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# Constitution and Bylaws

Michigan Ministry Network

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**CONSTITUTION  
of the  
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, MICHIGAN DISTRICT  
DBA: ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, MICHIGAN MINISTRY NETWORK**

**Constitutional Declaration**

**WE BELIEVE:**

That God's purpose concerning mankind finds fulfillment in a priority reason-for-being: 1) to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world, 2) to be a corporate body in which people may worship God, 3) to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and 4) to be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.

That the Michigan Ministry Network 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 of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the Body of Christ.

In accord with these aforesaid principles, in the year of 1945, the ninth day of May, the Michigan Ministry Network was formed and recognized by the parent body, The General Council of the Assemblies of God (Springfield, Missouri).

Therefore, we recognize ourselves to be a voluntary cooperative Fellowship of Spirit-baptized believers from local Pentecostal churches of like precious faith located in the Michigan Ministry Network of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, hereinafter called "General Council." "Voluntary cooperation" means that once one, out of their own free will, decides to become a cooperating member of the Assemblies of God, this cooperation becomes obligatory and not optional.

Our purpose is neither to usurp authority over the various local churches, 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 local churches established and developed along the line of our distinctive testimony.

We reserve the right to disapprove unscriptural methods, doctrines, and conduct in order to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, "until we all reach unity in the faith and knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13; NIV).

## **ARTICLE I. NAME**

The corporate name of this body shall be Assemblies of God, Michigan District working under a DBA of Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network. The body may be known colloquially as the Michigan Ministry Network.

## **ARTICLE II. TERRITORY**

1. The work of the Michigan Ministry Network shall include the territory comprising the Lower Peninsula of Michigan and that part of the Upper Peninsula which includes Luce, Chippewa, and Mackinac Counties.
2. The Michigan Ministry Network shall be divided into Sectional fellowships, the boundaries of which shall be determined by the Presbyter Board.
3. The description of the Sectional boundaries shall be retained in the Network archives and made available to the constituency through the periodic publishing of a Network map.

## **ARTICLE III. NATURE**

The Michigan Ministry Network is a cooperative Fellowship based on mutual agreements voluntarily entered into by its members.

## **ARTICLE IV. PRINCIPLES FOR FELLOWSHIP**

The Michigan Ministry Network, shall, as nearly as possible in detail, represent the body of Christ as described in the New Testament, recognizing the principles inherent in that body as also inherent in this Fellowship, particularly the principles of unity, cooperation, and equality. Its purpose is to maintain conditions under which it can, as a Fellowship, demonstrate these principles and their consequent development.

## **ARTICLE V. STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS\***

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

## 1. The Scriptures Inspired

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

## 2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth, and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

### THE ADORABLE GODHEAD

#### a. Terms Defined

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

#### b. Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

Christ taught a distinction of persons in the godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).

#### c. Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

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

**d. Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead**

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

**e. The Title, Lord Jesus Christ**

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

**f. The Lord Jesus Christ, God with Us**

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

**g. The Title, Son of God**

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

**h. Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ**

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

**i. Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord**

The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him. And having been made both Lord and Christ, He sent the Holy Ghost that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God may be all in all (Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Romans 14:11; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28).

**j. Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son**

Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only the **express duty** of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is an **unspeakable** joy in the Holy Ghost to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the godhead except those which express relationship (see paragraphs b, c, and d), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22,23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2:8,9; Revelation 7:9,10; 4:8-11).

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

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

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

### **4. The Fall of Man**

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

### **5. The Salvation of Man**

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

- a. **Conditions of Salvation.** Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).
- b. **The Evidences of Salvation.** The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12)

## 6. The Ordinances of the Church

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

## 7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

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

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

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

## 9. Sanctification

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

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

## **10. The Church and Its Mission**

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

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

- a. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).
- b. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- c. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfect in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).
- 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).

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

- a. Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3,4).
- b. Adds a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12-14).
- c. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ, and to care for the poor and needy of the world (Galatians 5:22-26; Matthew 25:37-40; Galatians 6:10; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

## **11. The Ministry**

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

## **12. Divine Healing**

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

### **13.The Blessed Hope**

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

### **14. The Millennial Reign of Christ**

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

### **15. The Final Judgment**

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

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

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

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

## **ARTICLE VI. PREROGATIVES**

1. To incorporate and to elect officers.
2. To approve all Scriptural teachings, methods, and conduct, and to disapprove unscriptural teachings, methods, and conduct.
3. To encourage and promote the evangelization of our State, our Country, and the World. To establish local churches within the Network territory, and to assist established local churches as may be necessary and advisable.
4. To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like precious faith.

5. To establish and maintain such departments and institutions as may be necessary for the propagation of the Gospel and the work of this Pentecostal Fellowship.
6. To have the right to buy, take, or otherwise acquire, own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of such real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other property of whatever kind as may be useful or needed to carry out its work.
7. To examine candidates for the ministry and present qualified candidates to the General Council Credentials Committee.

## **ARTICLE VII. RELATIONSHIPS**

### **Section 1. Network Council**

The Michigan Ministry Network, shall be an integral part of, and in cooperative relationship with, The General Council of the Assemblies of God, Incorporated, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri.

### **Section 2. Local Churches**

Local churches that are members of the Michigan Ministry Network shall recognize and be subject to the Network Council as set forth in the General Council Constitution (Article XI).

## **ARTICLE VIII. MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1. Ministers**

All ministers holding credentials with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, having their permanent residence within the geographical boundaries of the Michigan Ministry Network, are considered members of the Michigan Ministry Network except as provided for in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws (Bylaws Article VII, Section 8, subsection b.)

Ministers listed in the Michigan Ministry Network Bylaws, Article XI, Section I, subsection c., are also considered members of the Michigan Ministry Network. All Ministers of the Michigan Ministry Network shall be subject to the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Michigan Ministry Network.

### **Section 2. Assemblies**

All General Council and Network affiliated local churches within the geographical boundaries of the Michigan Ministry Network shall be considered to be member churches except as provided for in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws (Constitution Article X, Section 3, Bylaws Article V, Section 5). Each local church has the right of representation at the Network Council according to the provision in the Network Bylaws (Article III, Section I, subsections a. and b).

## ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

### Section 1. Network Meetings

- a. Regular sessions of the Network Council shall be held annually pursuant to a call by the Presbyter Board.
- b. Special sessions of the Network Council may be arranged if agreed to by a two-thirds majority of the Presbyter Board.
- c. The right of initiative in calling a special session of the Network Council shall be granted to any ordained minister affiliated with the Michigan Ministry Network. A statement of the reasons for calling the special session, signed by not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the ordained ministers affiliated with the Michigan Ministry Network, shall be filed with the Network Secretary. The Executive Officers shall thereupon issue a call for the special session in accordance with the petition. Prior to the submission of a petition exercising the right of initiative, any petitioner must first consult with the Executive Board in an effort to resolve the stated reasons for the petition.
- d. Notice of all regular and special sessions of the Network Council shall be communicated by the Network Secretary to the membership of the Network Council at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting and shall include a statement of the purpose for the meeting.

### Section 2. Sectional Meetings

- a. A Sectional Council Meeting shall be held annually in each Section at least thirty (30) days prior to the Network Council. Arrangements for the meeting shall be initiated by the Network Officer with the cooperation of the Sectional Officers of each Section.
- b. Sectional Business Meetings as may be required shall be called by the Sectional Presbyter or the Network Superintendent.
- c. Regular fellowship meetings shall be conducted under the direction of the Sectional Presbyter.

## **ARTICLE X. OFFICERS**

### **Section 1. Executive Officers**

There shall be a Superintendent, an Assistant Superintendent, and a Secretary-Treasurer, who shall be elected as provided in the Bylaws. They shall be the Executive Officers and shall constitute the Network Officiary.

### **Section 2. Executive Presbyters**

There shall be three (3) Executive Presbyters who shall be elected as provided in the Bylaws.

### **Section 3. Executive Board**

The Executive Board shall consist of the Executive Officers and the Executive Presbyters.

