



Constitution and Bylaws

Michigan Ministry Network

REVISED MAY 3, 2022

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MICHIGAN MINISTRY NETWORK**

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RULES OF ORDER

Network Affiliated ChurchesTo be added upon approval.

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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).

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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).

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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 (I Corinthians 12:4-10,28), but different in purpose and use.

9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Romans 12:1,2; 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).

- 1 b. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- 2 c. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfect in the image
- 3 of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).
- 4 d. To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world (Psalm
- 5 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).
- 6

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

- 10 a. Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural
- 11 signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3,4).
- 12 b. Adds a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-
- 13 16; 1 Corinthians 12-14).
- 14 c. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and
- 15 gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ,
- 16 and to care for the poor and needy of the world (Galatians 5:22-26; Matthew 25:37-
- 17 40; Galatians 6:10; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Corinthians 12:28;
- 18 Colossians 1:29).
- 19

20 **11. The Ministry**

21

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

27

28 **12. Divine Healing**

29

30 Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in
31 the Atonement, and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4,5; Matthew 8:16,17; James
32 5:14-16).

33

34 **13. The Blessed Hope**

35

36 The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with
37 those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed
38 hope of the Church (I Thessalonians 4:16,17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians
39 15:51,52).

40

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

42

43 The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope,
44 followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one
45 thousand years (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27,30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6).

1 This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37:21,22; Zephaniah
2 3:19,20; Romans 11:26,27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm
3 72:3-8; Micah 4:3,4)

15. The Final Judgment

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

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

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

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

ARTICLE VI. PREROGATIVES

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23 1. To incorporate and to elect officers.
24
25 2. To approve all Scriptural teachings, methods, and conduct, and to disapprove
26 unscriptural teachings, methods, and conduct.
27
28 3. To encourage and promote the evangelization of our Network, our Country, and the
29 World. To establish local churches within the Network territory, and to assist
30 established local churches as may be necessary and advisable.
31
32 4. To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like precious faith.
33
34 5. To establish and maintain such departments and institutions as may be necessary for
35 the propagation of the Gospel and the work of this Pentecostal Fellowship.
36
37 6. To have the right to buy, take, or otherwise acquire, own, hold in trust, use, sell,
38 convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of such real, personal, intellectual,
39 tangible and intangible, or other property of whatever kind as may be useful or
40 needed to carry out its work.
41
42 7. To examine candidates for the ministry and present qualified candidates to the
43 General Council Credentials Committee.

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3 **ARTICLE VII. RELATIONSHIPS**

4
5 **Section 1. Network Council**

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

9 **Section 2. Local Churches**

10
11 Local churches that are members of the Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network shall
12 recognize and be subject to the Network Council as set forth in the General Council
13 Constitution (Article XI).

14
15 **ARTICLE VIII. MEMBERSHIP**

16
17 **Section 1. Ministers**

18
19 All ministers holding credentials with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, having
20 their permanent residence within the geographical boundaries of the Michigan Ministry
21 Network, are considered members of the Michigan Ministry Network except as provided for
22 in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws (Bylaws Article VII, Section 8, subsection b.)

23
24 Ministers listed in the Michigan Ministry Network Bylaws, Article XI, Section I, subsection c.,
25 are also considered members of the Michigan Ministry Network.

26
27 **Section 2. Assemblies**

28
29 All General Council and Network affiliated local churches within the geographical boundaries
30 of the Michigan Ministry Network shall be considered to be member churches except as
31 provided for in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws (Constitution Article X, Section
32 3, Bylaws Article V, Section 5). Each local church has the right of representation at the
33 Network Council according to the provision in the Network Bylaws (Article III, Section I,
34 subsections a. and b).

35
36 **ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS**

37
38 **Section 1. Network Meetings**

39
40 a. Regular sessions of the Network Council shall be held annually pursuant to a call by
41 the Presbyter Board.

42
43 b. Special sessions of the Network Council may be arranged if agreed to by a two-thirds
44 majority of the Presbyter Board.

1 c. The right of initiative in calling a special session of the Network Council shall be
2 granted to any ordained minister affiliated with the Assemblies of God, Michigan
3 Ministry Network. A statement of the reasons for calling the special session, signed
4 by not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the ordained ministers affiliated with
5 the Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network, shall be filed with the Network
6 Secretary. The Executive Officers shall thereupon issue a call for the special session
7 in accordance with the petition. Prior to the submission of a petition exercising the
8 right of initiative, any petitioner must first consult with the Executive Board in an
9 effort to resolve the stated reasons for the petition.

10
11 d. Notice of all regular and special sessions of the Network Council shall be
12 communicated by the Network Secretary to the membership of the Network Council
13 at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting and shall include a statement of the
14 purpose for the meeting.

15
16 **Section 2. Sectional Meetings**

17
18 a. A Sectional Council Meeting shall be held annually in each Section at least thirty (30)
19 days prior to the Network Council. Arrangements for the meeting shall be initiated
20 by the Network Officiary with the cooperation of the Sectional Officers of each
21 Section.

22
23 b. Sectional Business Meetings as may be required shall be called by the Sectional
24 Presbyter or the Network Superintendent.

25
26 c. Regular fellowship meetings shall be conducted under the direction of the Sectional
27 Presbyter.

28
29 **ARTICLE X. OFFICERS**

30
31 **Section 1. Executive Officers**

32
33 There shall be a Superintendent, an Assistant Superintendent, and a Secretary-Treasurer,
34 who shall be elected as provided in the Bylaws. They shall be the Executive Officers and shall
35 constitute the Network Officiary.

36
37 **Section 2. Executive Presbyters**

38
39 There shall be three (3) Executive Presbyters who shall be elected as provided in the Bylaws.

40
41 **Section 3. Executive Board**

42
43 The Executive Board shall consist of the Executive Officers and the Executive Presbyters.
44

1 **Section 4. General Council Presbyters**

2
3 The Assemblies of God, Michigan Network, shall be represented in the General Council
4 Presbytery by three members, which shall be the Network Executive Officers, by election to
5 the office of Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Secretary-Treasurer, they shall
6 also be elected to serve as General Presbyters.

7
8 The General Presbyter is the official policy making body of the General Council of the
9 Assemblies of God when the General Council is not in session (General Council Constitution
10 Article IX. Section 3).

11
12 **Section 5. Sectional Officers**

- 13
14 a. A Presbyter shall be elected by each Section to serve the Section.
15
16 b. An Assistant Sectional Presbyter shall be elected by each Section to serve the Section.

17
18 **Section 6. Presbyter Board**

19
20 The Presbyter Board shall consist of the Executive Board, the Sectional Presbyters, and
21 Additional Presbyters.

22
23 **Section 7. Departmental Directors**

24
25 Directors of departments established by action of the Network Council or Presbyter Board
26 shall be appointed according to the provision of the Bylaws.

27
28 **Section 8. Nominees for General Council Non-Resident Executive Presbyter**

- 29
30 a. *Nominees.* The Michigan Ministry Network shall nominate two ministers from its
31 Network, one of whom is not an elected full-time Network Official, to be presented
32 to the General Council as its nominees to serve as a Non-Resident General Council
33 Executive Presbyter from the Great Lakes region in accordance with the General
34 Council Constitution and Bylaws (General Council Constitution Article IX, Section 2.
35 (a); Bylaws Article II, Section 2., subsection c., subparagraph (1) (a).
36
37 b. *Additional Representation Nominees.* The Michigan Ministry Network shall nominate
38 three additional ministers from its Network, one who is an ordained pastor under 40
39 years of age at the time of election and one who is an ordained female (no age
40 requirement) and one ordained African-American (no age requirement) as its
41 nominees to serve on the Executive Presbytery of the General Council in accordance
42 with the General Council Constitution and Bylaws (General Council Constitution,
43 Article IX, Section 2., (a); Bylaws Article II, Section 2., subsection c., subparagraph (2)
44 (c).

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3 **ARTICLE XI. LOCAL CHURCHES**

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

9 **ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION CLAUSE**

10
11 In the event the Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network, shall cease to function for
12 the purposes herein set forth, then all real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or
13 other property of whatever kind, and all assets remaining after satisfying debts and
14 obligations, shall revert to the parent body, The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a
15 Missouri non-profit Corporation, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri. The General
16 Council shall have full authority to sell such property and to use the proceeds derived thereof
17 for the extension of the work of the Assemblies of God. In the event of cessation of the
18 Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network, its Board of Trustees shall transfer all
19 properties and any remaining assets, in accordance with the foregoing provisions, within one
20 year after the date such cessation. If such transfer is not made within the time prescribed
21 above, or if the aforesaid General Council shall be unable or unwilling to accept the aforesaid
22 transfer, then disposition thereof shall be made by the court of the county in which the
23 headquarters office of the Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network is located,
24 provided that in such case proceeds of the dissolution shall be distributed to organizations
25 having purposes nearest the purpose of the Assemblies of God.

