.

8 **Section 2. Churches**

9 Churches which are in fellowship with the District Council, shall recognize and be subject to the
10 District Council as set forth in Article XI of the General Council Constitution.

11
12 **ARTICLE II. TENETS OF FAITH**

13
14 The Central District/Distrito Central shall stand for the Holy Scriptures as the all sufficient rule of
15 faith and practice; and adopts the Statement of Fundamental Truths approved by the General Council.

16
17 **ARTICLE III. PREROGATIVES**

18
19 In connection with its purpose to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ, at home and abroad by all
20 available means, the Central District/Distrito Central shall have the right to:

- 21 a. Supervise all the activities of the Assemblies of God in its prescribed field, in accordance with the
22 right conferred by Article X of the General Council Bylaws.
- 23 b. Examine and recommend for certification, license and ordination those individuals who have met
24 the requirements of the General Council.
- 25 c. Elect officers, appoint committees, arrange for its own meetings and govern itself. It shall be
26 subordinate to the General Council and amenable thereto in all matters of doctrine and the conduct
27 of ministers who shall have the District Council endorsement.
- 28 d. Establish churches and help facilitate their development.
- 29 e. Establish and maintain such departments and institutions for the fellowship as being necessary for
30 the propagation of the Gospel within its borders.

31
32 **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP**

33
34 Membership of the Central District/Distrito Central shall consist of:

- 35 a. All ministers of the Gospel holding accredited fellowship certificates from the General Council and
36 having their permanent residence within the boundaries of the Central District/Distrito Central.
- 37 b. Senior retired ministers having their residence within the boundaries of the Central District/Distrito
38 Central, or if living outside those boundaries choosing to be affiliated with the Central
39 District/Distrito Central.
- 40 c. Ministers affiliated with the Central District/Distrito Central but presently associated with the
41 national headquarters of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, or any of the colleges, or
42 Bible schools or institutes who retain their membership in the Central District/Distrito Central.
- 43 d. All General Council Affiliated, District Affiliated, and Parent Affiliated Churches registered with
44 the General Council as Central District Churches, with each church having the opportunity to
45 designate one church delegate to represent them in all appropriate business of the Central District.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

Section 1. Executive Officers

The Executive Officers shall consist of the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent, and the Secretary-Treasurer.

a. Qualifications

- (1) Shall be ordained ministers who have ample experience, sound judgement, recognized ability, and Christian Character according to 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.
- (2) Shall be active members of the Central District/Distrito Central with at least five years of full-time ministry.
- (3) Shall be able to communicate in both English and Spanish.

b. Terms of Office

- (1) The terms of office shall begin 60 days after the vote of election.
- (2) The term of each Executive Officer shall continue for four years or until a successor qualifies.

c. Scope of Authority

(1) Superintendent:

- (a) Shall be the President of the Corporation.
- (b) Shall supervise the work of the District.
- (c) Shall preside at the meetings of the District and the Presbytery.
- (d) Shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

(2) Assistant Superintendent

- (a) Shall be the Vice-President of the Corporation.
- (b) Shall assist the Superintendent in the work of the Ministry.
- (c) Shall assume responsibilities of the Superintendent if the Superintendent is unable to serve.
- (d) Shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

(3) Secretary-Treasurer

- (a) Shall serve as the Secretary of the Corporation.
- (b) Shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- (c) Shall keep an accurate record of all business meetings of the Council.
- (d) Shall be the custodian of the official minutes for the District Council, Executive and District Presbytery meetings.
- (e) Shall serve as the Treasurer of the Corporation.
- (f) Shall receive and record all offerings and moneys to be used for the work of the District and to keep the same on deposit in FDIC insured or AG Financial Solutions or equivalent institutions designated by the Executive Presbytery.
- (g) Shall disperse the money of the District in accordance with the budget and policies established by the Executive Presbytery.
- (h) Shall provide for an annual audit of the District books by competent auditors.
- (i) Shall perform other responsibilities under the supervision of the Superintendent or such as may be directed by the Executive Presbytery or the District Presbytery.

Section 2. Executive Presbytery

The Executive Presbytery shall consist of at least (9) nine persons, and not more than twelve, with the exact number to be established from time to time by special resolution of the District Presbytery. Members shall include the District Council Executive Officers, and Six (6) members elected by the membership of this District Council. Of these six (6) members, two (2) shall be from Colorado, two (2) shall be from New Mexico, one (1) shall be from the following states of Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, or Montana and one (1) at large.

a. Qualifications

- (1) Shall be ordained ministers who have ample experience, sound judgement, recognized ability,

1 and Christian Character according to 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

2 (2) Shall be active members of the Central District/Distrito Central with at least five years of full-
3 time ministry.