### **Section 4. General Council Presbyters**

The Michigan Ministry Network shall be represented in the General Council Presbytery by three members, which shall be the Network Executive Officers, by election to the office of Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Secretary-Treasurer, they shall also be elected to serve as General Presbyters.

The General Presbyter is the official policy making body of the General Council of the Assemblies of God when the General Council is not in session (General Council Constitution Article IX. Section 3).

### **Section 5. Sectional Officers**

- a. A Presbyter shall be elected by each Section to serve the Section.
- b. An Assistant Sectional Presbyter shall be elected by each Section to serve the Section.

### **Section 6. Presbyter Board**

The Presbyter Board shall consist of the Executive Board, the Sectional Presbyters, and Additional Presbyters.

### **Section 7. Departmental Directors**

Directors of departments established by action of the Network Council or Presbyter Board shall be appointed according to the provision of the Bylaws.

## **Section 8. Nominees for General Council Non-Resident Executive Presbyter**

- a. *Nominees.*** The Michigan Ministry Network shall nominate two ministers from its Network, one of whom is not an elected full-time Network Official, to be presented to the General Council as its nominees to serve as a Non-Resident General Council Executive Presbyter from the Great Lakes region in accordance with the General Council Constitution and Bylaws (General Council Constitution Article IX, Section 2. (a); Bylaws Article II, Section 2., subsection c., subparagraph (1) (a).
- b. *Additional Representation Nominees.*** The Michigan Ministry Network shall nominate three additional ministers from its Network, one who is an ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election and one who is an ordained female (no age requirement) and one ordained African-American (no age requirement) as its nominees to serve on the Executive Presbytery of the General Council in accordance with the General Council Constitution and Bylaws (General Council Constitution, Article IX, Section 2., (a); Bylaws Article II, Section 2., subsection c., subparagraph (2) (c).

## **ARTICLE XI. LOCAL CHURCHES**

Pentecostal believers associating themselves as local congregations shall have the right of recognition by the Michigan Ministry Network provided they meet the standards approved by the General Council and the Michigan Ministry Network in regards to membership, doctrine, order, methods, conduct, and all other matters affecting the harmony of the Fellowship as a whole.

## **ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION CLAUSE**

In the event the Michigan Ministry Network shall cease to function for the purposes herein set forth, then all real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other property of whatever kind, and all assets remaining after satisfying debts and obligations, shall be distributed to the parent body, The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Missouri non-profit Corporation, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri. The General Council shall have full authority to sell such property and to use the proceeds derived thereof for the extension of the work of the Assemblies of God. In the event of cessation of the Michigan Ministry Network, its Board of Trustees shall transfer all properties and any remaining assets, in accordance with the foregoing provisions, within one year after the date 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 headquarters office of the Michigan Ministry Network is located, provided that in such case proceeds of the dissolution shall be distributed to organizations having purposes nearest the purpose of the Assemblies of God.

### **ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any regular or special meeting of the Network Council provided the proposed amendment has been submitted to the Network Secretary's office at least seventy-five (75) days prior to the session at which the amendment is to be considered. The Network Secretary will present any proposed amendments to the Presbyter Board prior to Network Council for their review after the Resolutions Committee has prepared them. The Network Secretary shall send, by mail or electronic means, a copy of the proposed amendment to the membership of the Network Council at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. A two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be necessary for the adoption of a Constitutional amendment.

When changes occur in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws that cause the re-numbering or re-lettering of sections of those documents that are referenced in the Michigan Ministry Network Constitution, the Network Constitution may be amended to reflect those changes by action of the Presbyter Board, providing the changes are limited to such re-numbering and re-lettering items only, and that no change in the intent of the Network Constitution occurs.

**BYLAWS  
of the  
MICHIGAN MIINISTRY NETWORK**

**ARTICLE I. PARLIAMENTARY ORDER**

**Section 1. Authority**

In order to expedite the work of the Michigan Network Council and to avoid confusion in its deliberations, the Network and Sectional Councils shall be governed by accepted rules of parliamentary procedure as set forth in *Roberts' Rules of Order Newly Revised*, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**Section 2. Parliamentarians**

The Network Superintendent shall appoint a committee of qualified individuals to serve as parliamentarians for Network Council sessions.

**ARTICLE II. NETWORK LIABILITY**

The Network's authority with regard to credentialed ministers is limited to those matters specified in these Bylaws. No minister shall be considered to be an employee of the Network other than those who are officially listed as employees by the Network.

**ARTICLE III. VOTING**

**Section 1. Voting Constituency**

**a. Voting constituency.** The voting constituency shall consist of all registered credentialed ministers who are members of the Michigan Ministry Network. Voting privileges shall also be granted to registered delegates from member churches.

**b. Delegates**

- 1) General Council churches. Each local church affiliated with the General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be entitled to two (2) delegates.
- 2) Network Affiliated churches. Each Network Affiliated church shall be entitled to one (1) delegate.
- 3) Parent Affiliated Churches. A Parent Affiliated Church shall be represented only by its parent church.

- 4) Registration of delegates. Delegates shall register electronically or on site. It is the responsibility of the Pastor or the Secretary of their local church to register those delegates signifying that they have been elected by the congregation or appointed by the Official Board.

## **Section 2. Quorum**

- a. **Network Council.** The registered credentialed ministers and registered delegates who are present at any duly called Network Council Meeting shall constitute a quorum.
- b. **Sectional Council.** The registered credentialed ministers and registered delegates who are present at any duly called Sectional Council Meeting shall constitute a quorum.
- c. **Presbyter Board.** A majority of the Presbyter Board assembled for a duly called meeting shall constitute a quorum.
- d. **Executive Board.** A majority of the Executive Board assembled for a duly called meeting shall constitute a quorum.

## **Section 3. Alternate Voting**

The Executive Officers, Executive Board, and Presbyter Board may conduct their work and vote through the use of any appropriate communications equipment in matters where time is of the essence, provided all persons participating are given a reasonable opportunity to respond. Following the use of such alternate voting, the Network Secretary shall reduce to writing the action supported by the members and report it at the next duly called meeting. Such action shall be considered officially approved and binding.

## **ARTICLE IV. NETWORK COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETINGS**

All regular business meetings of the Network Council may begin with prayer and shall include:

- Report and keynote address of Network Superintendent.
- Report of Assistant Network Superintendent.
- Report of Network Secretary.
- Report of Network Treasurer.
- Reports of Network Directors.
- Reports of Network Boards and Committees as needed.
- Report of Roster Committee.
- Unfinished business if required.
- Elections as required.
- New business as needed.

## ARTICLE V. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

### Section 1. Executive Officers

- a. **Qualifications.** The Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent and the Secretary-Treasurer shall be ordained ministers of mature experience and ability who have been members of the Michigan Ministry Network and have resided within the Network territory for the two (2) consecutive years prior to the time of their election.
- b. **Nominations and Elections**
  - 1) The Executive Officers of the Michigan Ministry Network shall be elected at regular or special sessions of the Network Council.
  - 2) They shall be nominated by secret ballot. All nominees receiving five (5) or more votes on the nominating ballot shall be presented to the Council for election.
  - 3) The election of the Superintendent shall be staggered with the elections of the Assistant Superintendent and the Secretary-Treasurer so that only one executive officer is elected in any given year.
  - 4) A two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be required for election to any Executive Office. If a nominee receives sufficient votes to elect on the nominating ballot, the individual shall be declared elected. If such a majority shall not have been reached by the first three electoral ballots, all candidates except the two receiving the highest number of votes on the third ballot shall be eliminated from further balloting, and the requirement for election shall be reduced to a simple majority on the fourth electoral ballot. The results of each electoral ballot shall be posted until an election is achieved.
- c. **Term of Office.** All executive officers shall be elected for a period of four (4) years. Their terms of office shall begin two months after election except in the case of prior vacancy, in which case the individual elected shall assume the responsibility of the office immediately.
- d. **Executive Officers portfolios.** Portfolios assigned to Executive Officers shall be assigned by the Network Superintendent in consultation with the Sectional and the Executive Presbyters.