26
27 **ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS**

28
29 Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any regular or special meeting of the
30 Network Council provided the proposed amendment has been submitted to the Executive
31 Board at least sixty (60) days prior to the session at which the amendment is to be
32 considered. The Network Secretary shall send either by mail or an electronic copy of the
33 proposed amendment to the membership of the Network Council at least thirty (30) days
34 prior to the meeting. A two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be necessary for the
35 adoption of an amendment.

36
37 When changes occur in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws that cause the re-
38 numbering or re-lettering of sections of those documents that are referenced in the
39 Michigan Ministry Network Constitution, the Network Constitution may be amended to
40 reflect those changes by action of the Presbyter Board, providing the changes are limited to
41 such re-numbering and re-lettering items only, and that no change in the intent of the
42 Network Constitution occurs.

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**BYLAWS
of the
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, MICHIGAN 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 Assemblies of God, Michigan 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.

- 1 4) Registration of delegates. Delegates shall be registered who present
2 certification signed by either the Pastor or the Secretary of their local church
3 indicating that they have been elected by the congregation or appointed by
4 the Official Board.

5
6 **Section 2. Quorum**

7
8 **a. Network Council.** The registered credentialed ministers and registered delegates
9 who are present at any duly called Network Council Meeting shall constitute a
10 quorum.

11
12 **b. Presbyter Board.** A majority of the Presbyter Board assembled for a duly called
13 meeting shall constitute a quorum.

14
15 **c. Executive Board.** A majority of the Executive Board assembled for a duly called
16 meeting shall constitute a quorum.

17
18 **Section 3. Alternate Voting**

19
20 The Executive Officers, Executive Board and Presbyter Board may conduct their work and
21 vote through the use of any appropriate communications equipment in matters where time
22 is of the essence, provided all persons participating are given a reasonable opportunity to
23 respond. Following the use of such alternate voting, the Network Secretary shall reduce to
24 writing the action supported by the members and report it at the next duly called meeting.
25 Such action shall be considered officially approved and binding.

26
27 **ARTICLE IV. NETWORK COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETINGS**

28
29 All regular business meetings of the Network Council may begin with prayer and shall
30 include:

- 31
32 • Report and keynote address of Network Superintendent.
33 • Report of Assistant Network Superintendent.
34 • Report of Network Secretary.
35 • Report of Network Treasurer.
36 • Reports of Network Directors.
37 • Reports of Network Boards and Committees.
38 • Report of Roster Committee.
39 • Unfinished business.
40 • Election of officers.
41 • New business.
42

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.

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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.

1 **Section 3. Sectional Officers**

2
3 **a. Sectional Presbyters**

4
5 1) *Qualifications.* The Sectional Presbyters shall be ordained ministers of mature
6 experience and ability who have been members of the Michigan Ministry
7 Network and have resided in the Section for at least six (6) months and in the
8 Network for at least one (1) year.

9
10 2) *Nominations and Elections*

11 a) All Sectional Presbyters shall be elected by the voters of their respective
12 Sections at the Sectional Business Meeting to be held not less than thirty (30)
13 days prior to the Network Council. In the event that the elected individual is
14 unable to serve, a special Sectional Business Meeting may be called, while the
15 Network Council is in session, for the purpose of filling the office.
16 Announcement given during any business session of the Network Council
17 shall be deemed adequate notice of the meeting. The meeting may be
18 chaired by any ordained minister appointed by the Superintendent.

19
20 b) All candidates shall be nominated and voted upon by secret ballot.

21
22 c) If a nominee receives two-thirds of the votes cast on the nominating ballot,
23 the individual shall be declared elected. If such a majority is not obtained on
24 the nominating ballot, on succeeding electoral ballots a simple majority of all
25 votes cast shall be required to elect. If after three (3) electoral ballots such a
26 majority is not reached, all candidates except the two receiving the highest
27 number of votes on the third ballot shall be eliminated from further balloting.
28 The results of each electoral ballot shall be posted until an election is
29 achieved.

30
31 d) The results of the election shall be presented at the Network Council.

32
33 3) *Term of Office.* The term of office shall be for two (2) years from the adjournment
34 of the Network Council following election and shall conclude at the adjournment
35 of the regularly scheduled Network Council after two (2) years. Sectional
36 Presbyters are eligible to serve three (3) consecutive, two-year (2) terms with a
37 one-year (1) interim before becoming eligible again for election to this office.

38
39 **b. Assistant Sectional Presbyters**

40
41 1) *Qualifications.* The Assistant Sectional Presbyters of the Sections shall be
42 ordained or licensed ministers of mature experience and ability who have been
43 members of the Michigan Ministry Network and have resided in the Section for
44 at least six (6) months and in the Network for at least one (1) year.

1 2) *Nominations and Elections.* They shall be nominated and elected in the same
2 manner as the Sectional Presbyters.

3
4 3) *Term of Office.* The term of office shall be for two (2) years from the adjournment
5 of the Network Council following election and shall conclude at the adjournment
6 of the regularly scheduled Network Council after two (2) years. Assistant
7 Sectional Presbyters are eligible to serve three (3) consecutive, two-year (2)
8 terms, with a one-year (1) interim before becoming eligible again for election to
9 this office.

10
11 **Section 4. Additional Ethnic Minority, Female, and Under 40 Presbyters**

12
13 Additional Presbyters shall be elected, one each from the following groups: Ethnic
14 Minorities, Female, and Ministers Under 40 years old.

15
16 **a. Qualifications:** Additional Presbyters shall be ordained ministers of mature
17 experience and ability who have been members of the Michigan Ministry Network
18 and have resided in the Network for at least one (1) year, and who, by virtue of
19 ethnicity indicated on their credential renewal, gender, or age, qualify for one or
20 more of these three categories.

21
22 **b. Nominations and Elections:**

23
24 1.) Additional Presbyters of the Michigan Network shall be elected at regular or
25 special sessions of the Network Council.

26
27 2.) They shall be nominated in the following manner:

28
29 a) Each Sectional Council at its annual meeting prior to the next regular
30 Network Council in session, when an election is scheduled, shall receive a
31 nominating ballot by secret ballot for the office of Additional Presbyter for
32 each category. The nominees may be residents of any Section within the
33 Network. All of those nominated will be contacted by the Network Office,
34 and only those willing to accept the nomination will be presented to the
35 Network Council as nominees. Nominees shall supply the requested bio
36 information.

37
38 b) At a special session of Network Council, if a nominee receives 2/3 majority
39 votes on the nominating ballot, the individual shall be declared elected.

40
41 3) A two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be required to elect. If such a majority
42 shall not have been reached by the first three (3) electoral ballots, all candidates
43 except the two (2) receiving the highest number of votes on the third ballot shall
44 be eliminated from further balloting, and the requirement for election shall be

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

3
4 4) Since Additional Presbyter nominees may be nominated in more than one
5 category, they may allow their name to stand for each category. Once elected,
6 they will automatically be removed from subsequent Additional Presbyter
7 elections in those other categories for which they were nominated.

8
9 5) Should a Sectional Presbyter be elected as Additional Presbyter, the individual
10 shall have the right to choose which office the individual will accept.

11
12 **c. Term of Office:** The term of office shall be for two (2) years from the adjournment
13 of the Network Council following election and shall conclude at the adjournment of
14 the regularly scheduled Network Council after two (2) years. Additional Presbyters
15 are eligible to serve two (2) consecutive, two-year (2) terms with a one-year (1)
16 interim before becoming eligible again for election to this office.

17
18 **Section 5. Nominees for Non-Resident General Council Executive Presbyter**

19
20 a. **Nominees.** At a Network Council prior to a General Council at which the election
21 will be held, two nominees from the Michigan Ministry Network, one of whom is not
22 an elected full-time official, shall be nominated by a two-thirds vote, to be presented
23 to the General Council along with nominees from other Networks in the Great Lakes
24 area, for election as non-resident Executive Presbyter. Any nominee must be a
25 member of the Michigan Ministry Network who is an ordained minister of mature
26 experience and ability and whose life and ministry are above question. There is no
27 minimum residency requirement.

28
29 b. **Additional Representation Nominees.** At a Network Council prior to the General
30 Council at which the election shall be held, three (3) additional nominees, one (1)
31 ordained pastor under 40 years of age at the time of election, one (1) ordained
32 female (no age requirement), and one (1) ordained African-American minister (no
33 age requirement) shall be nominated by a two-thirds vote, to be presented to the
34 Executive Presbytery. From the nominees, the General Presbytery shall select and
35 submit to the General Council four (4) names of ordained ministers under 40 years
36 of age at the time of election, four (4) names of ordained female ministers (no age
37 requirement), and four (4) names of ordained African-American ministers (no age
38 requirement). The candidates shall be presented to the General Council in session
39 and voted on by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote shall be required to elect. Each
40 nominee must be a member of the Michigan Ministry Network who is of mature
41 experience and ability and whose life and ministry are above question.