4 (3) Individual members of the Executive Presbytery are limited to one familial relationship with
5 another member. (Familial relationship is defined as: direct descendants, ancestors, siblings,
6 and spouses).

7 **b. Terms of Office**

8 (1) The terms of office shall begin 60 days after the vote of election.

9 (2) The term of each Executive Presbyter shall continue for four years or until a successor qualifies.

10 **c. Scope of Authority**

11 (1) Shall have oversight of all departments.

12 (2) Shall conduct necessary business of the Corporation between the sessions of the District
13 Council, particularly to establish fiscal policies for the corporation

14 (3) Shall act as the District Credentials Board for the purpose of examining applicants for the
15 recommendation of ministerial credentials.

16 **Section 3. General Presbyters**

17 By virtue of their offices, the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Secretary-Treasurer shall
18 be the General Presbyters representing the Central District.

19 **Section 4. Regional Presbyters / At Large Presbyters**

20 **a. Regional Presbyter.** Each geographical region shall elect a Presbyter who shall:

21 (1) Serve on request and in cooperation with the Superintendent in conducting official business
22 within their region.

23 (2) Arrange for and preside at regional meetings, other than regional elections.

24 (3) Serve on the Board of District Affiliated Churches in their section.

25 (4) Fulfill responsibilities outlined in the Policy and Procedure Manual.

26 (5) Be amenable to the Executive Presbytery.

27 **b. Female Presbyter At Large**

28 One Presbyter at large who is an ordained female will serve on the District Presbytery.

29 **c. Under 40 Presbyter At Large**

30 One Presbyter at large who is ordained and under the age of 40 will serve on the District
31 Presbytery.

32 **d. Non-Spanish Presbyter At Large**

33 One Presbyter at large who is ordained and who serves on the pastoral staff of a Non-Spanish
34 church will serve on the District Presbytery.

35 **e. Ministry Group Leaders.** Ministry Group Leaders shall be appointed by the District
36 Superintendent and ratified by the Executive Presbytery. They shall serve as a facilitator/mentor
37 of a Ministry Group within the District. They shall:

38 (1) Assist the Regional Presbyter in his/her assigned duties.

39 (2) Upon request of the Credentials Committee assist in the evaluation of applicants for ministerial
40 credentials.

41 **f. Qualifications**

42 (1) **Regional-Presbyters**

43 •Shall be ordained or licensed ministers who have ample experience, sound judgment,
44 recognized ability, and Christian character according to I Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

45 •Shall be active members of the Central District/Distrito Central with at least two years of full-
46 time ministry.

47 (2) **At Large Presbyters**

48 •Shall be ordained ministers who have ample experience, sound judgment, recognized ability,
49 and Christian character according to I Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

1 •Shall be active members of the Central District/Distrito Central with at least two years of full-
2 time ministry.

3 (3) **Ministry Group Leaders** shall be an ordained or licensed minister resident within their
4 geographical area.

5 **g. Terms of Office**

6 (1) Regional and At Large Presbyters shall take office immediately upon their election and shall
7 serve for a term of two (2) years or until a successor qualifies.

8 (2) Ministry Group Leader shall serve a concurrent two (2) year term with their presbyter.

9 **Section 5. District Presbytery**

10 The District Presbytery shall consist of the Executive Officers, Executive Presbyters, Regional
11 Presbyters, General Presbyters, and At Large Presbyters. They shall:

12 a. Be the official legislative and policy making body of the District Council.

13 b. Conduct necessary business of the Corporation between the sessions of the District Council.

14 c. The District Presbytery is empowered to adopt and establish rules and regulations for conduct of
15 all business of this District Council.

16 d. The District Presbytery is empowered to interpret policy and mandates adopted by the membership
17 of the District Council in session, and its decisions in this regard shall be final unless reversed or
18 modified by the membership of the District Council in session.

19
20 **ARTICLE VI. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

21
22 **Section 1. Executive Officers**

23 a. **Superintendent, and Assistant Superintendent.** The Superintendent of the District, and
24 Assistant Superintendent, shall be nominated and elected by secret ballot in the District Council
25 by the voting constituency present at the District Council.