### Section 2. Executive Presbyters

- a. **Qualifications.** The Executive Presbyters shall be ordained ministers of mature experience and ability who have been members of the Michigan Ministry Network and have resided within Network territory for the two (2) consecutive years prior to the time of their election.

**b. Nominations and Elections**

- 1) The Executive Presbyters of the Michigan Ministry Network shall be elected at regular or special sessions of the Network Council.
- 2) They shall be nominated in the following manner:
  - a) Each Sectional Council at its annual meeting prior to the next regular Network Council in session shall receive a nominating ballot by secret ballot for the office of Executive Presbyter. The nominees may be residents of any Section within the Network. All of those nominated will be contacted by the Network Office, and only those willing to accept the nomination will be presented to the Network Council as nominees.
  - b) At a special session of Network Council, a nominating ballot will be received by secret ballot prior to the first electoral ballot.
- 3) A two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be required to elect. If such a majority shall not have been reached by the first three (3) electoral ballots, all candidates except the two (2) receiving the highest number of votes on the third ballot shall be eliminated from further balloting, and the requirement for election shall be reduced to a simple majority on the fourth electoral ballot. The results of each electoral ballot shall be posted until an election is achieved.

At a special session of Network Council, if a nominee receives sufficient votes to elect on the nominating ballot, the individual shall be declared elected.

- 4) Should a Sectional Presbyter be elected an Executive Presbyter, the individual shall have the right to choose which office the individual will accept.
- c. Term of Office.** They shall be elected for a period of three (3) years. Their terms of office shall be staggered so that only one Executive Presbyter is elected annually. The term of office shall begin two (2) months after election except in the case of a prior vacancy, in which case the individual elected shall assume the responsibility of the office immediately. Executive Presbyters are eligible to serve two (2) consecutive terms with a one (1) year interim before becoming eligible again for election to this office. If previously elected or appointed to serve a vacated, partial term, Executive Presbyters shall be eligible to serve two (2) full consecutive terms.

### **Section 3. Sectional Officers**

#### **a. Sectional Presbyters**

- 1) *Qualifications.* The Sectional Presbyters shall be ordained ministers of mature experience and ability who have been members of the Michigan Ministry Network and have resided in the Section for at least six (6) months and in the Network for at least one (1) year.
- 2) *Nominations and Elections*
  - a) All Sectional Presbyters shall be elected by the voters of their respective Sections at the Sectional Business Meeting to be held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Network Council. In the event that the elected individual is unable to serve, a special Sectional Business Meeting may be called, while the Network Council is in session, for the purpose of filling the office. Announcement given during any business session of the Network Council shall be deemed adequate notice of the meeting. The meeting may be chaired by any ordained minister appointed by the Superintendent.
  - b) All candidates shall be nominated and voted upon by secret ballot.
  - c) If a nominee receives two-thirds of the votes cast on the nominating ballot, the individual shall be declared elected. If such a majority is not obtained on the nominating ballot, on succeeding electoral ballots a simple majority of all votes cast shall be required to elect. If after three (3) electoral ballots such a majority is not reached, all candidates except the two receiving the highest number of votes on the third ballot shall be eliminated from further balloting. The results of each electoral ballot shall be posted until an election is achieved.
  - d) The results of the election shall be presented at the Network Council.
- 3) *Term of Office.* The term of office shall be for two (2) years from the adjournment of the Network Council following election and shall conclude at the adjournment of the regularly scheduled Network Council after two (2) years. Sectional Presbyters are eligible to serve three (3) consecutive, two-year (2) terms with a one-year (1) interim before becoming eligible again for election to this office.

#### **b. Assistant Sectional Presbyters**

- 1) *Qualifications.* The Assistant Sectional Presbyters of the Sections shall be ordained or licensed ministers of mature experience and ability who have been members of the Michigan Ministry Network and have resided in the Section for at least six (6) months and in the Network for at least one (1) year.

- 2) *Nominations and Elections.* They shall be nominated and elected in the same manner as the Sectional Presbyters.
- 3) *Term of Office.* The term of office shall be for two (2) years from the adjournment of the Network Council following election and shall conclude at the adjournment of the regularly scheduled Network Council after two (2) years. Assistant Sectional Presbyters are eligible to serve three (3) consecutive, two-year (2) terms, with a one-year (1) interim before becoming eligible again for election to this office.

#### **Section 4. Additional Ethnic Minority, Female, and Under 40 Presbyters**

Additional Presbyters shall be elected, one each from the following groups: Ethnic Minorities, Female, and Ministers Under 40 years old.

- a. **Qualifications:** Additional Presbyters shall be ordained ministers of mature experience and ability who have been members of the Michigan Ministry Network and have resided in the Network for at least one (1) year, and who, by virtue of ethnicity indicated on their credential renewal, gender, or age, qualify for one or more of these three categories.
- b. **Nominations and Elections:**
  - 1.) Additional Presbyters of the Michigan Ministry Network shall be elected at regular or special sessions of the Network Council.
  - 2.) They shall be nominated in the following manner:
    - a) Each Sectional Council at its annual meeting prior to the next regular Network Council in session, when an election is scheduled, shall receive a nominating ballot by secret ballot for the office of Additional Presbyter for each category. The nominees may be residents of any Section within the Network. All of those nominated will be contacted by the Network Office, and only those willing to accept the nomination will be presented to the Network Council as nominees. Nominees shall supply the requested bio information.
    - b) At a special session of Network Council, if a nominee receives 2/3 majority votes on the nominating ballot, the individual shall be declared elected.
  - 3) A two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be required to elect. If such a majority shall not have been reached by the first three (3) electoral ballots, all candidates except the two (2) receiving the highest number of votes on the third ballot shall be eliminated from further balloting, and the requirement for election shall be

reduced to a simple majority on the fourth electoral ballot. The results of each electoral ballot shall be posted until an election is achieved.

- 4) Since Additional Presbyterian nominees may be nominated in more than one category, they may allow their name to stand for each category. Once elected, they will automatically be removed from subsequent Additional Presbyterian elections in those other categories for which they were nominated.
  - 5) Should a Sectional Presbyterian be elected as Additional Presbyterian, the individual shall have the right to choose which office the individual will accept.
- c. Term of Office:** The term of office shall be for two (2) years from the adjournment of the Network Council following election and shall conclude at the adjournment of the regularly scheduled Network Council after two (2) years. Additional Presbyterians are eligible to serve two (2) consecutive, two-year (2) terms with a one-year (1) interim before becoming eligible again for election to this office.

#### **Section 5. Nominees for Non-Resident General Council Executive Presbyterian**

- a. Great Lakes Area Nominees.** At a Network Council prior to a General Council at which the election will be held, two nominees from the Michigan Ministry Network, one of whom is not an elected full-time official, shall be nominated by a two-thirds vote, to be presented to the General Council along with nominees from other Networks in the Great Lakes area, for election as Non-Resident Executive Presbyterian. Any nominee must be a member of the Michigan Ministry Network who is an ordained minister of mature experience and ability and whose life and ministry are above question. There is no minimum residency requirement.
- b. Additional Representation Nominees.** At a Network Council prior to the General Council at which the election shall be held, three (3) additional nominees, one (1) ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election, one (1) ordained female (no age requirement), and one (1) ordained African-American minister (no age requirement) shall be nominated by a two-thirds vote, to be presented to the General Presbytery. From the nominees, the General Presbytery shall select and submit to the General Council four (4) names of ordained ministers under 40 years of age at the time of election, four (4) names of ordained female ministers (no age requirement), and four (4) names of ordained African-American ministers (no age requirement). The candidates shall be presented to the General Council in session and voted on by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote shall be required to elect. Each nominee must be a member of the Michigan Ministry Network who is of mature experience and ability and whose life and ministry are above question.