42
43 They shall be nominated in the following manner:
44

1 In the year in which a regular General Council is to be held, each Sectional Council at
2 its annual meeting prior to the next regular Network Council in session shall receive
3 a nominating ballot by secret ballot. They shall choose from a list of names who
4 qualify for each office under the above provision. All of those nominated will be
5 contacted by the Network Office, and only those willing to accept the nomination will
6 be presented to the Network Council as nominees. In each case, a two-thirds
7 majority of all votes cast shall be required to present the nominee to the General
8 Council. If such a majority shall not have been received by the first three (3) electoral
9 ballots, all candidates except the two (2) receiving the highest number of votes on
10 the third ballot shall be eliminated from further balloting, and the requirement for
11 election shall be reduced to a simple majority on the fourth electoral ballot. The
12 results of each electoral ballot shall be posted until an election is achieved.
13

14 **Section 6. General Council Presbyters**

15
16 The Network shall be represented in the General Presbytery by three members.
17

- 18 **a.** Qualifications. They shall be ordained ministers of mature experience and ability
19 whose lives and ministries are above reproach who have resided in the Network for
20 at least two (2) years.
- 21
22 **b.** The Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network, shall be represented in the
23 General Council Presbytery by three members, which shall be the Network Executive
24 Officers, by election to the office of Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and
25 Secretary-Treasurer, they shall also be elected to serve as General Presbyters.
26
- 27 **c. Additional General Presbyter Representation.** Two (2) additional General Presbyters
28 from the Great Lakes area, one (1) ordained minister under 40 years of age at the
29 time of election and one (1) ordained female (no age requirement), shall be elected
30 according to the annual rotating Network schedule set by the General Council
31 Executive Presbytery.
32

33 They shall be nominated in the following manner:
34

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

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

7
8 The term of office shall be for one (1) year from the date of election.
9

10 **Section 7. Appointed Network Directors**

11
12 **a. Qualifications.** All appointed directors shall hold credentials with the Assemblies of
13 God and be in good standing with the Michigan Ministry Network or be individuals
14 who are members in good standing of a local Assemblies of God church. The Network
15 Affiliated Church Director and the Michigan Missions and Church Planting Director
16 shall be ordained ministers.
17

18 **b. Appointments.** All Network Directors shall be appointed and reviewed by the
19 Network Superintendent in cooperation with the Presbyter Board.
20

21 **ARTICLE VI. VACANCIES**

22 23 **Section 1. Occurrence**

24
25 **a.** Any office shall become vacant:

26
27 1) Upon the death of the officeholder.

28
29 2) Upon the resignation of the officeholder.

30
31 3) If the officeholder ceases to meet the requirements for election to the office.

32
33 4) If the officeholder is removed by a two-thirds vote of the Presbyter Board due to
34 departure from the Tenets of Faith, declared open change in doctrinal views,
35 moral depravity, mental or physical incapacity, dereliction of duty, or any good
36 and sufficient cause.
37

38 **b.** Any executive officeholder so removed shall have the right of appeal to the Executive
39 Presbytery of the General Council. The officeholder shall have the right to appeal the
40 decision of the Executive Presbytery of the General Council to the General Presbytery
41 whose decision shall be final. Should the officeholder choose to appeal the case in
42 this manner, the officeholder shall be placed under suspension, but shall continue to
43 receive the compensations of the office until the case is settled.
44

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

5
6 **Section 2. Filling Vacancies**

- 7
8 **a. Superintendent.** If the office of the Network Superintendent becomes vacant for any
9 cause, the Assistant Network Superintendent shall become acting Superintendent
10 until the next regular meeting of Network Council, provided it shall be convened
11 within sixty (60) days; otherwise, the Presbyter Board shall convene a special session
12 of the Network Council to elect a Network Superintendent to fill the unexpired term.
13 The Assistant Superintendent shall serve as acting Superintendent in the interim.

14
15 The Network Secretary shall request the General Superintendent of the Assemblies
16 of God, or the General Superintendent's designee, to preside over the special
17 election.

- 18
19 **b. Other Executive Offices.** Vacancies in the offices of Assistant Superintendent, and
20 Secretary-Treasurer shall be filled as follows: If a vacancy in the office occurs with
21 sixty (60) days of a regular Network Council, the vacancy will be filled by election at
22 that Council. Otherwise, the Presbyter Board shall convene a special session of the
23 Network Council to fill the vacancy.

- 24
25 **c. Other Offices.** Vacancies in any office except those covered in the above may be
26 filled by the Presbyter Board unless the office becomes vacant within thirty (30) days
27 prior to a regular or special session of the Network Council. In such case, it shall be
28 filled by election.

29
30 **Section 3. Term of Office**

31
32 When an executive office is filled by a special Network Council, the term of office shall be for
33 the remainder of the unexpired term plus a four (4) year term, provided the unexpired term
34 is not more than one (1) year.

35
36 **ARTICLE VII. DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

37
38 **Section 1. Network Superintendent**

39
40 *The Network Superintendent shall:*

- 41
42 a. Act as President of the Corporation in all legal matters.
43
44 b. Supervise the work of the Michigan Ministry Network.

**Bylaws, Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network
Article VII.**

- 1 c. Preside at the meetings of the Network Council and provide a keynote address.
- 2
- 3 d. Preside at the meetings of the Network Presbytery and shall receive all
- 4 communications directed to the body.
- 5
- 6 e. Administer discipline in all cases when requested to do so by the Executive Board.
- 7
- 8 f. Perform any other function usual and customary for the presiding officers, or such as
- 9 may be directed by the Network Council or the Network Presbytery.
- 10
- 11 g. Be an ex-officio member of all boards and committees.
- 12
- 13 h. With the Network Secretary, sign all legal documents on behalf of the Assemblies of
- 14 God, Michigan Ministry Network. The Network Superintendent may authorize a
- 15 designee to execute any and all documents relating to the purchase, sale, mortgage,
- 16 loan, or disposition of any legal interest of the Network on any real property.
- 17
- 18 i. With the Network Secretary, have the authority to transfer church property being
- 19 held in the name of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District (DBA Michigan Ministry
- 20 Network), to a respective local church that has advanced from Network Affiliated
- 21 status to General Council status if the name Assemblies of God, Michigan District, is
- 22 not on a mortgage as a guarantor, owner, or mortgagor and the respective local
- 23 church has signed and recorded a Right of Reverter to the Assemblies of God,
- 24 Michigan District, which Right of Reverter shall be prepared by the Network Secretary
- 25 and delivered to the respective local church.
- 26
- 27 There is no right of request of transfer and any request for transfer is subject to
- 28 approval by the Network Superintendent and the Network Secretary, or by the
- 29 Presbyter Board which approval may be granted or denied at their discretion.
- 30
- 31 j. In consultation with the Sectional and Executive Presbyters, assign portfolios to the
- 32 executive officers.
- 33
- 34 k. Serve as General Council Presbyter.
- 35
- 36 l. Make appointments and assign responsibilities as authorized by the Bylaws.
- 37
- 38 m. Supervise all field ministries of the Executive Officers and members of the Presbyter
- 39 Board.
- 40
- 41 n. Together, with the team leaders, contact the churches as frequently as may be
- 42 practical in the discharge of their responsibilities.
- 43
- 44 o. Direct the Pastoral appointment and recommendation process as set forth in these
- 45 Bylaws and the Rules of Order.

- 1 p. With notification to the Sectional Presbyter, have the prerogative to initiate a
2 meeting with the Pastor and board of a local church; and, along with those deemed
3 necessary, be present at any official meeting of a local church.
4

5 **Section 2. Assistant Network Superintendent**

6
7 *The Assistant Network Superintendent shall:*

- 8
9 a. Serve as acting Superintendent in the event the office of the Network Superintendent
10 becomes vacant or the Superintendent is temporarily unable to discharge the duties
11 of the Superintendent's office.
12
13 b. Serve as Vice-President of the Corporation.
14
15 c. Preside at meetings of the Network Council or of the Presbyter Board by request of
16 the Superintendent.
17
18 d. Assist the Superintendent in the supervision of the work on the field and perform
19 such other functions as may be directed by the Network Council, Presbyter Board, or
20 Superintendent.
21
22 f. Be an ex-officio member of all boards and committees.
23

24 **Section 3. Network Secretary**

25
26 *The Network Secretary shall:*

- 27
28 a. Make and keep the records of the proceedings of the Michigan Ministry Network and
29 publish the same as approved and directed by the Presbyter Board.
30
31 b. Keep a record of all credentialed ministers in the Michigan Network.
32
33 c. Serve as secretary of the meetings of the Executive Board, the Presbyter Board, and
34 the Credentials Board.
35
36 d. Be custodian of the official seal.
37
38 e. Implement General Council credentialing policies and guidelines under the direction
39 of the Network Credentials Board.
40
41 f. See that all properties of the Network are adequately insured, subject to the review
42 of the Presbyter Board.
43
44 g. With the Network Superintendent, be authorized to sign all legal documents on
45 behalf of the Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network. The Network Secretary

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

- 4
- 5 h. With the Network Superintendent have the authority to transfer church property
6 being held in the name of the Assemblies of God, Michigan District (DBA Michigan
7 Ministry Network), to a respective local church that has advanced from Network
8 Affiliated status to General Council status if the name Assemblies of God, Michigan
9 District, is not on a mortgage as a guarantor, owner, or mortgagor and the respective
10 local church has signed and recorded a Right of Reverter to the Assemblies of God,
11 Michigan District, which Right of Reverter shall be prepared by the Network Secretary
12 and delivered to the respective local church.