26 b. **Secretary-Treasurer.** The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected in the following manner: The
27 District Presbytery, serving as a nominating committee, shall be entrusted with the responsibility
28 of making careful investigation and discussion concerning the qualifications and general fitness
29 of available candidates for this office and shall select by secret ballot one or more names to be
30 presented to the District Council in session for election. The District Presbytery shall submit as
31 nominees to the District Council all qualified candidates who have received at least three total
32 nominations by the District Presbytery, with each District Presbyter being able to nominate up to
33 two names. The candidates shall be presented to and voted upon by secret ballot by the District
34 Council in session. In the event that only one candidate receives at least three total nominations in
35 the District Presbytery nomination, the vote distinction by the District Council shall be by
36 selecting “yes” or “no.” There shall be no further nominations from the District Council floor.

37 c. The office of Superintendent, and Secretary/ Treasurer are full-time positions. The Executive
38 Presbytery has the discretion to make an adjustment to full-time status should the situation
39 become necessary.

40 d. Residency requirements for the Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer shall be determined by
41 the Executive Presbytery.

42 **Section 2. Executive Presbytery**

43 a. The Executive Presbyters of the District shall be nominated and elected by the voting
44 constituency present at the District Council.

45 b. Three of the members of the Executive Presbyters shall be staggered in such a way that all six
46 members are not elected at one time.

47 **Section 3. General Presbyters**

48 a. The General Presbyters of the Central District shall be the Superintendent, Assistant
49 Superintendent, and Secretary-Treasurer, by virtue of their offices.

- 1 b. Should one or more of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, or Secretary-Treasurer not
2 qualify based on the requirements set by the General Council, the District Presbytery shall elect
3 an appropriate replacement, or replacements.

4 **Section 4. Regional Presbyters**

- 5 a. A list of qualified potential candidates for the position of Regional Presbyter will be reviewed by
6 the Executive Presbytery of the District Council, and presented to the ministers with credentials,
7 and the church delegates present at the duly called meeting for the purpose of the election of the
8 Regional Presbyter. Candidates for the position of Regional Presbyter shall be nominated by the
9 ministers and delegates of each Region, but must come from the list presented. If there is not a
10 qualified candidate, the Executive Presbytery of the District will review the situation and make a
11 recommendation to the ministers and delegates of the Region. This election shall take place within
12 90 days after the closing of the biennial District Council.

13 **Section 5. At Large Presbyters**

14 At Large Presbyters of the District shall be nominated and elected by the credentialed ministers and
15 delegates present at the District Council.

16 **Section 6. Non-Resident Executive Presbyters**

17 Nominations and elections for Non-Resident Executive Presbyters shall be conducted by the District
18 Presbytery.

19 **Section 7. Election Requirement**

- 20 a. A review of potential candidates shall be conducted by the Executive Presbytery to verify that all
21 candidates are in good standing in their District dues (tithe) and are actively involved within the
22 District.
23 b. A two-thirds vote shall be necessary to constitute an election. If no election has been declared after
24 three electoral ballots, the two candidates having the majority of the votes in the last ballot cast
25 shall be retained to continue on the ballot until one is elected. If no election has been declared, the
26 chair will order that a final vote be taken for the candidate with the majority of votes subject to a
27 negative or positive vote (Yes/No). If the last candidate receives a two thirds (2/3) affirmative vote,
28 they shall be declared elected. If no election has been declared, even with only one candidate, then
29 the District Presbytery shall meet in emergency session with the purpose of presenting a solution
30 to the assembly.

31 **Section 8. Vacancies**

- 32 a. In the event a vacancy occurs with the Superintendent one hundred and eighty (180) or more days
33 prior to the next District Council, the Executive Presbytery shall call a special session of the District
34 Council for the purpose of electing that position and filling any other position that may become
35 vacant as a result of the special election. If the vacancy occurs less than one hundred and eighty
36 (180) days prior to the next District Council, a special election shall be held for this purpose at the
37 District Council. The individual(s) elected shall be elected to complete the term of the position they
38 are filling.
39 b. In the event a vacancy occurs of an Executive Officer, other than the Superintendent through
40 resignation, removal from the District, transfer, disqualification or death, the office shall be filled
41 by an election by secret ballot with a two-thirds affirmative vote of the District Presbytery to
42 complete the rest of the term or they can determine if calling a Special Meeting of the District shall
43 be necessary.
44 c. In the event a vacancy occurs of an Executive Presbyter through resignation, removal from the
45 District, transfer, disqualification or death, the office shall be filled by an election by secret ballot
46 with a two-thirds affirmative vote of the District Presbytery to complete the rest of the term or they
47 can determine if calling a Special Meeting of the District shall be necessary.
48 d. Due to the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Secretary-Treasurer serving as General
49 Presbyters by virtue of their offices, should there be a vacancy in one of those offices, the individual