**c. Great Lakes Area and Additional Non-Resident Executive Presbyters shall be nominated and elected in the following manner:**

In the year in which a regular General Council is to be held, and a Non-Resident Executive Presbyter nominee is to be presented, each Sectional Council at its annual meeting prior to the next regular Network Council in session shall receive a nominating ballot by secret ballot. They shall choose from a list of people who qualify for each office under the above provisions in subsections a. and b. All of those nominated will be contacted by the Network Office, and only those willing to accept the nomination will be presented as nominees to be voted on at the Network Council in session. In each case, a two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be required to present the nominee to the General Presbyters of the General Council of the Assemblies of God. If such a majority shall not have been received by the first three (3) electoral ballots, all candidates except the two (2) receiving the highest number of votes on the third ballot shall be eliminated from further balloting, and the requirement for election shall be reduced to a simple majority on the fourth electoral ballot. The results of each electoral ballot shall be posted until an election is achieved.

**Section 6. General Council Presbyters**

The Network shall be represented in the General Presbytery by three members.

- a. Qualifications. They shall be ordained ministers of mature experience and ability whose lives and ministries are above reproach who have resided in the Network for at least two (2) years.
- b. The Michigan Ministry Network shall be represented in the General Council Presbytery by three members, which shall be the Network Executive Officers, by election to the office of Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Secretary-Treasurer, they shall also be elected to serve as General Presbyters.
- c. Additional General Presbyter Representation. Two (2) additional General Presbyters from the Great Lakes area, one (1) ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election and one (1) ordained female (no age requirement), shall be elected according to the annual rotating Network schedule set by the General Council Executive Presbytery.

They shall be nominated in the following manner:

In the year in which the Michigan Ministry Network is scheduled to elect additional General Presbyters, each Sectional Council at its annual meeting prior to the next regular Network Council in session shall receive a nominating ballot by secret ballot. They shall choose from a list of names who qualify for each office under the above provision. All of those nominated will be contacted by the Network Office, and only those willing to accept the nomination will be presented to the Network Council as nominees.

In each case, a two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be required for election. If such a majority shall not have been received by the first three (3) electoral ballots, all candidates except the two (2) receiving the highest number of votes on the third ballot shall be eliminated from further balloting, and the requirement for election shall be reduced to a simple majority on the fourth electoral ballot. The results of each electoral ballot shall be posted until an election is achieved.

The term of office shall be for one (1) year from the date of election.

#### **Section 7. Appointed Network Directors**

- a. Qualifications.** All appointed directors shall hold credentials with the Assemblies of God and be in good standing with the Michigan Ministry Network or be individuals who are members in good standing of a local Assemblies of God church. The Network Affiliated Church Director and the Michigan Missions and Church Planting Director shall be ordained ministers.
- b. Appointments.** All Network Directors shall be appointed and reviewed by the Network Superintendent in cooperation with the Presbyter Board.

### **ARTICLE VI. VACANCIES**

#### **Section 1. Occurrence**

- a.** Any office shall become vacant:
  - 1) Upon the death of the officeholder.
  - 2) Upon the resignation of the officeholder.
  - 3) If the officeholder ceases to meet the requirements for election to the office.
  - 4) If the officeholder is removed by a two-thirds vote of the Presbyter Board due to departure from the Tenets of Faith, declared open change in doctrinal views, moral depravity, mental or physical incapacity, dereliction of duty, or any good and sufficient cause.
- b.** Any executive officeholder so removed shall have the right of appeal to the Executive Presbytery of the General Council. The officeholder shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Executive Presbytery of the General Council to the General Presbytery whose decision shall be final. Should the officeholder choose to appeal the case in this manner, the officeholder shall be placed under suspension, but shall continue to receive the compensations of the office until the case is settled.

- c. In case of suspension pending an appeal, or in case an executive officeholder may be temporarily unable to discharge the responsibilities of the office, the Presbyter Board shall make suitable provision for the office, except when otherwise provided for in the Bylaws.

## **Section 2. Filling Vacancies**

- a. **Superintendent.** If the office of the Network Superintendent becomes vacant for any cause, the Assistant Network Superintendent shall become acting Superintendent until the next regular meeting of Network Council, provided it shall be convened within sixty (60) days; otherwise, the Presbyter Board shall convene a special session of the Network Council to elect a Network Superintendent to fill the unexpired term. The Assistant Superintendent shall serve as acting Superintendent in the interim.

The Network Secretary shall request the General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, or the General Superintendent's designee, to preside over the special election.

- b. **Other Executive Offices.** Vacancies in the offices of Assistant Superintendent, and Secretary-Treasurer shall be filled as follows: If a vacancy in the office occurs within sixty (60) days of a regular Network Council, the vacancy will be filled by election at that Council. Otherwise, the Presbyter Board shall convene a special session of the Network Council to fill the vacancy.
- c. **Other Offices.** Vacancies in any office except those covered in the above may be filled by the Presbyter Board unless the office becomes vacant within thirty (30) days prior to a regular or special session of the Network Council. In such case, it shall be filled by election.

## **Section 3. Term of Office**

When an executive office is filled by a special Network Council, the term of office shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term plus a four (4) year term, provided the unexpired term is not more than one (1) year.

# **ARTICLE VII. DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

## **Section 1. Network Superintendent**

*The Network Superintendent shall:*

- a. Act as President of the Corporation in all legal matters.
- b. Supervise the work of the Michigan Ministry Network.

- c. Preside at the meetings of the Network Council and provide a keynote address.
- d. Preside at the meetings of the Network Presbytery and shall receive all communications directed to the body.
- e. Administer discipline in all cases when requested to do so by the Executive Board.
- f. Perform any other function usual and customary for the presiding officers, or such as may be directed by the Network Council or the Network Presbytery.
- g. Be an ex-officio member of all boards and committees.
- h. With the Network Secretary, sign all legal documents on behalf of the Michigan Ministry Network. The Network Superintendent may authorize a designee to execute any and all documents relating to the purchase, sale, mortgage, loan, or disposition of any legal interest of the Network on any real property.
- i. With the Network Secretary, have the authority to transfer church property being held in the name of the Michigan Ministry Network, to a respective local church that has advanced from Network Affiliated status to General Council status if the name Michigan Ministry Network, is not on a mortgage as a guarantor, owner, or mortgagor and the respective local church has signed and recorded a Right of Reverter to the Michigan Ministry Network, which Right of Reverter shall be prepared by the Network Secretary and delivered to the respective local church.

There is no right of request of transfer and any request for transfer is subject to approval by the Network Superintendent and the Network Secretary, or by the Presbyter Board which approval may be granted or denied at their discretion.

- j. In consultation with the Sectional and Executive Presbyters, assign portfolios to the executive officers.
- k. Serve as General Council Presbyter.
- l. Make appointments and assign responsibilities as authorized by the Bylaws.
- m. Supervise all field ministries of the Executive Officers and members of the Presbyter Board.
- n. Together, with the team leaders, contact the churches as frequently as may be practical in the discharge of their responsibilities.
- o. Direct the Pastoral appointment and recommendation process as set forth in these Bylaws and the Network Affiliated Bylaws.

- p. With notification to the Sectional Presbyter, have the prerogative to initiate a meeting with the Pastor and board of a local church; and, along with those deemed necessary, be present at any official meeting of a local church.

## **Section 2. Assistant Network Superintendent**

*The Assistant Network Superintendent shall:*

- a. Serve as acting Superintendent in the event the office of the Network Superintendent becomes vacant or the Superintendent is temporarily unable to discharge the duties of the Superintendent's office.
- b. Serve as Vice-President of the Corporation.
- c. Preside at meetings of the Network Council or of the Presbyter Board by request of the Superintendent.
- d. Assist the Superintendent in the supervision of the work on the field and perform such other functions as may be directed by the Network Council, Presbyter Board, or Superintendent.
- e. Be an ex-officio member of all boards and committees.