13

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

- 17
- 18 i. Assist the Superintendent in the supervision of the work on the field, and perform
19 such other functions as directed by the Network Council, Presbyter Board, or
20 Superintendent.

21

22 **Section 4. Network Treasurer**

23

24 *The Network Treasurer shall:*

- 25
- 26 a. Keep an accurate record of disbursements and receipts of all departments and shall
27 conduct the work of this office according to accepted methods of business.
- 28
- 29 b. Be custodian of the Michigan Ministry Network funds and shall deposit or invest same
30 in the name of the Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network. All funds are to
31 be deposited or invested with financial institutions approved by the Executive Board.
- 32
- 33 c. Give periodic financial reports.
- 34
- 35 d. Perform such other duties as requested by the Network Council or the Presbyter
36 Board.
- 37
- 38 e. Have the financial records of the Network reviewed at least once a year and audited
39 as ordered by the Presbyter Board. Both the review and the audit shall be performed
40 by an independent certified public accounting firm.
- 41
- 42

1 **Section 5. Executive Presbyters**

2
3 *The Executive Presbyters:*

- 4
5 a. Shall assist the Executive Officers in supervising the activities of the Network and may
6 act as substitutes for Executive Officers or Sectional Presbyters by request of the
7 Network Superintendent.
8
9 b. May be assigned administrative portfolios or other responsibilities by the Network
10 Superintendent and the Presbyter Board.
11
12 c. Review and set financial compensation for the Superintendent and Secretary-
13 Treasurer in accordance with the policies set by the Presbyter Board.
14
15 d. Review and assign portfolios of Executive Officers in cooperation with the Network
16 Superintendent.
17

18 **Section 6. Executive Board**

19
20 *The Executive Board shall:*

- 21
22 a. Serve as an advisory board to the Executive Officers in implementing decisions and
23 policies adopted by the Network Council and the Presbyter Board.
24
25 b. Assist the Executive Officers in the formulation of plans and policies to be presented
26 to the Presbyter Board or the Network Council for consideration.
27
28 c. Assist the Executive Officers in supervising and reviewing the work of all departments
29 and committees and in making recommendations to the Presbyter Board concerning
30 matters which require its attention.
31
32 d. Act in all matters involving discipline of ministers, subject to the minister's right of
33 appeal to the Presbyter Board.
34
35 e. Act upon all credential applications regarding annulment and recognition of General
36 Council exceptions for divorce.
37
38 f. Serve as a standing committee on revision of the Network Constitution and Bylaws.
39
40 g. Meet at least twice during the year upon the call of the Network Superintendent, or
41 a majority of the Executive Board.
42
43 h. Serve as the Network Finance Committee and submit an annual budget to the
44 Presbytery Board for its approval.
45

1 **Section 7. Presbyter Board**

2
3 *The Presbyter Board shall:*

- 4
- 5 a. Act for the Network Council in all matters which affect its interests while the Council
6 is not in session, subject to limitations which may be prescribed by the Council.
- 7
- 8 b. Serve as the Board of Trustees for the Network Corporation and as trustees
9 responsible for all Network property.
- 10
- 11 c. Hold final jurisdiction over all departments, boards, and committees established by
12 the Network Council with authority to approve, disapprove, or make necessary
13 changes in their policies and actions, subject to review by the Network Council. All
14 written policies and guidelines for Network departments shall be published and
15 distributed to churches and individuals upon request.
- 16
- 17 d. Assign portfolios and fill appointive offices not held by Executive Officers and appoint
18 boards and committees in cooperation with the Network Superintendent.
- 19
- 20 e. Declare any office vacant for causes as provided by the Bylaws and fill all vacancies
21 except a vacancy in the offices of the Network Superintendent, Assistant
22 Superintendent, and Secretary-Treasurer.
- 23
- 24 f. Serve as the Network Credentials Board.
- 25
- 26 g. Provide supervision and Rules of Order for dependent local churches.
- 27
- 28 h. Determine the number of fellowship Sections and establish their boundaries.
- 29
- 30 i. Authorize any non-budgeted Network expenditure in excess of fifteen thousand
31 dollars (\$15,000.00) and approve all endorsements of loans.
- 32
- 33 j. Call special sessions of the Network Council and set the time and place for regular
34 and special sessions.
- 35
- 36 k. Review and approve all budgets and set financial policies.
- 37
- 38 l. Meet at least twice during the year upon the call of the Executive Board, or a majority
39 of the Presbyter Board.
- 40
- 41 m. Provide opportunity for department leaders to present and discuss matters of
42 importance to their departments with the Presbyter Board as deemed necessary.
- 43
- 44

1 **Section 8. Sectional Officers**

2
3 **a. Sectional Presbyters**

4
5 *Sectional Presbyters shall:*

- 6
- 7 1) Serve as representatives of the Michigan Ministry Network in their respective
8 Sections.
 - 9
 - 10 2) Cooperate with, assist, and act under the authority of the Superintendent in
11 supervising Network activities, encouraging Michigan Missions and Church
12 Planting enterprises, and
13 bringing assistance and counsel to local churches at the direction of the
14 Superintendent within their respective Sections.
 - 15
 - 16 3) Serve as chairpersons for their respective fellowship activities.
 - 17
 - 18 4) Focus on ministering to ministers by providing encouragement, fellowship,
19 prayer, leadership development and the building of relationships with the
20 ministers in their Sections.
 - 21
 - 22 5) Promote fellowship meetings and other inter-church activities in which both
23 credentialed ministers and local churches shall be encouraged to participate.
 - 24
 - 25 6) Serve in cooperation with Network Directors.
 - 26
 - 27 7) Serve as members of the Credentials Board.
 - 28
 - 29 8) Make official recommendations in regard to Pastoral candidates after receiving
30 approval from the Superintendent.
 - 31
 - 32 9) Submit an annual written report at their respective Sectional Councils.

33
34 **b. Assistant Sectional Presbyters**

35
36 *Assistant Sectional Presbyters shall:*

- 37
- 38 1) Be available to serve in a pastoral care and leadership development role for
39 ministers in the Section.
 - 40
 - 41 2) Keep an up-to-date list of names and addresses of ministers and churches in their
42 respective Sections.
 - 43
 - 44 3) Keep a record of funds received and disbursed in the interest of their Sections
45 and submit an annual written report at their respective Sectional Councils.

- 1 **b. Appointments.** Standing committees shall be appointed by the Network
2 Superintendent in cooperation with the Presbyter Board.

3
4 **Section 2. Special Committees**

5
6 Special committees may be created by the Network Council in session or by the Network
7 Presbytery.

8
9 **Section 3. Term of Office**

10
11 All appointed members of boards and committees shall serve from the time of their
12 appointment until the June Presbyter meeting unless otherwise specified.

13
14 **Section 4. Resolutions Committee**

- 15
16 **a. Procedure for presentation of resolutions.** A Resolutions Committee shall be
17 appointed by the Executive Presbytery. All resolutions for presentation to the
18 Network Council, shall be presented to the Network Secretary's office at least 60 days
19 prior to a Network Council. The Resolutions Committee shall prepare the resolutions
20 in printed or electronic form and send them to the Network Council ministers and
21 churches at least 30 days prior to the Network Council.

- 22
23 **b. Sponsorship policy.** All resolutions presented to the Resolutions Committee shall be
24 signed by the author or sponsor. When a resolution is presented for the
25 consideration of the Network Council in session the author, sponsor, or spokesperson
26 appointed by the author or sponsor shall be expected to be the first speaker on behalf
27 of the resolution.

- 28
29 **c. Appropriateness of resolutions.** The Resolutions Committee shall, by a two-thirds
30 vote, determine the appropriateness of proposed resolutions. Inappropriate
31 resolutions may only be those that, if adopted, would conflict with the Constitution
32 or Bylaws; or whose substance is not in keeping with the General or Network Council.