- 1 elected to fill any such vacancy will also occupy the office of General Presbyter.
- 2 e. In the event a vacancy occurs of a Regional Presbyter through resignation, removal from the
3 District, transfer, disqualification or death, the office shall be filled by an election by secret ballot
4 with two-thirds affirmative vote of the District Presbytery to complete the rest of the term.
- 5 f. In the event a vacancy occurs of an At Large Presbyter through resignation, removal from the
6 District, transfer, disqualification or death, the office shall be filled by an election by secret ballot
7 with two-thirds affirmative vote of the District Presbytery to complete the rest of the term.
- 8 g. In the event a vacancy occurs of a Ministry Group Leader through resignation, removal from the
9 District, transfer, disqualification or death, the District Superintendent shall appoint a replacement
10 to be ratified by the Executive Presbytery to complete the rest of the term.

11 12 **ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS**

13 14 **Section 1. Council Meetings**

- 15 a. The District Council shall meet biennially, for a minimum of two days, time and place to be
16 announced by the Executive Officers. The announcement shall be published no later than three (3)
17 months prior to the meeting.
- 18 b. Special Meetings may be called to meet any emergency that may arise within the District Council.
19 Such calls shall be issued by the Secretary-Treasurer after the emergency has been fully considered
20 and passed upon by a majority vote of the District Presbytery.
- 21 c. The right of initiative in the calling of a Special Meeting may be granted to any ordained minister
22 of the District Council. A statement setting forth the reason for the special session and signed by
23 not less than 20 percent of the ordained ministers of the District Council may be considered
24 sufficient reason for such a call, said statement to be filed with the District Presbytery, who shall
25 issue the call, setting the time and place for the meeting.
- 26 d. Regional Meetings shall be held on a bi-annual basis to elect officers and conduct necessary
27 business. Time and place shall be announced by and presided by the Executive Presbytery in
28 consultation with the Region Presbyter and be completed no more than 90 days after closing of the
29 biennial District Council.
- 30 e. Electronic Meeting is authorized for boards and committees where the opportunity for simultaneous
31 aural communication maintains the deliberative character of the meeting.
- 32 f. Electronic meeting of the District Council is authorized upon a minimum two-thirds vote of the
33 District Presbytery, agreeing that no other option is viable, and where the opportunity for
34 simultaneous aural communication maintains the deliberative character of the meeting.

35 **Section 2. Voting Constituency**

- 36 a. **District Council.** Voting constituency at District Councils shall consist of registered credentialed
37 ministers, department directors, and church delegates.
- 38 b. **Regional Meetings.** Voting constituency shall include all registered credentialed ministers, and
39 church delegates, residing within the respective region.

40 41 **ARTICLE VIII. DEPARTMENTS**

- 42
- 43 a. The Central District/Distrito Central shall establish such departments as deemed necessary.
- 44 b. Departmental Directors shall be appointed by the Superintendent, ratified by the Executive
45 Presbytery.
- 46 c. The duties of the Departmental Directors shall conform to the General Council recommendations.
- 47 d. Departmental Directors shall work in conjunction with and shall be amenable to the
48 Superintendent and the Executive Presbytery.
- 49 e. Central District/Distrito Central Department Directors will be accorded a special status at District

- 1 Council and shall be given the privilege of debate and vote on the council floor.
2 f. Each department shall be governed by policies and procedures approved by the District
3 Presbytery.
4

5 **ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES**

6

- 7 a. The Central District/Distrito Central Council in session or the District Presbytery shall establish
8 committees as deemed necessary.
9 b. Committees shall be appointed by the Superintendent and ratified by the District Presbytery.
10 c. Committees shall work in conjunction with and shall be amenable to the Superintendent and
11 District Presbytery.
12 d. The duties and terms of office of the Committees shall be defined by the District Presbytery.
13