## **Section 3. Network Secretary**

*The Network Secretary shall:*

- a. Make and keep the records of the proceedings of the Michigan Ministry Network and publish the same as approved and directed by the Presbyter Board.
- b. Keep a record of all credentialed ministers in the Michigan Ministry Network.
- c. Serve as secretary of the meetings of the Executive Board, the Presbyter Board, and the Credentials Board.
- d. Be custodian of the official seal.
- e. Implement General Council credentialing policies and guidelines under the direction of the Network Credentials Board.
- f. See that all properties of the Network are adequately insured, subject to the review of the Presbyter Board.
- g. With the Network Superintendent, be authorized to sign all legal documents on behalf of the Michigan Ministry Network. The Network Secretary may authorize a

designee to execute any and all documents relating to the purchase, sale, mortgage, loan, or disposition of any legal interest of the Network on any real property.

- h. With the Network Superintendent have the authority to transfer church property being held in the name of the Michigan Ministry Network, to a respective local church that has advanced from Network Affiliated status to General Council status if the name Michigan Ministry Network, is not on a mortgage as a guarantor, owner, or mortgagor and the respective local church has signed and recorded a Right of Reverter to the Michigan Ministry Network, which Right of Reverter shall be prepared by the Network Secretary and delivered to the respective local church.

There is no right of request of transfer and any request for transfer is subject to approval by the Network Superintendent and the Network Secretary, or the Presbyter Board which approval may be granted or denied at their discretion.

- i. Assist the Superintendent in the supervision of the work on the field, and perform such other functions as directed by the Network Council, Presbyter Board, or Superintendent.

#### **Section 4. Network Treasurer**

*The Network Treasurer shall:*

- a. Keep an accurate record of disbursements and receipts of all departments and shall conduct the work of this office according to accepted methods of business.
- b. Be custodian of the Michigan Ministry Network funds and shall deposit or invest same in the name of Michigan Ministry Network. All funds are to be deposited or invested with financial institutions approved by the Executive Board.
- c. Give periodic financial reports.
- d. Perform such other duties as requested by the Network Council or the Presbyter Board.
- e. Have the financial records of the Network reviewed at least once a year and audited as ordered by the Presbyter Board. Both the review and the audit shall be performed by an independent certified public accounting firm.

**Section 5. Executive Presbyters**

*The Executive Presbyters:*

- a. Shall assist the Executive Officers in supervising the activities of the Network and may act as substitutes for Executive Officers or Sectional Presbyters by request of the Network Superintendent.
- b. May be assigned administrative portfolios or other responsibilities by the Network Superintendent and the Presbyter Board.
- c. Review and set financial compensation for the Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer in accordance with the policies set by the Presbyter Board.
- d. Review and assign portfolios of Executive Officers in cooperation with the Network Superintendent.

**Section 6. Executive Board**

*The Executive Board shall:*

- a. Serve as an advisory board to the Executive Officers in implementing decisions and policies adopted by the Network Council and the Presbyter Board.
- b. Assist the Executive Officers in the formulation of plans and policies to be presented to the Presbyter Board or the Network Council for consideration.
- c. Assist the Executive Officers in supervising and reviewing the work of all departments and committees and in making recommendations to the Presbyter Board concerning matters which require its attention.
- d. Act in all matters involving discipline of ministers, subject to the minister's right of appeal to the Presbyter Board.
- e. Act upon all credential applications regarding annulment and recognition of General Council exceptions for divorce.
- f. Serve as a standing committee on revision of the Network Constitution and Bylaws.
- g. Meet at least twice during the year upon the call of the Network Superintendent, or a majority of the Executive Board.
- h. Serve as the Network Finance Committee and submit an annual budget to the Presbytery Board for its approval.

## **Section 7.     Presbyter Board**

*The Presbyter Board shall:*

- a. Act for the Network Council in all matters which affect its interests while the Council is not in session, subject to limitations which may be prescribed by the Council.
- b. Serve as the Board of Trustees for the Network Corporation and as trustees responsible for all Network property.
- c. Hold final jurisdiction over all departments, boards, and committees established by the Network Council with authority to approve, disapprove, or make necessary changes in their policies and actions, subject to review by the Network Council. All written policies and guidelines for Network departments shall be published and distributed to churches and individuals upon request.
- d. Assign portfolios and fill appointive offices not held by Executive Officers and appoint boards and committees in cooperation with the Network Superintendent.
- e. Declare any office vacant for causes as provided by the Bylaws and fill all vacancies except a vacancy in the offices of the Network Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Secretary-Treasurer.
- f. Serve as the Network Credentials Board.
- g. Provide supervision and Network Affiliated Bylaws for Network Affiliated churches.
- h. Determine the number of fellowship Sections and establish their boundaries.
- i. Authorize any non-budgeted Network expenditure in excess of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) and approve all endorsements of loans.
- j. Call special sessions of the Network Council and set the time and place for regular and special sessions.
- k. Review and approve all budgets and set financial policies.
- l. Meet at least twice during the year upon the call of the Executive Board, or a majority of the Presbyter Board.
- m. Provide opportunity for department leaders to present and discuss matters of importance to their departments with the Presbyter Board as deemed necessary.

**Section 8. Sectional Officers (Sectional Presbyters and Assistant Presbyters) and Sectional Responsibilities**

- a. Sectional Presbyters shall serve their respective section:
  - 1) On behalf of the Superintendent and fulfill the needed sectional responsibilities.
  - 2) Serve as chairpersons for their respective sectional meetings.
  - 3) Serve as members of the Credentials Board.
  - 4) Make official recommendations in regard to pastoral candidates after receiving approval from the Superintendent.
  - 5) Submit an annual written report at their respective Sectional Councils.
- b. Sectional Assistant Presbyters shall support the Sectional Presbyters to fulfill the responsibilities of their respective section.
- c. Sectional Officers shall also fulfill the following responsibilities:
  - 1) Cooperate with, assist, and act under the authority of the Superintendent in supervising Network activities, encouraging Michigan Missions and Church Planting enterprises and bringing assistance and counsel to local churches at the direction of the Superintendent within their respective Section.
  - 2) Focus on ministering to ministers by providing encouragement, fellowship, prayer, leadership development, and the building of relationships with the ministers in their Section.
  - 3) Promote fellowship meetings and other inter-church activities in which both credentialed ministers and local churches shall be encouraged to participate.
  - 4) Serve in cooperation with Network Directors.
  - 5) Be available to serve in a pastoral care and leadership development role for ministers in the Section.
  - 6) Keep a record of funds received and disbursed in the interest of their Section and submit an annual written report at their respective Sectional Council.

- 7) Be custodians of the funds of their Sections and deposit same in the name of their respective Sections in accordance with the financial policies determined by the Presbyter Board.
- 8) Notify credentialed ministers of their Sections about fellowship meetings and events in their Sections.

**Section 9. General Presbyters**

The duties of the General Presbyters shall be as defined by the Bylaws, minutes, policies, and approved practices of the General Council.

**Section 10. Network Directors**

Network Directors shall develop, promote, and encourage the ministries of their departments. They shall serve under the direction of the Network Officiary and be approved by the Presbyter Board for a term of one (1) year.

**ARTICLE VIII. BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

**Section 1. Standing Committees**

- a. **Qualifications.** All members of standing committees shall be ordained or licensed ministers of mature experience and ability or individuals who are members in good standing of affiliated local churches; all of whom have resided within the Network for six (6) months prior to the time of appointment.
- b. **Appointments.** Standing committees shall be appointed by the Network Superintendent in cooperation with the Presbyter Board.

**Section 2. Special Committees**

Special committees may be created by the Network Council in session or by the Network Presbytery.

**Section 3. Term of Office**

All appointed members of boards and committees shall serve from the time of their appointment until the June Presbyter meeting unless otherwise specified.