- 33
34 **d. Right of sponsor.** If the Resolutions Committee determines that a resolution is
35 inappropriate, it shall so advise the author and shall apprise the author of his or her
36 right to present the proposed resolution to the Network Council in session for a
37 determination as to appropriateness.

- 38
39 **e. Format of presentation.** The Resolution Committee shall:

- 40 (1) Put resolutions in proper form.
41 (2) Eliminate duplication of similar resolutions relating to a specific subject.
42 (3) Present resolutions in a logical sequence.

ARTICLE IX. LOCAL CHURCHES

Section 1. Classification of Local Churches

- 1
2
3
4
5 **a. Network Affiliated churches.** Local churches that have not matured sufficiently to
6 assume their full share of responsibility for the maintenance of scriptural order shall
7 be held under the general supervision of the Presbyter Board.

8
9 The Presbyter Board shall provide appropriate Rules of Order for Network Affiliated
10 churches.

11
12 Network Affiliated churches shall complete an Annual Church Ministry Report
13 (ACMR) each year.

14
15 An annual review of Network Affiliated churches will be done by the Presbyter Board
16 on the basis of their ACMR and shall initiate appropriate action to encourage the
17 church to advance to a General Council classification.

18
19 A new Network Affiliated church will be under the direction of the Church Planting
20 Director for up to three (3) years unless it is deemed prudent to advance the church
21 sooner.

- 22
23 **b. General Council churches.** General council churches shall complete an Annual Church
24 Ministry Report (ACMR) each year.

- 25
26 **c. Parent Affiliated Churches.** A local church that has begun at the initiation of a
27 General Council (parent) church and is under the supervision of the parent church
28 and its constitution and bylaws, and has not affiliated itself with the Assemblies of
29 God Michigan Ministry Network, will be classified as a Parent Affiliated Church. A
30 Parent Affiliated Church shall be chartered through the General Council.

- 31
32 **d. Non-Assemblies of God local churches.** A non-Assemblies of God local church shall
33 be brought into affiliation at the appropriate classification as determined by the
34 Presbyter Board.

Section 2. Reclassification of Local Churches

- 35
36
37
38 **a.** If a local church falls below the standards for its current classification, in regard either
39 to membership or the number of individuals qualified for election to office, the
40 church may, at the discretion of the Presbyter Board, be reclassified to its appropriate
41 category.

- 42
43 **b.** When a General Council church is in need of assistance for any reason, the Pastor or
44 Official Board of the church should contact the Network Superintendent for counsel
45 and advice. The Official Board of a church may request that the church be reclassified

1 to Network Affiliated. The church will return to its former status at the request of
2 the congregation and the approval of the Executive Board.

- 3
- 4 **c.** Should a crisis arise in a General Council church and a resolution appears unlikely, the
5 Network Superintendent or authorized Network Officer invited for counsel and
6 advice may recommend to the church a vote to become reclassified to Network
7 Affiliated. The church will return to its former status at the request of the
8 congregation and the approval of the Executive Board.
- 9
- 10 **d.** The Superintendent may contact and meet with the Pastor, or Pastor and Official
11 Board, of a General Council church in an effort to resolve problems and conditions
12 that may have arisen. If any situation is such that it requires immediate action, the
13 Network Superintendent may reclassify the church to Network Affiliated subject to
14 the ratification of the Executive Board and a 75% approval vote of the Presbyter
15 Board within seven (7) days. The church will return to its former status at the request
16 of the congregation and the approval of the Executive Board.
- 17
- 18 **e.** In the event that the Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network, is required or
19 becomes obligated to pay bills and/or mortgage payments for a local church, the
20 church shall immediately become reclassified to Network Affiliated.
- 21
- 22 **f.** Any reclassification of a local church that takes place in accordance with this section
23 may be appealed to the Presbytery Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting.
24 The church shall remain reclassified until the appeal has been acted upon by the
25 Presbyter Board.

26

27 **Section 3. Senior Pastor**

28

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

31

32 **Section 4. Membership Requirements**

33

34 It is recommended that the minimum requirements for membership be:

- 35
- 36 **a. Born Again.** Members in this local church shall be expected to give a clear testimony
37 of having been born of the Spirit of God (John 3:3, 5-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17).
- 38 **b. Baptism in the Holy Spirit.** Members shall have received the Holy Spirit or be
39 earnestly seeking to be baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2-4).
- 40
- 41 **c. Baptism in Water.** All members shall have followed the scriptural command to be
42 baptized in water by immersion in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the
43 Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19).
- 44

- 1 **d. God's Word.** Members shall believe in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures as the
2 Word of God and the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
3
- 4 **e. Holiness.** Members shall separate themselves from the world by refraining from the
5 reading, viewing, listening, and participation in any activity, material and/or media
6 that would be contrary to Scripture as pertaining to holiness, righteousness, clean
7 living, and the testimony of such to this world. They shall reflect the truth that each
8 believer's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 21:34,35; Romans 8:5-8; 12:1-
9 2; 14:17-18; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 18-20; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Galatians 5:18-20;
10 Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 2:8-10; 4:12; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12;
11 Revelation 21:8).
12
- 13 **f. Habits.** Members shall abstain from the use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and the
14 misuse of drugs (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).
15
- 16 **g. Christ's Return.** Members shall earnestly cherish the hope and expectancy of the
17 premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17).
18
- 19 **h. Tenets of Faith.** Members shall fully subscribe to the Tenets of Faith as set forth in
20 the Constitution and Bylaws of the Assemblies of God.
21
- 22 **i. Cooperation.** Members shall indicate a willingness to cooperate in the work of the
23 church, to be governed by its Rules of Order and to contribute regularly to its financial
24 support as the Lord may prosper.
25
- 26 **j. Application for Membership.** It is recommended that all churches use the
27 application for membership form provided by the General Council.
28

29 **Section 5. Officers**

30
31 It is recommended that all officers of a local church meet the following minimum
32 requirements:
33

- 34 **a.** Meet the minimum requirements for membership.
35
- 36 **b.** Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
37
- 38 **c.** Have been an active member of the church for at least one year. "Not a novice..." (1
39 Timothy 3:6,8-13).
40
- 41 **d.** Hold to a high standard of Christian marriage. It is recommended that married
42 persons are ineligible if either marriage partner has a former spouse living, unless the
43 divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17), or for the
44 scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the
45 abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15).

1
2 It is understood that recommendations are not binding upon General Council
3 churches, and that General Council churches shall maintain the prerogative of setting
4 their own standards (in accordance with Article XI of the General Council
5 Constitution).

6
7 **Section 6. Transfer of Membership**

- 8
9 **a. Transfer to another church.** A letter of transfer of membership signed by the Pastor
10 shall be granted upon the request of the individual desiring the membership transfer.
11 The letter shall be addressed to the Pastor of the receiving church and shall state
12 whether or not the member is in good standing.
13
14 **b. Transfer from another church.** When an individual desires to transfer membership
15 from an Assemblies of God church to another Assemblies of God church, a letter of
16 transfer of membership shall be required. The transferring church should state
17 whether or not the individual is in good standing. Responsibility for accepting or
18 rejecting the transferee shall rest with the Official Board of the receiving church.
19

20 **Section 7. Network Assistance**

- 21
22 **a. Calling of Pastors.** As soon as the Pastorate becomes vacant, the Official Board of
23 the church shall notify the Network Office, seek the advice of the Network
24 Superintendent, and invite the Network Superintendent to meet with its Pulpit
25 Committee before making contact with any prospective Pastor.
26

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

- 29
30 **b. Advice and Counsel.** All local churches of our Fellowship may request assistance or
31 counsel from the Network by contacting the Network Superintendent in any time of
32 difficulty or need by:

- 33
34 1) Written request of the Pastor.
35
36 2) A majority vote of the Official Board of the church certified in a written statement
37 bearing the signatures of two (2) members of the Board.
38
39 3) Petitions signed by twenty (20) percent of the active membership of the local
40 church.
41

- 42 **c. New Local Churches Resulting from a Division.** When efforts to maintain unity and
43 harmony in a local church have failed and a division results in a new congregation
44 being formed, the Network will exercise strong and wise leadership in ascertaining
45 the facts and seek to preserve Assemblies of God adherents for the Fellowship.

1 Within the bounds of ethical principles, sound doctrine, and Network policy, the
2 Network Officials should seek to retain any meritorious group with the Assemblies of
3 God.

4
5 **Section 8. Bond Programs**

6
7 All bond issues floated by local churches shall be duly registered with the State Securities
8 Commission as required by law, and it is recommended that copies of the information
9 furnished the Securities Commission be filed with the Network Treasurer.

10
11 **Section 9. Church Property**

12
13 It is recommended that all local churches of the Michigan Ministry Network include the
14 following in their Bylaws.