14 **ARTICLE X. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES**

15

16 **Section 1. Prerogatives**

- 17 a. All Pentecostal believers, associating themselves in local bodies as assemblies, desiring to
18 cooperate with principles, doctrines, and faith of Central District/Distrito Central Council and
19 General Council of the Assemblies of God, and accepting their full share of responsibility for the
20 maintaining of Scriptural order in the local body shall have the right of recognition by the District
21 Council.
22 b. Local assemblies shall be set in order by the District Council Officers and shall be amenable to
23 the District Council in doctrine, in conduct, and all other matters which affect the peace and
24 harmony of the fellowship.
25 c. Local assemblies shall have a standard of membership that meets the standards for membership
26 set forth by the General Council.
27 d. Local assemblies, including General Council Affiliated, District Affiliated, and Parent Affiliated
28 Churches, shall support the District Council, and shall be entitled to representation at the District
29 and Regional Meetings through a properly accredited delegate.
30 e. The District Council recognizes the sovereignty of the local assembly in accordance with Article
31 XI of the General Council Constitution.
32

33 **Section 2. Non-Affiliated Churches**

34 Each church desiring to affiliate with the District Council shall secure the services of the Regional
35 Presbyter. Suggested Bylaws and other pertinent documents for local assemblies shall be completed
36 by the requesting body in cooperation with the Secretary-Treasurer and shall be approved by the
37 Executive Presbytery.

38 **Section 3. Setting Church in Order**

39 A District Affiliated church desiring recognition as a General Council church shall secure the services
40 of the Regional Presbyter. Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and other documents shall be completed
41 in cooperation with the Secretary-Treasurer. Approval of a church shall be made by the Executive
42 Presbytery.

43 **Section 4. Privileges and Provisions**

44 **a. General Council Churches**

- 45 (1) Each local assembly has the right of self-government, under Jesus Christ, its living Head, and
46 shall have the power to choose or call its pastor, elect its official board, and transact all other
47 business pertaining to its life as a local church. It shall have the right to administer discipline
48 to its members according to the Scriptures and its Bylaws. It shall have the right to acquire
and hold title to property either through trustees or its corporate name as a self-governing unit.

1 The local assembly shall recognize that the District Council has the right to approve Scriptural
2 doctrine and conduct and to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct.

3 (2) A local congregation may yield their sovereign rights to the District Council. This privilege
4 granted to any local body will be treated as a sacred trust and relinquished by the District
5 Presbytery at a time favorable to both church and District Council. The church and pastor alike
6 will be under direct supervision, until sovereignty is restored.

7 (3) If the minimal requirements as stated in the General Council Constitution ARTICLE XI,
8 Section 1 have not been attained, the church shall revert to District Affiliated status until the
9 minimal requirements for General Council affiliation have been attained. The local church
10 shall remain in a District Affiliated status until sufficient growth and maturity has been
11 demonstrated to qualify for General Council status. An application for the same shall be filed
12 with the District Secretary-Treasurer and approved by the Executive Presbytery.

13 **b. District Affiliated Churches**

14 (1) **Supervision.** District Affiliated Churches shall be recognized and held under supervision of
15 the Official Board, which shall provide pastoral care and appoint necessary officers, until such
16 time as the assembly gives evidence of sufficient maturity to warrant full recognition of
17 General Council status. Such assemblies shall be recognized as having a definite standing in
18 the Assemblies of God Fellowship and may be granted letters of recognition by the District
19 Council at the discretion of the District Presbytery.

20 (2) **Official Board.** The official board shall be the Superintendent, as President and Chairman,
21 the Secretary-Treasurer, as Legal Secretary, the Regional Presbyter, together with the Pastor.

22 (3) **Advisory Committee.** If there are members in the local congregation who qualify according
23 to the Scriptures as a Deacon, they may be appointed by the official board to serve as an
24 Advisory Committee, the Pastor serving as the chairperson of the Committee.

25 **c. Parent Affiliated Churches**

26 (1) **Listing and Recognition of Parent Affiliated Churches.**

27 (a) A General Council Church when opening a Parent Affiliated Church shall inform the
28 District Council leadership that the Parent Affiliated Church is opening, and the Parent
29 Affiliated Church shall be listed on District Council and General Council records as a
30 Parent Affiliated Church.

31 (b) A District Council Church shall apply for approval from their official board to plant a
32 Parent Affiliated Church. Upon approval the Parent Affiliated Church shall be listed on
33 District Council and General Council records as a Parent Affiliated Church.

34 (2) **Recognition of a Parent Affiliated Church as District Council or General Council**
35 **Affiliated.** Upon mutual agreement of the parent church, the Parent Affiliated Church, and
36 the District Council, in accordance with the District Council Bylaws and the General Council
37 Constitution and Bylaws, the Parent Affiliated Church may be recognized as a District
38 Affiliated or General Council Church. At such time of recognition, the governance of the
39 Parent Affiliated Church shall be transferred from the parent church to the newly recognized
40 General Council assembly or the District Council in the case of a newly recognized District
41 Affiliated assembly.