#### **Section 4. Resolutions Committee**

- a. Procedure for presentation of resolutions.** A Resolutions Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. All resolutions for presentation to the Network Council, shall be presented to the Network Secretary's office at least seventy-five (75) days prior to a Network Council. The Resolutions Committee shall prepare the resolutions and present them to the Presbyter Board prior to Network Council for review. The Network Secretary will have the finalized resolutions sent to the Network Council Credential Holders by mail or electronic means at least 30 days prior to the Network Council.
- b. Sponsorship policy.** All resolutions presented to the Resolutions Committee shall be signed by the author or sponsor. When a resolution is presented for the consideration of the Network Council in session the author, sponsor, or spokesperson appointed by the author or sponsor shall be expected to be the first speaker on behalf of the resolution.
- c. Appropriateness of resolutions.** The Resolutions Committee shall, by a two-thirds vote, determine the appropriateness of proposed resolutions. Inappropriate resolutions may only be those that, if adopted, would conflict with the Constitution or Bylaws; or whose substance is not in keeping with the General or Network Council.
- d. Right of sponsor.** If the Resolutions Committee determines that a resolution is inappropriate, it shall so advise the author and shall apprise the author of his or her right to present the proposed resolution to the Network Council in session for a determination as to appropriateness.
- e. Format of presentation.** The Resolution Committee shall:
  - (1) Put resolutions in proper form.
  - (2) Eliminate duplication of similar resolutions relating to a specific subject.
  - (3) Present resolutions in a logical sequence.

### **ARTICLE IX. LOCAL CHURCHES**

#### **Section 1. Classification of Local Churches**

- a. Network Affiliated churches.** Local churches that have not matured sufficiently to assume their full share of responsibility for the maintenance of scriptural order or do not meet the qualifications of the General Council Bylaws (Article VI, Section 5) shall be held under the general supervision of the Presbyter Board as a Network Affiliated church.

The Presbyter Board shall provide appropriate Network Affiliated Bylaws for Network Affiliated churches.

Network Affiliated churches shall complete an Annual Church Ministry Report (ACMR) each year.

An annual review of Network Affiliated churches will be done by the Presbyter Board on the basis of their ACMR and shall initiate appropriate action to encourage the church to advance to a General Council classification when they meet the qualifications.

A new Network Affiliated church, which is a church plant, will be under the direction of the Church Planting Director for up to three (3) years unless it is deemed prudent to advance the church sooner.

- b. General Council churches.** Local churches that meet the criteria set forth by the General Council that are self-governing and are amenable to the General Council and the Network in matters of doctrine and polity shall be considered a General Council church. General Council churches shall complete an Annual Church Ministry Report (ACMR) each year.
- c. Parent Affiliated Churches.** A local church that has begun at the initiation of a General Council (parent) church and is under the supervision of the parent church and its constitution and bylaws, will be classified as a Parent Affiliated Church (PAC). A Parent Affiliated Church shall be chartered through the General Council. Parent Affiliated Churches shall complete an Annual Church Ministry Report (ACMR) each year.
- d. Cooperating Assemblies local churches.** Provision may be made by the Network Council and the General Council Executive Presbytery for the status of a cooperating assembly, which would allow churches that subscribe to Article V. Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council Constitution, to enter into a cooperative status with the Network and the General Council on a temporary basis (four-year term, renewable by the request of the church congregation at the discretion of the Network in cooperation with the General Council Executive Presbytery) before officially affiliating with the Network and the General Council.

## **Section 2.      Reclassification of Local Churches**

- a.** If a General Council church falls below the standards for its current classification, in regard either to membership or the number of individuals qualified for election to office, the church may, at the discretion of the Presbyter Board, be reclassified to a Network Affiliated church.
- b.** If a General Council church falls below the standards for its current classification, in regard to the minimum membership required by the General Council, and the church is without a lead pastor, the church will be immediately reclassified to a Network Affiliated church. The church will return to its former status at the request of the congregation and the approval of the Executive Board.

- c. When a General Council church needs guidance for any reason, the Pastor or Official Board of the church should contact the Network Superintendent for counsel and advice. The Official Board of a church may request that the church be reclassified to Network Affiliated. The church will return to its former status at the request of the congregation and the approval of the Executive Board.
- d. Should a crisis arise in a General Council church and a resolution appears unlikely, the Network Superintendent or authorized Network Officer invited for counsel and advice may recommend to the church a vote to become reclassified to Network Affiliated. The church will return to its former status at the request of the congregation and the approval of the Executive Board.
- e. The Superintendent may contact and meet with the Pastor, or Pastor and Official Board, of a General Council church in an effort to resolve problems and conditions that may have arisen. If any situation is such that it requires immediate action, the Network Superintendent may reclassify the church to Network Affiliated subject to the ratification of the Executive Board and a 75% approval vote of the Presbyter Board within seven (7) days. The church will return to its former status at the request of the congregation and the approval of the Executive Board.
- f. In the event the Michigan Ministry Network, is required or becomes obligated to pay bills and/or mortgage payments for a General Council church, the church shall immediately become reclassified to Network Affiliated.
- g. Any reclassification of a General Council church that takes place in accordance with this section may be appealed to the Presbytery Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The church shall remain reclassified until the appeal has been acted upon by the Presbyter Board.

### **Section 3. Senior Pastor**

The senior Pastor for every Assemblies of God local church shall be a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **Section 4. Membership Requirements**

It is recommended that the minimum requirements for membership be:

- a. **Born Again.** Members in this local church shall be expected to give a clear testimony of having been born of the Spirit of God (John 3:3, 5-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17).
- b. **Baptism in the Holy Spirit.** Members shall have received the Holy Spirit or be earnestly seeking to be baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2-4).

- c. **Baptism in Water.** All members shall have followed the scriptural command to be baptized in water by immersion in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19).
- d. **God's Word.** Members shall believe in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures as the Word of God and the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
- e. **Holiness.** Members shall separate themselves from the world by refraining from the reading, viewing, listening, and participation in any activity, material and/or media that would be contrary to Scripture as pertaining to holiness, righteousness, clean living, and the testimony of such to this world. They shall reflect the truth that each believer's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 21:34,35; Romans 8:5-8; 12:1-2; 14:17-18; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 18-20; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Galatians 5:18-20; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 2:8-10; 4:12; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12; Revelation 21:8).
- f. **Habits.** Members shall abstain from the use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and the misuse of drugs (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).
- g. **Christ's Return.** Members shall earnestly cherish the hope and expectancy of the premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17).
- h. **Tenets of Faith.** Members shall fully subscribe to the Tenets of Faith as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Assemblies of God.
- i. **Cooperation.** Members shall indicate a willingness to cooperate in the work of the church, to be governed by its Rules of Order and to contribute regularly to its financial support as the Lord may prosper.
- j. **Application for Membership.** It is recommended that all churches use the application for membership form provided by the General Council.

## Section 5. Officers

It is recommended that all officers of a local church meet the following minimum requirements:

- a. Meet the minimum requirements for membership.
- b. Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
- c. Have been an active member of the church for at least one year. "Not a novice..." (1 Timothy 3:6,8-13).

- d. Hold to a high standard of Christian marriage. It is recommended that married persons are ineligible if either marriage partner has a former spouse living, except for an ecclesiastical annulment where deception and fraud was involved or when the divorce occurred prior to conversion (2 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 (1 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; Isaiah 1:16–17; Ephesians 4:1–3, 31–32; Ephesians 5) (General Council Bylaws, Article IX, Section 5 subsection a.)

## **Section 6. Transfer of Membership**

**Transfer to or from an Assemblies of God church.** When an individual desires to transfer membership from an Assemblies of God church to another Assemblies of God church, a letter of transfer of membership shall be required. The letter of transfer of membership should be provided by the Pastor/Board and granted upon the request of the individual. The letter should state whether or not the individual is in good standing and be sent by mail or electronic means. Responsibility for accepting or rejecting the transferee shall rest with the Official Board of the receiving church.

## **Section 7. Network Assistance**

- a. **Calling of Pastors.** As soon as the Pastorate becomes vacant, the Official Board of the church shall notify the Network Office, seek the advice of the Network Superintendent, and invite the Network Superintendent to meet with its Pulpit Committee before making contact with any prospective Pastor.

If the Network Superintendent cannot meet personally with the Pulpit Committee, the Network Superintendent may send a designee.