- 15
16 **a. Incorporation.** The church shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of
17 Michigan and all real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other
18 property of whatever kind, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the
19 corporate name of the church.
- 20
21 **b. Disposal of property.** No real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other
22 property of whatever kind of the church shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or
23 otherwise alienated without the same shall have been authorized by at least a two-
24 thirds majority vote of the membership present at any duly called business meeting.
25 The proposed action shall be announced in the notice of the business meeting.
- 26
27 **c. Certification.** The Pastor and the Secretary of the church shall certify in such
28 conveyance, lease, or mortgage that the same has been duly authorized by the vote
29 of the membership. Such certification shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.
- 30
31 **d. Defection.** In the case of a defection from the faith as set forth in the Statement of
32 Fundamental Truths in the Constitution of Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry
33 Network, or from affiliation with the Assemblies of God, any portion of the
34 membership subscribing to and practicing the above mentioned Tenets of Faith, and
35 retaining their affiliations with the Assemblies of God shall hold possession of and full
36 title to all real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other property of
37 whatever kind of the church with full rights under the provision of this Constitution
38 and Bylaws.
- 39
40 **e. Termination.** Should the church cease to function as an Assemblies of God church
41 for a period of ninety (90) days, title to all real, personal, intellectual, tangible and
42 intangible, or other property of whatever kind of the church shall revert to the
43 Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network, an ecclesiastical corporation
44 organized under the laws of the State of Michigan with headquarters in Brighton.

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

5
6 The Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network shall forthwith have full authority
7 to use or dispose of the property. Net proceeds from the sale or rental of any
8 property under this provision shall be used to help with the initial purchase of land,
9 buildings, and/or rental of buildings for new church plants and to also maintain the
10 asset values of Michigan Ministry Network churches. The Church Planting and
11 Development Board will make grants for new church plants under the policies
12 approved by the Presbyter Board. The Presbyter Board will receive and review
13 requests from any Michigan Ministry Network church to determine the validity of an
14 asset or project and if approved, will make a grant to help preserve the church's asset.

- 15
16 **f. Reverter Clause in Title.** Title to all real property owned by the church shall contain
17 a Network approved reverter clause wherein the property reverts to Assemblies of
18 God, Michigan Ministry Network, if the property ceases to be used as an Assemblies
19 of God church or for associated church purposes either as a result of defection or
20 termination as noted in subsection d. and e. above, or as a result of sale.

21 22 **ARTICLE X. MINISTRY**

23 24 **Section 1. Requirements for Ministry**

25
26 The requirements for ministerial credentials for the Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry
27 Network, shall be the same as those stated in General Council Bylaws, Article VII. Ministry.

28 29 **Section 2. Discipline**

30
31 All matters regarding discipline of credentialed ministers of the Assemblies of God, Michigan
32 Ministry Network, shall be the same as those stated in General Council Bylaws, Article X.
33 Discipline.

34 35 **Section 3. Arbitration**

36
37 Inasmuch as the Scriptures require Christians to take their disputes to other believers and
38 not to the civil courts (I Corinthians 6:1-8), all disputes which may arise between any
39 credential holder of the Michigan Ministry Network (including anyone holding a Layman's
40 Certificate) and the Network itself (including any officer or director thereof) while the
41 individual is a member, shall be resolved by binding arbitration if efforts to mediate or
42 conciliate the dispute have failed. Either party to the dispute may initiate the arbitration
43 process by filing with the other party a written request for arbitration within a reasonable
44 time after the dispute has arisen and efforts to mediate or conciliate have failed. In such a
45 case, the credential holder and the Network shall each name an arbitrator, and the two so

**Bylaws, Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network
Article X.**

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

13
14 The arbitrators shall appoint the time and place for the hearing and cause notification to the
15 parties to be served personally or by registered mail not less than five (5) days before the
16 hearing. Appearance at the hearing waives such notice. The arbitrators may adjourn the
17 hearing from time to time as necessary, and, on the request of a party and for good cause
18 upon their own motion, may postpone the hearing to a later date. The arbitrators may hear
19 and determine the controversy upon the evidence produced notwithstanding the failure of
20 a party duly notified to appear. The parties are entitled to be heard, to present evidence
21 material to the controversy, and to cross-examine witnesses appearing at the hearing. The
22 hearing shall be conducted by all arbitrators, but a majority of them may determine any
23 question or render a final award. If during the course of the hearing, an arbitrator for any
24 reason ceases to act, he shall be replaced in the same manner in which he was originally
25 selected. The arbitrators may in their absolute discretion admit as evidence any affidavit or
26 declaration concerning the matter in dispute, a copy thereof having been given at least three
27 (3) days previously to the party against whom the same is offered, but that person whose
28 evidence is so taken shall be subject to cross-examination by such party. The arbitrators
29 shall have the power to order and direct what they shall deem necessary to be done by either
30 of the parties relating to the matters in the dispute. Costs and awards of the arbitration shall
31 be assessed at the discretion of the arbitrators. Any submission of a dispute shall not be
32 revoked by the death of any party to the dispute and award will be binding upon such
33 person's heirs and successors.

34
35 The decision of the arbitrators shall be binding on both parties, and both parties submit
36 themselves to the personal jurisdiction of the courts of Michigan, both state and federal, for
37 the entry of a judgment confirming the arbitrator's award. The arbitration process is not a
38 substitute for any disciplinary process set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of the General
39 Council of the Assemblies of God and the Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network,
40 and shall in no way affect the authority of the General Council of the Assemblies of God and
41 the Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network, to investigate reports of misconduct,
42 conduct hearings, or administer discipline. Any matter not provided for in herein shall be
43 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 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 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 Officiary.
 - 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

1 spiritual function when requested by the Pastor. This restriction shall not apply to
2 Network Officers or their designees when fulfilling the duties of their offices.
3
4

5 **Section 3. Relationship to Other Churches**
6

7 **a. Communications.** All credentialed ministers are advised against interfering with
8 churches of which they are not a part. They shall not contact members and/or
9 adherents of the church in person, by correspondence, or in any way that will hurt
10 the influence of the leader. Communications which concern the church shall be
11 directed to the Pastor and not to individual members. Where there is no Pastor,
12 communications relating to the church shall be addressed to the officers of the
13 church. Any minister who so offends shall be subject to discipline.
14

15 **b. Objectionable Conduct.** A written complaint concerning such a violation of
16 ministerial ethics, signed by the Pastor or two members of the local Official Board of
17 the church may be filed with the Network Office. Initiative in dealing with such
18 offenders may be taken by the Network Officer.
19

20 **Section 4. Relationship to a Non-Assemblies of God Church**
21

22 Inasmuch as unity is a vital principle for growth and spiritual development of the church, it
23 is essential that we recognize our relationship to each other, and that we practice Christian
24 cooperation in all our pastoral, evangelistic, missionary, and local church work. All
25 credentialed ministers shall be required to obtain approval of the Network Officer before
26 ministering in any church not listed as an Assemblies of God church by the General Council.
27 This shall not apply to ministry in inter-denominational meetings and ministry in other
28 churches within their own locality.
29

30 **Section 5. Attitude Toward Those Removed From the Fellowship**
31

32 In order to render effective decisions made in the interest of proper discipline and for the
33 protection of our churches, all who hold credentials shall refrain from taking an attitude
34 toward those removed from the Fellowship that would tend to nullify or set at naught the
35 solemn verdict of those entrusted with this responsibility. A minister who so offends shall
36 be subject to reprimand or, if persisted in, appropriate discipline.
37

38 **ARTICLE XII. WORLD EVANGELISM**
39

40 **Section 1. Scope and Policy**
41

42 Since the Master has declared that the field is the world, the Michigan Ministry Network
43 Council shall assume the responsibility to do all in its power to spread the full Gospel at home
44 and in foreign lands.

1 **Section 2. Organization**

- 2
- 3 **a. Network World Missions Director.** The Network Superintendent, in cooperation
4 with the Presbyter Board, shall appoint a Network World Missions Director.
- 5
- 6 **b. Network Missions Committee.** The Network Missions Committee shall review any
7 applicant for missionary appointment under Assemblies of God World Missions and
8 Assemblies of God US Missions as directed by the Presbyter Board.
- 9
- 10 **c. Church Planting Director.** The Network Superintendent, in cooperation with the
11 Presbyter Board, shall appoint a Church Planting Director.
- 12
- 13 **d. Network Church Planting and Development Board.** The Church Planting and
14 Development Board shall establish policies, budgets, new church planting strategies,
15 etc. Appointed members may be added to the Church Planting Board at the
16 discretion of the Network Superintendent.
- 17

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

23

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

27

28 **Section 3. World Missions Giving**

- 29
- 30 **a. The Faith Promise Plan.** Each Pastor is encouraged to receive annual faith promises
31 from the local church by presenting the faith promise program and ask individuals to
32 make commitments of specified amounts to be given through the church in the
33 regular missionary offerings.
- 34
- 35 **b. Other nationally endorsed Assemblies of God missions programs.** Each Pastor is
36 encouraged to promote giving to other nationally endorsed Assemblies of God
37 missions funding programs.
- 38
- 39 **c. Missionaries.** Missionaries who itinerate in the Network with unrestricted
40 itineration privileges shall send 5% of their offerings received in the Michigan
41 Ministry Network to the Network Office to help support world missionary endeavors.
- 42

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

2
3 The Church Planting and Development Board shall function under policies approved by the
4 Presbyter Board. New local churches shall be recognized by all concerned as Assemblies of
5 God churches from their very inception. They, except for Parent Affiliated Churches which
6 are under the supervision and governance of the parent church, shall be affiliated with the
7 Michigan Network as dependent churches and function under the Rules of Order furnished
8 by the Presbyter Board.