42 **Section 5. Intervention of District Council in General Council Churches**

43 **a. Intervention Guidelines.** General Council Churches have the right to self-government. The
44 District Council may intervene whenever one or more of the following conditions exist. The
45 conditions are:

46 (1) Division resulting in the disruption of the assembly.

47 (2) Assumption of unscriptural authority by the pastor or the board.

48 (3) Prolonged absence of pastoral leadership.

49 (4) Deviation or departure from Assemblies of God principles and practices.

- 1 (5) Attempt to disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God.
- 2 (6) Inability of the pastor and board to resolve problems of administrative or unscriptural conduct.
- 3 (7) The active membership has fallen below 20 members, or absence of persons qualified to serve
- 4 as board members.

5 **b. Organizational Assistance**

- 6 (1) General Council Churches may petition the District Council for assistance in resolving any of
- 7 the issues listed in Article X, Section 5.a.
- 8 (2) Valid petitions may be initiated by the following:
 - 9 (a) The pastor of the General Council Church.
 - 10 (b) A majority of the board of said assembly.
 - 11 (c) A petition generated by 30 percent of active voting members of said assembly.
- 12 (3) Petitions must be submitted in writing to District Council for consideration. The petition shall
- 13 include the following:
 - 14 (a) Cover letter explaining the context of situation requiring District Council assistance.
 - 15 (b) The petition listing the existing conditions requiring assistance.
 - 16 (c) If the petition originates with the board or 30 percent of voting members; all parties
 - 17 submitting a petition for assistance must sign the petition. In addition to signatures a list of
 - 18 names and contact information of the petitioners is also required.
 - 19 (d) In the event that a petition for assistance is contested, those contesting shall have the right
 - 20 to submit a letter outlining their position for consideration by District Council in evaluating
 - 21 the petition. All parties submitting a letter opposing a petition for assistance must sign the
 - 22 petition. In addition to signatures a list of names and contact information of the counter-
 - 23 petitioners is also required.
- 24 (4) District Council Responsibility: Upon receipt of the foregoing documents the District Council
- 25 will conduct an investigation. Upon completion of the investigation the District Council will
- 26 issue a letter containing its findings and recommendation for resolution of the situation.
- 27 Remedial action may result in a change of status for the assembly to a District Affiliated Church
- 28 so that the issues may be resolved.

29 **c. Disaffiliation of General Council Churches**

- 30 (1) General Council churches wishing to disaffiliate from the General Council of the Assemblies
- 31 of God must follow the following steps:
 - 32 (a) Notification must be provided to District Council by the assembly wishing to disaffiliate.
 - 33 Notification shall consist of the following:
 - 34 a. Cover letter explaining the reason for disaffiliation.
 - 35 b. Agenda and Minutes for the meeting held by the assembly wherein disaffiliation was
 - 36 decided. Actual vote count is required for those in favor or opposed to disaffiliation.
 - 37 Decision to disaffiliate requires a two-thirds vote of active members of the assembly, or
 - 38 a more restrictive rule prescribed by a governing entity.
 - 39 c. List of meeting attendees and their voting status. List shall include the signatures of all
 - 40 those attending the meeting.
 - 41 (b) Special Business Meeting shall be called to allow District Council officials to meet with
 - 42 members of the assembly and contend for continued General Council affiliation. The
 - 43 Special Business Meeting shall conform to the following:
 - 44 a. An Agenda prepared and agreed upon by District Council and the disaffiliating church
 - 45 representative.
 - 46 b. Meeting date and time shall be by mutual agreement of the parties.
 - 47 c. A Chairman for the meeting shall be selected and agreed upon by both parties.
 - 48 d. Roster of attendees shall be compiled and provided upon completion of the meeting to
 - 49 both parties.

- 1 e. A Secretary shall be appointed for the meeting and shall provide minutes of the meeting
2 in the form of a digital recording including a transcript, and a contemporaneous set of
3 minutes. Copies of all minutes shall be made available to both parties.
4 f. A vote regarding disaffiliation shall be taken at the Special Business Meeting.
5 (c) Action may be taken against an assembly that disaffiliates without following the procedures
6 required by their bylaws, District Council Bylaws or General Council Bylaws.
7 (d) When disaffiliation of a General Council Church is accepted by the District Council,
8 notification shall be made to the General Council of the Assemblies of God of that
9 assembly's disaffiliation.