- b. **Advice and Counsel.** All local churches of our Fellowship may request assistance or counsel from the Network by contacting the Network Superintendent in any time of difficulty or need by:

- 1) Written request of the Pastor.
- 2) A majority vote of the Official Board of the church certified in a written statement bearing the signatures of two (2) members of the Board.
- 3) Petitions signed by twenty (20) percent of the active membership of the local church.

- c. **New Local Churches Resulting from a Division.** When efforts to maintain unity and harmony in a local church have failed and a division results in a new congregation being formed, the Network will exercise strong and wise leadership in ascertaining

the facts and seek to preserve Assemblies of God adherents for the Fellowship. Within the bounds of ethical principles, sound doctrine, and Network policy, the Network Officials should seek to retain any meritorious group with the Assemblies of God.

## **Section 8. Church Property**

It is recommended that all local churches of the Michigan Ministry Network include the following in their Bylaws.

- a. Incorporation.** The church shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan and all real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other property of whatever kind, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the corporate name of the church.
- b. Disposal of property.** No real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other property of whatever kind of the church shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without the same shall have been authorized by at least a two-thirds majority vote of the membership present at any duly called business meeting. The proposed action shall be announced in the notice of the business meeting.
- c. Certification.** The Pastor and the Secretary of the church shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage that the same has been duly authorized by the vote of the membership. Such certification shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.
- d. Defection.** In the case of a defection from the faith as set forth in the Statement of Fundamental Truths in the Constitution of Michigan Ministry Network, or from affiliation with the Assemblies of God, any portion of the membership subscribing to and practicing the above mentioned Tenets of Faith, and retaining their affiliations with the Assemblies of God shall hold possession of and full title to all real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other property of whatever kind of the church with full rights under the provision of this Constitution and Bylaws.
- e. Church Closing.** Should the church cease to function as an Assemblies of God church for a period of ninety (90) days, title to all real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other property and assets of whatever kind of the church shall revert to the Michigan Ministry Network, an ecclesiastical corporation organized under the laws of the State of Michigan with headquarters in Brighton, Michigan.

It is the parent body for churches in Michigan and is an integral part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, whose national headquarters is in Springfield, Missouri, organized exclusively to operate for religious purposes with tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

- f. **Reverter Clause in Title.** Title to all real property owned by the church shall contain a Network approved reverter clause wherein the property reverts to Michigan Ministry Network, if the property ceases to be used as an Assemblies of God church or for associated church purposes either as a result of defection or termination as noted in subsection d. and e. above, or as a result of sale.

## **Section 9. Sale and disbursement of closed church assets and property.**

The Michigan Ministry Network shall forthwith have full authority to use or dispose of closed church assets and property. Net proceeds from the sale or rental of any property under this provision shall be used in the following manner.

- a. 40% of the proceeds shall be designated for Church Planting in the Michigan Ministry Network to help with the initial purchase of land, buildings, and/or rental of buildings for new church plants. The Church Planting and Development Board will make grants for new church plants under the policies approved by the Presbyter Board.
- b. 40% of the proceeds shall be designated to church recalibration in the Michigan Ministry Network to help with building repairs, sound, video and technology upgrades, operational expenses such as utilities and grounds (winter/summer) maintenance. The Recalibration Board will make grants under the policies approved by the Presbyter Board.
- c. 20% of the proceeds shall be designated to Michigan Ministry Network Camps for debt reduction or capital improvements.

## **ARTICLE X. MINISTRY**

### **Section 1. Requirements for Ministry**

The requirements for ministerial credentials for the Michigan Ministry Network, shall be the same as those stated in General Council Bylaws, Article VII. Ministry.

### **Section 2. Discipline**

All matters regarding discipline of credentialed ministers of the Michigan Ministry Network, shall be the same as those stated in General Council Bylaws, Article X. Discipline.

### **Section 3. Arbitration**

Inasmuch as the Scriptures require Christians to take their disputes to other believers and not to the civil courts (I Corinthians 6:1-8), all disputes which may arise between any credential holder of the Michigan Ministry Network (including anyone holding a Layman's Certificate) and the Network itself (including any officer or director thereof) while the individual is a member, shall be resolved by binding arbitration if efforts to mediate or conciliate the dispute have failed. Either party to the dispute may initiate the arbitration

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

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

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

## ARTICLE XI. MINISTERIAL RELATIONS

### Section 1. Relationship to Network

- a. **Loyalty.** All credentialed ministers shall be amenable to the Michigan Ministry Network in matters of doctrine and conduct.
- b. **Transfers.** Assemblies of God credentialed ministers coming into the Network to reside shall be required to affiliate with the Michigan Ministry Network within sixty (60) days by filing a letter of transfer from their former Network. By so doing, they agree to be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Michigan Ministry Network.
- c. Michigan Ministry Network credentialed ministers not located within the Network desiring to retain their credentials with the Michigan Ministry Network, may do so under the following conditions:
  - 1) Ministers moving to serve at General Headquarters.
  - 2) Those who are retired from active ministry.
  - 3) Those who are in the Armed Forces currently on active duty.
  - 4) Those who are serving at schools affiliated with the General Council or at schools approved by the Network Officer.
  - 5) Students attending schools outside their Michigan Ministry Network.

### Section 2. Relationship to Pastorate

- a. **Vacating of Pastorate.** A minister resigning from a Pastorate shall be expected to give the local church at least thirty (30) days notice before vacating the pulpit.

The minister shall immediately notify the Network Office of the resignation and advise the local church board to seek the advice of the Network Superintendent in regard to a successor.

In case a church requests the resignation of a Pastor, it shall be expected to give the Pastor at least thirty (30) days in which to vacate the pulpit or pay the Pastor at least thirty (30) days salary in advance.

- b. **Holding Office in Local Church.** No credential holder, other than the Pastor, shall serve as a member of a local church board. Whether or not the credentialed minister is a member of that local church, the credentialed minister shall not take part in the business of that local church unless the credentialed minister is specifically asked to

do so by the Pastor of that local church. The credentialed minister may serve in a spiritual function when requested by the Pastor. This restriction shall not apply to Network Officers or their designees when fulfilling the duties of their offices.

### **Section 3. Relationship to Other Churches**

- a. Communications.** All credentialed ministers are advised against interfering with churches of which they are not a part. They shall not contact members and/or adherents of the church in person, by correspondence, or in any way that will hurt the influence of the leader. Communications which concern the church shall be directed to the Pastor and not to individual members. Where there is no Pastor, communications relating to the church shall be addressed to the officers of the church. Any minister who so offends shall be subject to discipline.
- b. Objectionable Conduct.** A written complaint concerning such a violation of ministerial ethics, signed by the Pastor or two members of the local Official Board of the church may be filed with the Network Office. Initiative in dealing with such offenders may be taken by the Network Officer.

### **Section 4. Relationship to a Non-Assemblies of God Church**

Inasmuch as unity is a vital principle for growth and spiritual development of the church, 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. All credentialed ministers shall be required to obtain approval of the Network Officer before ministering in any church not listed as an Assemblies of God church by the General Council. This shall not apply to ministry in inter-denominational meetings and ministry in other churches within their own locality.

### **Section 5. Attitude Toward Those Removed From the Fellowship**

In order to render effective decisions made in the interest of proper discipline and for the protection of our churches, all who hold credentials shall refrain from taking an attitude toward those removed from the Fellowship that would tend to nullify or set at naught the solemn verdict of those entrusted with this responsibility. A minister who so offends shall be subject to reprimand or, if persisted in, appropriate discipline.

## **ARTICLE XII. WORLD EVANGELISM**

### **Section 1. Scope and Policy**

Since the Master has declared that the field is the world, the Michigan Ministry Network Council shall assume the responsibility to do all in its power to spread the full Gospel in the United States and throughout the whole world.