9
10 **ARTICLE XIII. NETWORK MINISTRIES**

11
12 **Section 1. Network Ministries**

13
14 Network Ministries and departments may be established as needed. They shall operate
15 under the general supervision of the Network Officer and operate in accord with the
16 department's approved policies and guidelines.

17
18 **Section 2. North Central University**

- 19
20 **a. Ownership.** The Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network, is a partner in the
21 ownership and operation of North Central University, located in Minneapolis,
22 Minnesota. North Central University is recognized as an integral part of the Michigan
23 Ministry Network.
24
25 **b. Board of Regents.** The Michigan Ministry Network will provide representation to the
26 North Central University Board of Regents according to the policies established by
27 North Central University.

28
29 **ARTICLE XIV. ADULT AND TEEN CHALLENGE U.S.A.**

30
31 Adult and Teen Challenge U.S.A. operating within the Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry
32 Network shall cooperate with the Network and the General Council of the Assemblies of God
33 by compliance with the accreditation standards established by Adult and Teen Challenge
34 U.S.A.

35
36 **ARTICLE XV. BENEVOLENT MINISTRIES**

37
38 The Michigan Ministry Network may involve itself in humanitarian and benevolent
39 ministries. Such benevolent ministries shall operate under the supervision of the Network
40 Officer in accordance with approved policies and guidelines.

41
42 **ARTICLE XVI. PUBLICATIONS**

43
44 The Michigan Ministry Network shall continue to support all General Council papers and
45 publications and any other publications authorized by the General Council.

ARTICLE XVII. FINANCE

Section 1. Network Council Support

a. Ministers. All credentialed ministers of the Michigan Ministry Network shall agree to contribute monthly not less than 85% of their tithe from ministerial income for Network support. In no case shall a credentialed minister contribute less than \$20 per month for Network support. These contributions are encouraged to be made monthly.

Senior-retired ministers may distribute, as they desire, the proportion of their tithes previously contributed to the Network.

Non-resident Network credentialed ministers shall contribute 30% of their tithe of both secular and ministerial income for the support of the Network.

World missionaries shall contribute \$25 per month to their home Network when residing in the United States and \$10 per month when residing on their fields.

US missionaries shall contribute according to any Assemblies of God US Missions guidelines and Network guidelines.

Military chaplains shall contribute to their home Network the amount of \$5 per month per officer grade and are encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the Network in which they fulfill their temporary duty assignments.

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 Officiary 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 Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network, and deposited or invested with financial institutions approved by the Executive Board.

1 **Section 4. Network Indebtedness**

2
3 **a. Limitations.** No unbudgeted indebtedness exceeding \$15,000 shall be incurred by
4 the Michigan Ministry Network unless authorized by a two-thirds vote of the
5 Presbyter Board.

6
7 **b. Loan Endorsement.** The Presbyter Board shall be authorized to endorse loans
8 obtained by local churches from banks or other sources up to the total amount of
9 fifty percent (50%) of the capital investment fund of the Network.

10
11 **Section 5. Financial Reviews and Audits**

12
13 An annual financial review or audit, as determined by the Presbyter Board, shall be done by
14 an independent certified public firm. The fiscal year of Departments and Sections shall
15 conform to the fiscal year of the Network.

16
17 **Section 6. Finance Committee**

18
19 The Executive Board shall serve as the Network Finance Committee. The Finance Committee
20 shall be charged with the responsibility of studying the budgets of all Network Departments
21 and shall serve in an advisory capacity in matters of general finance. They shall give
22 preliminary survey and advice concerning any major project on the Network or Department
23 level involving the expenditure of funds.

24
25 **Section 7. Budgets**

26
27 All Network Departments shall submit a proposed budget annually at least ninety (90) days
28 before the close of the fiscal year. These budgets shall be examined by the Finance
29 Committee and then submitted to the Presbyter Board for adoption.

30
31 **ARTICLE XVIII. RETIREMENT**

32
33 In order to provide a retirement income for ministers, it is recommended that each church
34 and each minister contribute a minimum amount equal to 2½ percent of the minister's
35 housing and salary to the Minister's Benefit Association.

36
37 **ARTICLE XIX. MILITARY SERVICE**

38
39 As a Movement we affirm our loyalty to the government of the United States of America in
40 war and peace.

41
42 We shall continue to insist, as we have historically, on the right of each member to choose
43 to declare their position as a combatant, noncombatant or a conscientious objector.

1 occur at any time, and not lull their minds into complacency by any teaching that
2 would cause them to feel that specific Tribulation events must occur before the
3 rapture of the saints.

4
5 **d. Amillennialism.** The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the
6 amillennial teaching and its attendant erroneous philosophy which denies the fact of
7 a literal 1,000-year reign of Christ on the earth, and substitutes for it the theory that
8 his Christian or Church dispensation is the spiritual Millennium of which, its
9 proponents say, the Bible writers prophesied.

10 **e. Credentials jeopardized if made an issue.** We recommend that those ministers who
11 embrace any of the foregoing eschatological errors refrain from preaching or
12 teaching them. Should they persist in emphasizing these doctrines to the point of
13 making them an issue, their standing in the Fellowship will be seriously affected (Luke
14 21:34-36; 1 Thessalonians 5:9,10; 2 Thessalonians 1:4-10; Revelation 3:10,19,20).

15
16 **Section 4. Membership in Secret Orders**

17
18 Ours is a last-day message in preparation for the coming of the Lord (Matthew 24:14), leaving
19 us no alternative but wholehearted devotion to the cause of spreading the gospel (Luke
20 9:62); and it is well known that the various secret orders require much valuable time and
21 interest, thus diverting the servant of the Lord out of the way (Ephesians 5:16).

22
23 The nature of such organizations demands secrecy (John 18:20; Acts 26:26) reinforced by
24 religious oaths (Matthew 5:34) and strong attachment by binding obligations to persons who
25 are for the most part unregenerate (2 Corinthians 6:14). The spirit, philosophy, and general
26 influence of such secret orders aim at the improvement of the natural man only (I Corinthians
27 2:14; Colossians 2:8), thus wrongly channeling by incorrect interpretation important spiritual
28 truths (2 Peter 3:16).

29
30 Confidence in these secret orders and their teaching has always tended toward embracing
31 of a false hope of salvation through good works and improved moral service (Ephesians
32 2:8,9).

33
34 In consideration of the foregoing, all ministers affiliated with us should refrain from
35 identifying themselves with any of the secret orders that the General Council recognizes as
36 essentially of the world, worldly; and the General Council advises any who may have
37 identified themselves with such orders to sever their connections with them (2 Corinthians
38 6:17). Furthermore, Assemblies of God ministers are requested to use their good influence
39 among our lay members to dissuade them from such fraternal affiliations (1 Timothy 4:12; 2
40 Timothy 2:24-26).

1 **Section 5. Divorce and Remarriage**

2
3 **a. Membership**

4
5 1) *Marriage entanglements before conversion.* There are now among Christian
6 people those who became entangled in their marriage relations in their former
7 lives of sin and who do not see how these matters can be adjusted. We
8 recommend that these people be received into membership of local assemblies
9 and that their marriage complications be left in the hands of the Lord (I
10 Corinthians 7:17,20,24).

11
12 2) *Common-law marriages.* We recommend that in no case shall persons be
13 accepted into membership who are known to be living in a common-law state of
14 matrimony.

15
16 **b. Remarriage.** Low standards on marriage and divorce are very hurtful to individuals,
17 to the family, and to the cause of Christ. Therefore, we discourage divorce by all
18 lawful means and teaching. We positively disapprove of Christians getting divorces
19 for any cause except fornication and adultery (Matthew 19:9). Where these
20 exceptional circumstances exist or when a Christian has been divorced by an
21 unbeliever, we recommend that the question of remarriage be resolved by the
22 believer in the light of God's Word (I Corinthians 7:15,27,28).