10 **d. Church transfer procedure**

11 When a church desires to transfer from a language/ethnic district to the geographical district in which
12 it is located or from a geographical district to a language/ethnic district, the following procedure shall
13 be followed:

- 14 (1) The pastor or board of the church considering transfer shall make initial contact with the district
15 superintendent to which the church presently belongs. There shall be opportunity for mutual
16 dialogue with the district superintendent and district leadership as to the advisability of the
17 transfer.
18 (2) If the pastor or board of the church desires to pursue the possibility of transfer, following the
19 initial contact and dialogue noted above, the pastor or board of the church may then contact the
20 superintendent of the district to which they desire to transfer.
21 (3) If the leadership of both districts agrees with the desire of the pastor or board of the church to
22 transfer from one district to another, then a congregational meeting of the church membership
23 shall be held. A transfer shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the membership.
24 (4) If the leadership of the district to which the church presently belongs is not in favor of the
25 transfer but the receiving district is, the leadership of the present district shall be given an
26 opportunity to present its case before the membership of the church at a congregational meeting.
27 The church membership may then proceed to vote, with a two-thirds vote required for a transfer
28 to be approved.
29 (5) If the leadership of the district to which the church presently belongs, after a favorable vote by
30 the church membership, still does not wish to approve the transfer, the matter shall be referred
31 to the Executive Presbytery for a final decision in accordance with the provisions of the General
32 Council Constitution (Article XI).
33 (6) If the leadership of the district to which the church presently belongs is in favor of the transfer,
34 after a favorable vote by the church membership, but the receiving district is not in favor of the
35 transfer, the matter shall be referred to the Executive Presbytery for a final decision in
36 accordance with the provisions of the General Council Constitution (Article XI).
37 (7) The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to authorize the credential transfer of ministers
38 serving the transferring church to the district in which the church is transferred.
39 (8) Churches seeking a transfer to another district must settle their financial obligations with their
40 present district before a transfer is granted.

41
42 **ARTICLE XI. FINANCES**

43
44 **Section 1. General Provisions**

- 45 a. Financial funds and accounts for the District Council shall be established and governed by
46 budget and policies of the Executive Presbytery.
47 b. Financial reports shall be submitted to the District Council in session and to regular meetings
48 of the Executive Presbytery.
49 c. An annual audit of District Council financial records shall be made in accordance with policies

1 of the Executive Presbytery.

2 **Section 2. Minister's Dues (Tithe)**

- 3 a. All ministers (ordained-licensed-certified minister) are required to support the District monthly
4 with a minister's due (tithe) of 10% of their ministerial income.
- 5 b. All Senior Pastors are required to monthly support the District with a minister's due (tithe) of
6 10% of their income from all sources.
- 7 c. Leaders of a Parent Affiliated Church (ie: Pastor, Campus Pastor, Site Coordinator, etc),
8 whether or not they are credentialed, and are required to monthly support the District as
9 ministers, with appropriate minister's dues (tithe).
- 10 d. Pastors or Laymen who are non-credentialed but are "in charge" of a church are required to
11 monthly support the District with a minister's due (tithe) of 10% of their income from all
12 sources.
- 13 e. All ministers engaged in secular employment who are not Senior Pastors are required to
14 monthly support the District with a due (tithe) of 5% of their income and 5% to their local
15 church.
- 16 f. "Senior-Retired" ministers are exempt from the foregoing obligations, and are placed honorably
17 on a free-will offering basis.
- 18 g. Credential Ministers can pay their portion of dues owed to the General Council from their
19 minister's due (tithe).
- 20 h. U.S. and World missionaries are exempt from the foregoing obligations, and are required to
21 follow guidelines established by the AG U.S. Missions and AG World Missions.
- 22 i. Tithes and offerings and other gifts shall not be considered as investments in the Corporation,
23 nor shares of the same, but shall, in all cases, be considered voluntary gifts and/or dues, without
24 attachment or remuneration.

25 **Section 3. Credential Renewal**

26 A \$75.00 credential renewal fee shall be paid to the District office at credential renewal time. This fee
27 will be optional for all Senior-Retired credential holders.

28 **Section 4. General Council Dues**

29 Ordained Ministers \$300.00 per year or \$25 per month.

30 Licensed Ministers \$240.00 per year or \$20 per month.

31 Certified Ministers \$120.00 per year or \$10 per month.

32 **Section 5. Church Dues**

33 All affiliated General Council and District Council churches shall contribute an administrative offering
34 for the support of the District Office according to their attendance. Churches with 100
35 or less in attendance shall contribute \$25.00 a month. Those with more than 100 in attendance shall
36 contribute a minimum of \$50.00 a month. New church plants are exempt during their first two years of
37 operation.