## Section 2. Organization

- a. **Network World Missions Director.** The Network Superintendent, in cooperation with the Presbyter Board, shall appoint a Network World Missions Director.
- b. **Network Missions Committee.** The Network Missions Committee shall review any applicant for missionary appointment under Assemblies of God World Missions and Assemblies of God US Missions as directed by the Presbyter Board.
- c. **Church Planting Director.** The Network Superintendent, in cooperation with the Presbyter Board, shall appoint a Church Planting Director.
- d. **Network Church Planting and Development Board.** The Church Planting and Development Board shall establish policies, budgets, new church planting strategies, etc. Appointed members may be added to the Church Planting Board at the discretion of the Network Superintendent.

The Church Planting and Development board shall have the prerogative to authorize the purchase and disposal of all Church Planting and Development property. Legal documents for the purchase and disposal of such property shall be approved and signed by the Network Superintendent and Network Secretary-Treasurer or their designees.

*Term of Office.* All appointed members shall be appointed for a period of one (1) year. They shall serve a maximum of five (5) consecutive terms with a one (1) term interim before becoming eligible again for appointment to this Board.

## Section 3. Assemblies of God World and U.S. Missions Support

- a. **Missionary and Ministry Support.** Every local church shall be encouraged to assume responsibility for support of duly appointed missionaries and approved ministries in cooperation with Assemblies of God World and U.S. Missions. It is the prerogative of each lead pastor and local church to present a plan that promotes faith and generosity that will work best in their local church setting to raise support for missional endeavors.
- b. **Other nationally endorsed Assemblies of God missions programs.** Each Pastor is encouraged to promote giving to other nationally endorsed Assemblies of God missions funding programs.

#### **Section 4. Planting New Local Churches**

The Church Planting and Development Board shall function under policies approved by the Presbyter Board. New local churches shall be recognized by all concerned as Assemblies of God churches from their very inception. They, except for Parent Affiliated Churches which are under the supervision and governance of the parent church, shall be affiliated with the Michigan Ministry Network as Network Affiliated churches and function under the Network Affiliated Bylaws furnished by the Presbyter Board.

### **ARTICLE XIII. NETWORK MINISTRIES**

#### **Section 1. Network Ministries**

Network ministries and departments may be established as needed. They shall operate under the general supervision of the Network Officer and operate in accord with the department's approved policies and guidelines.

#### **Section 2. North Central University**

- a. Ownership.** The Michigan Ministry Network is a partner in the ownership and operation of North Central University, located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. North Central University is recognized as an integral part of the Michigan Ministry Network.
- b. Board of Regents.** The Michigan Ministry Network will provide representation to the North Central University Board of Regents according to the policies established by North Central University.

### **ARTICLE XIV. ADULT AND TEEN CHALLENGE U.S.A.**

Adult and Teen Challenge U.S.A. operating within the Michigan Ministry Network shall cooperate with the Network and the General Council of the Assemblies of God by compliance with the accreditation standards established by Adult and Teen Challenge U.S.A.

### **ARTICLE XV. BENEVOLENT MINISTRIES**

The Michigan Ministry Network may involve itself in humanitarian and benevolent ministries. Such benevolent ministries shall operate under the supervision of the Network Officer in accordance with approved policies and guidelines.

### **ARTICLE XVI. PUBLICATIONS**

The Michigan Ministry Network shall continue to support all General Council papers and publications and any other publications authorized by the General Council.

## ARTICLE XVII. FINANCE

### Section 1. Network Council Support

- a. Ministers.** Credentialed ministers of the Michigan Ministry Network receiving ministerial income, including housing allowance, shall agree to contribute not less than 85% of their tithe for Network support.

Credentialed ministers who receive no ministerial income shall agree to contribute not less than \$240 annually of their tithe for Network support.

Every credential holder is encouraged to support the Network monthly and in no case contribute less than \$240 annually.

Those credentialed ministers who have the renewal status of Senior-Retired and are no longer engaged in any regular appointed ministry, shall be free to distribute as they desire the portion of their tithes previously given to the Network.

AG World Missionaries, AG US Missionaries, Dual Church Planters, and Chaplains are required to adhere to the General Council Bylaws in Article VII, Section 8, subsection c., regarding their financial responsibility to the Network.

In cases where a senior Pastor feels that the local church is in dire financial need, the Pastor shall continue to contribute the required Network support; and notify the Network Secretary-Treasurer who shall investigate the situation and take appropriate action.

- b. Local Churches.** It is recommended that each local church make a monthly contribution equal to at least one percent (1%) of its general fund offerings to the Network for its support.

### Section 2. Support of Network Ministries

It is recommended that each local church support Network ministries and departments with monthly offerings or in accordance with departmental policies.

### Section 3. Depositories

All Network corporate funds shall be held in the name of the Michigan Ministry Network, and deposited or invested with financial institutions approved by the Executive Board.

#### **Section 4. Network Indebtedness**

- a. Limitations.** No unbudgeted indebtedness exceeding \$15,000 shall be incurred by the Michigan Ministry Network unless authorized by a two-thirds vote of the Presbyter Board.
- b. Loan Endorsement.** The Presbyter Board shall be authorized to endorse loans obtained by local churches from banks or other sources up to the total amount of fifty percent (50%) of the capital investment fund of the Network.

#### **Section 5. Financial Reviews and Audits**

An annual financial review or audit, as determined by the Presbyter Board, shall be done by an independent certified public firm. The fiscal year of Departments and Sections shall conform to the fiscal year of the Network.

#### **Section 6. Finance Committee**

The Executive Board shall serve as the Network Finance Committee. The Finance Committee shall be charged with the responsibility of studying the budgets of all Network Departments and shall serve in an advisory capacity in matters of general finance. They shall give preliminary survey and advice concerning any major project on the Network or Department level involving the expenditure of funds.

#### **Section 7. Budgets**

All Network Departments shall submit a proposed budget annually at least ninety (90) days before the close of the fiscal year. These budgets shall be examined by the Finance Committee and then submitted to the Presbyter Board for adoption.

### **ARTICLE XVIII. RETIREMENT**

In order to provide a retirement income for ministers, it is recommended that each church and each minister contribute a minimum amount equal to 2½ percent of the minister's housing and salary to the Minister's Benefit Association.

### **ARTICLE XIX. MILITARY SERVICE**

As a Movement we affirm our loyalty to the government of the United States of America in war and peace.

We shall continue to insist, as we have historically, on the right of each member to choose to declare their position as a combatant, noncombatant, or a conscientious objector.

## **ARTICLE XX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED**

In accord with its constitutional prerogatives, The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Michigan Ministry Network have declared themselves in agreement pertaining to certain matters as stated in the following General Council Bylaws, Article IX. Doctrine and Practices Disapproved, B. List of Doctrines and Practices Disapproved. It is the responsibility of Credential Holders to familiarize themselves with the “Doctrines and Practices Disapproved” by the General Council of the Assemblies of God and refrain from participating in them.

## **ARTICLE XXI. MICHIGAN MINISTRY NETWORK AS AN EMPLOYER**

### **Section 1. At Will Employment**

The Michigan Ministry Network is an at will employer and has the right to terminate any employee at any time, pursuant to the requirements of these Bylaws.

### **Section 2. Religious Employer**

The Michigan Ministry Network is a religious employer and makes employment decisions based on its religious beliefs, including but not limited to its Statement of Faith.

## **ARTICLE XXII. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any regular or special meeting of the Network Council provided the proposed amendment has been submitted to the Network Secretary’s office at least seventy-five (75) days prior to the session at which the amendment is to be considered. The Network Secretary will present any proposed amendments to the Presbyter Board prior to Network Council for their examination after the Resolutions Committee has prepared them. The Network Secretary shall send, by mail or electronic means, a copy of the proposed amendment to the Credential Holders of the Network Council at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. A majority of all votes cast shall be necessary for the adoption of an amendment to the Bylaws.

When changes occur in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws that cause the re-numbering or re-lettering of sections of those documents that are referenced in the Michigan Ministry Network Bylaws, the Network Bylaws may be amended to reflect those changes by action of the Presbyter Board, providing the changes are limited to such re-numbering and re-lettering items only, and that no change in the intent of the Network Bylaws occurs.