23
24 **c. Local Church Leadership**

25
26 1) *Standard for office of bishop, elder or deacon.* We recommend that each
27 Assemblies of God church restrict divorced and remarried believers from holding the
28 office of bishop, elder or deacon if either marriage partner has a former spouse living,
29 unless the divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17), or for
30 the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or
31 the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15).

32
33 2) *Prerogatives of local assemblies.* It is understood that recommendations are not
34 binding, but local assemblies shall maintain the prerogative of setting their own
35 standards (in accord with provision of Article XI of the General Council Constitution).

36
37 **d. Performing Marriage Ceremonies**

38
39 1) *Ministerial guidelines.* We discourage any Assemblies of God minister performing
40 a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former
41 spouse is still living unless the case is included in the exceptional circumstances
42 described in Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraph b.

43
44 2) *Violation of conscience not required.* We realize that the remarrying of such
45 persons included in the exceptive circumstances in the General Council Bylaws,

1 Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraph b, could violate the conscience of a minister;
2 and if this should be the case, the minister should not be expected to perform
3 such ceremonies.

4
5 3) *Same-sex ceremonies.* No minister shall perform any type of marriage,
6 cohabitation, or covenant ceremony for persons who are of the same sex. Such
7 a ceremony would endorse homosexuality which is a sin and strictly forbidden in
8 God's Word (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26,27; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Timothy
9 1:9-11). Any minister of our Fellowship who performs a ceremony for these types
10 of disapproved relations, unless innocently deceived into doing so, shall be
11 dismissed from the Fellowship.

12
13 4) *Counsel.* An Assemblies of God minister is urged to counsel applicants for
14 marriage ceremonies with scriptural guidelines for Christian marriage prior to
15 performing the ceremony. A minister may not perform ceremonies for persons
16 who, in the minister's opinion, approach marriage without proper forethought,
17 wisdom and sobriety.

18
19 **e. Ministerial Credentials.** We disapprove of any married minister of the Assemblies of
20 God holding credentials if either minister or spouse has a former spouse living unless
21 the divorce occurred prior to conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17), or for the scriptural
22 causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the
23 abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15). (See also
24 General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2., paragraphs j and k.)

25
26 **Section 6. Worldliness**

27
28 In view of the alarming erosion of national moral standards, we reaffirm our intention of
29 holding up Bible standards against all forms of worldliness. We urge all believers to "love
30 not the world, neither the things that are in the world.... For all that is in the world, the lust
31 of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the
32 world" (1 John 2:15,16).

33
34 In its teaching regarding worldliness, the Scripture warns against participation in activity that
35 defiles the body, or corrupts the mind and spirit; the inordinate love of or preoccupation
36 with pleasures, position, or possessions, which lead to their misuse; manifestation of
37 extreme behavior, unbecoming speech, or inappropriate appearance; any fascination or
38 association which lessens one's affection for spiritual things (Luke 21:34,35; Romans 8:5-8;
39 12:1,2; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 2:8-10; 4:12; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-
40 17; Titus 2:12).

1 **Section 7. Abuses of Stewardship**

2
3 **a. Tithing**

- 4
5 1) According to the Scriptures, tithes should be used for the support of the active
6 ministry and for the propagation of the gospel and work of the Lord and not be
7 given to charity or used for other purposes. In tithing, the ministers ought to be
8 examples.
9
10 2) We recognize the duty of tithing and urge all our people to pay tithes to God. It
11 is recommended that arrangements satisfactory to the Pastor and the church be
12 made by all Pastors and churches, so that the Pastor may receive regular and
13 adequate support. We disapprove, however, of the teaching that all tithes
14 necessarily should belong to the Pastor for his or her support.
15

16 **b. Solicitation of Funds**

- 17
18 1) It is considered improper and unethical for ministers or missionaries to solicit
19 funds by letter or otherwise, for anything or any reason whatsoever without
20 proper authorization.
21
22 2) The purpose of this section is not to hinder or discourage legitimate projects but
23 to protect the Fellowship from those who employ methods not in harmony with
24 Assemblies of God principles or policies.

25
26 Leaders in local projects shall have unquestioned freedom in local churches or
27 communities.
28

29 Projects of general interest to the Network must have the authorization of the
30 Network Officer.
31

32 Projects or institutions of national scope that plan to solicit funds from
33 Assemblies of God churches must have the authorization of the Executive
34 Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.
35

36 Promotion of all projects of a missionary character must have the authorization
37 of the Executive Presbytery.
38

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

1 **c. Private Ownership of Religious Institutions.** The General Council of the Assemblies
2 of God approves the holding of title to all church buildings, schools, or other
3 institutions that are supported by funds solicited for the work of God by properly
4 constituted corporations. It disapproves the holding of title to such properties by the
5 ministers of the Assemblies of God, through private ownership, corporations sole, or
6 closed corporations. In the event a local congregation is not incorporated or set in
7 order by the Network Council, title should be vested in properly qualified trustees.
8 Where private ownership exists, a properly incorporated body shall be formed and
9 title to the property shall be transferred to the corporation.

10
11 A disregard of this principle and recommendation shall seriously affect the
12 relationship of the Assemblies of God of members involved in such ownership.

13
14 **Section 8. Violations of Ministerial Courtesy**

15
16 All discourteous conduct is disapproved, and all ministers are advised against interfering with
17 Pastors in charge of assemblies, whether it be by going in upon their work without consent
18 or by such correspondence with members of the church as will hurt the influence of the
19 leader. All correspondence which concerns the whole assembly shall be addressed to the
20 one in charge and not to individual members. Where there is no Pastor, letters concerning
21 the work shall be addressed to the officers of the assembly.

22
23 Any minister who so offends shall be subject to discipline.

24
25 **Section 9. Ministry in a Non-Assemblies of God Church**

26
27 Ministers shall not be limited or restrained from entering open doors to preach this
28 Pentecostal message, so long as they retain Assemblies of God doctrine, standards of
29 holiness, proper attitudes, and proper ministerial conduct without compromise.

30
31 Inasmuch as unity is a vital principle for growth and spiritual development of the Assemblies
32 of God Fellowship, it is essential that we recognize our relationship to each other and that
33 we practice Christian cooperation in all our pastoral, evangelistic, missionary, and local
34 church work.

35
36 We recommend therefore that our ministers confer with Network Council officials before
37 engaging in ministry in any church group or organization not affiliated with the Assemblies
38 of God so as to ascertain whether such ministry might result in confusion or
39 misunderstandings. If the minister does not have Network approval, he or she shall be
40 expected to refrain from conducting services for the church. Ministers who violate this
41 principle shall be subject to discipline.

1 **Section 10. An Improper Attitude Toward Those Removed From the Fellowship**

2
3 In order to render effective decisions made in the interest of proper discipline and for the
4 protection of our assemblies, all who hold credentials, and local churches holding certificates
5 of affiliation, shall refrain from taking an attitude toward offenders that would tend to nullify
6 or set at naught the solemn verdict of those entrusted with this responsibility. Those who
7 fail to support said verdict shall be subject to reprimand or, if persisted in, appropriate
8 discipline.

9
10 **Section 11. The Ecumenical Movement**

11
12 The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of ministers or churches
13 participating in any of the modern ecumenical organizations on a local, national, or
14 international level in such a manner as to promote the ecumenical movement, because:

- 15
16 a. We believe the basis of doctrinal fellowship of said movement to be so broad that it
17 includes people who reject the inspiration of Scripture, the deity of Christ, the
18 universality of sin, the substitutionary atonement, and other cardinal teachings that
19 we understand to be essential to biblical Christianity.
20
21 b. We believe the emphases of the ecumenical movement to be at variance with what
22 we hold to be biblical priorities, frequently displacing the urgency of individual
23 salvation with social concerns.
24
25 c. We believe that the combination of many religious organizations into a world
26 superchurch will culminate in the religious Babylon of Revelation 17 and 18.
27 (This is not to be interpreted to mean that a limitation may be imposed upon any
28 Assemblies of God minister regarding his or her Pentecostal witness or participation
29 on a local level with interdenominational activities.)
30

31 **Section 12. Divine Healing and Professional Medicine**

32
33 The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of any credentialed minister
34 counseling a believer to exclude medical advice and/or treatment when seeking prayer for
35 physical healing. Assemblies of God ministers shall not represent medical advice and/or
36 treatment as a lack of faith in God's healing power.
37

38 **ARTICLE XXI. AMENDMENTS**

39
40 Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any regular or special meeting of the Network
41 Council provided the proposed amendment has been submitted to the Executive Board at
42 least sixty (60) days prior to the session at which the amendment is to be considered. The
43 Network Secretary shall mail a copy of the proposed amendment to the membership of the
44 Network Council at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. A majority of all votes cast
45 shall be necessary for the adoption of an amendment.

**Bylaws, Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network
Article XXI.**

1

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