38 **Section 6. District Council Registration Fee**

- 39 a. All qualified ordained, licensed and certified ministers shall pay a registration fee at each
40 District Council.
- 41 b. All qualified registered delegates representing qualified churches of the District shall pay a
42 registration fee at each District Council.
- 43 c. The District Executive Officers may set this fee and amend this fee from time to time as deemed
44 necessary to offset costs of the District Council meeting.

45 **Section 7. Schedule Review and Adjustments**

46 All dues and fee amounts in the schedule above may be adjusted periodically as deemed necessary and
47 as approved by the District Council.

48 **Section 8. Individual Review and Requests for Adjustments**

1 Failure to cooperate with the fiscal policies adopted by the District and General Council will result in
2 a minister's credential being called into question or revoked until the matter is resolved. In instances
3 of extreme circumstances or cases of hardship, the minister so affected may appeal to the Executive
4 Presbytery.

6 **ARTICLE XII. RULES OF ORDER**

8 **Section 1. Parliamentary Authority**

9 In order to expedite the work of the District Council and to avoid confusion in its deliberations, the
10 meetings shall be governed by "Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised". All rules of government
11 shall be in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

12 **Section 2. Reports**

13 All annual reports are to be prepared and distributed in printed form, and the oral reading of the same
14 be omitted except upon the request of the District Council body.

15 **Section 3. Resolutions**

- 16 **a.** Any member of this District Council shall have the privilege of presenting a proposed resolution
17 to the Resolutions Committee for consideration by the voting constituency at the District
18 Council meeting.
- 19 **b.** Proposed resolutions shall be in written form, filed with the District Secretary with sufficient
20 time allowed so that such shall be in the hands of the Resolutions Committee:
- 21 1. At least ninety (90) days prior to the District Council meeting.
 - 22 2. The Resolutions Committee shall provide the District Secretary with copies of the
23 approved proposed resolutions at least sixty (60) days before the District Council
24 meeting,
 - 25 3. And the District Secretary shall be responsible for distribution of copies thereof to the
26 membership of District Council at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of the
27 District Presbytery that convenes coincidental to the District Council meeting.
- 28 **c.** All proposed resolutions that are to be entertained by the membership at any special meeting
29 shall be set forth in writing as part of the notice of time and place of such meeting.
- 30 **d.** Criteria to be used by the Resolutions Committee in determining the propriety of proposed
31 resolutions shall include determinations of whether or not the proposed resolution is in conflict
32 with the statutes and other laws of the States, whether the proposed resolution is compatible
33 with the Constitution and Bylaws or other directives of the General Council, whether the
34 proposed resolution is incompatible with the Constitution and Bylaws and policies of this
35 District Council, and whether such proposals are for other reasons unacceptable.
- 36 **e.** Notwithstanding the foregoing rules, "Emergency Resolutions" may be presented in writing to
37 be considered by the Resolutions Committee for presentation to and at the pleasure of the voting
38 constituency by its simple majority vote. (Roberts Rules of Order – Cannot move on without
39 it.)

40 **Section 4. Quorum**

41 The record of any regular or special meeting shall be considered as official.

- 42 **a. District Council and Regional Meetings.** All registered members present, and voting shall
43 constitute a quorum.
- 44 **b. District Presbytery.** A majority of the Executive Presbyters and a majority of the District
45 Presbyters present and voting in any meeting of the District Presbytery shall constitute a
46 quorum.
- 47 **c. Executive Presbytery.** A majority of the Executive Presbytery present at any Executive
48 Presbytery meeting shall constitute a quorum.

49 **Section 5. Official Document Recognition**

1 The Bylaws of the Central District/Distrito Central shall be published in both English and Spanish.
2 However, the English translation shall serve as the official publication of the District.

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ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Proposal

7 Amendments to the Bylaws may be made, as described in Article XII, Section 3, at any regular or
8 special meeting of the District Council provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted to
9 the District Presbytery first for consideration, and then mailed to each member of the District Council
10 at least thirty (30) prior to the time of meeting.

Section 2. Required Vote

12 Two-thirds vote with previous notice shall be necessary for adoption.

Section 3. General Council Authority

14 Because the District Council derives its right to exist and its authority to govern itself from the General
15 Council, therefore bylaws reflecting District Council prerogatives shall conform to General Council
16 Bylaws.