



Constitution and Bylaws

Michigan Ministry Network

REVISED MAY 7, 2024

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MICHIGAN MINISTRY NETWORK**

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ARTICLE I. NAME

The corporate name of this body shall be *Assemblies of God, Michigan District working under a DBA of Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network.*

ARTICLE II. TERRITORY

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

ARTICLE III. NATURE

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

ARTICLE IV. PRINCIPLES FOR FELLOWSHIP

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

ARTICLE V. STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS*

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

1. The Scriptures Inspired

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

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

9. Sanctification

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

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

10. The Church and Its Mission

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

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

- a. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).

- 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).
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20 **11. The Ministry**

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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 **12. Divine Healing**

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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 **13. The Blessed Hope**

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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 **14. The Millennial Reign of Christ**

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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

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

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).

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

- 23 1. To incorporate and to elect officers.
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- 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 State, 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.

ARTICLE VII. RELATIONSHIPS

Section 1. Network Council

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

Section 2. Local Churches

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

ARTICLE VIII. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Ministers

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

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

Section 2. Assemblies

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

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS

Section 1. Network Meetings

- a. Regular sessions of the Network Council shall be held annually pursuant to a call by the Presbyter Board.
- b. Special sessions of the Network Council may be arranged if agreed to by a two-thirds majority of the Presbyter Board.

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.
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1 **Section 4. General Council Presbyters**

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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).

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12 **Section 5. Sectional Officers**

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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.

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18 **Section 6. Presbyter Board**

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

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23 **Section 7. Departmental Directors**

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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**

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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
38 nominate three additional ministers from its Network, one who is an ordained pastor
39 under 40 years of age at the time of election and one who is an ordained female (no
40 age 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 be distributed to the parent body, The General Council of the Assemblies
15 of God, a Missouri non-profit Corporation, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri. The
16 General Council shall have full authority to sell such property and to use the proceeds
17 derived thereof for the extension of the work of the Assemblies of God. In the event of
18 cessation of the Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network, its Board of Trustees shall
19 transfer all properties and any remaining assets, in accordance with the foregoing provisions,
20 within one year after the date such cessation. If such transfer is not made within the time
21 prescribed above, or if the aforesaid General Council shall be unable or unwilling to accept
22 the aforesaid transfer, then disposition thereof shall be made by the court of the county in
23 which the headquarters office of the Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network is
24 located, provided that in such case proceeds of the dissolution shall be distributed to
25 organizations 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 Network
31 Secretary's office at least seventy-five (75) days prior to the session at which the amendment
32 is to be considered. The Network Secretary will present any proposed amendments to the
33 Presbyter Board prior to Network Council for their review after the Resolutions Committee
34 has prepared them. The Network Secretary shall send, by mail or electronic means, a copy
35 of the proposed amendment to the membership of the Network Council at least thirty (30)
36 days prior to the meeting. A two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be necessary for the
37 adoption of a Constitutional amendment.

38
39 When changes occur in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws that cause the re-
40 numbering or re-lettering of sections of those documents that are referenced in the
41 Michigan Ministry Network Constitution, the Network Constitution may be amended to
42 reflect those changes by action of the Presbyter Board, providing the changes are limited to
43 such re-numbering and re-lettering items only, and that no change in the intent of the
44 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 register electronically or on site. It
2 is the responsibility of the Pastor or the Secretary of their local church to
3 register those delegates signifying that they have been elected by the
4 congregation or appointed by 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. Sectional Council.** The registered credentialed ministers and registered delegates
13 who are present at any duly called Sectional Council Meeting shall constitute a
14 quorum.
15
16 **c. Presbyter Board.** A majority of the Presbyter Board assembled for a duly called
17 meeting shall constitute a quorum.
18
19 **d. Executive Board.** A majority of the Executive Board assembled for a duly called
20 meeting shall constitute a quorum.

21
22 **Section 3. Alternate Voting**

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

30
31 **ARTICLE IV. NETWORK COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETINGS**

32
33 All regular business meetings of the Network Council may begin with prayer and shall
34 include:

- 35 • Report and keynote address of Network Superintendent.
36 • Report of Assistant Network Superintendent.
37 • Report of Network Secretary.
38 • Report of Network Treasurer.
39 • Reports of Network Directors.
40 • Reports of Network Boards and Committees as needed.
41 • Report of Roster Committee.
42 • Unfinished business if required.
43 • Election as required.
44 • New business as needed.

ARTICLE V. ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Section 1. Executive Officers

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

b. Nominations and Elections

1) The Executive Officers of the Michigan Ministry Network shall be elected at regular or special sessions of the Network Council.

2) They shall be nominated by secret ballot. All nominees receiving five (5) or more votes on the nominating ballot shall be presented to the Council for election.

3) The election of the Superintendent shall be staggered with the elections of the Assistant Superintendent and the Secretary-Treasurer so that only one executive officer is elected in any given year.

4) A two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be required for election to any Executive Office. If a nominee receives sufficient votes to elect on the nominating ballot, the individual shall be declared elected. If such a majority shall not have been reached by the first three electoral ballots, all candidates except the two receiving the highest number of votes on the third ballot shall be eliminated from further balloting, and the requirement for election shall be reduced to a simple majority on the fourth electoral ballot. The results of each electoral ballot shall be posted until an election is achieved.

c. Term of Office. All executive officers shall be elected for a period of four (4) years. Their terms of office shall begin two months after election except in the case of prior vacancy, in which case the individual elected shall assume the responsibility of the office immediately.

d. Executive Officers portfolios. Portfolios assigned to Executive Officers shall be assigned by the Network Superintendent in consultation with the Sectional and the Executive Presbyters.

Section 2. Executive Presbyters

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

1 **b. Nominations and Elections**
2

3 1) The Executive Presbyters of the Michigan Ministry Network shall be elected at
4 regular or special sessions of the Network Council.

5
6 2) They shall be nominated in the following manner:
7

8 a) Each Sectional Council at its annual meeting prior to the next regular Network
9 Council in session shall receive a nominating ballot by secret ballot for the
10 office of Executive Presbyter. The nominees may be residents of any Section
11 within the Network. All of those nominated will be contacted by the Network
12 Office, and only those willing to accept the nomination will be presented to
13 the Network Council as nominees.
14

15 b) At a special session of Network Council, a nominating ballot will be received
16 by secret ballot prior to the first electoral ballot.
17

18 3) A two-thirds majority of all votes cast shall be required to elect. If such a majority
19 shall not have been reached by the first three (3) electoral ballots, all candidates
20 except the two (2) receiving the highest number of votes on the third ballot shall
21 be eliminated from further balloting, and the requirement for election shall be
22 reduced to a simple majority on the fourth electoral ballot. The results of each
23 electoral ballot shall be posted until an election is achieved.
24

25 At a special session of Network Council, if a nominee receives sufficient votes to
26 elect on the nominating ballot, the individual shall be declared elected.
27

28 4) Should a Sectional Presbyter be elected an Executive Presbyter, the individual
29 shall have the right to choose which office the individual will accept.
30

31 **c. Term of Office.** They shall be elected for a period of three (3) years. Their terms of
32 office shall be staggered so that only one Executive Presbyter is elected annually. The
33 term of office shall begin two (2) months after election except in the case of a prior
34 vacancy, in which case the individual elected shall assume the responsibility of the
35 office immediately. Executive Presbyters are eligible to serve two (2) consecutive
36 terms with a one (1) year interim before becoming eligible again for election to this
37 office. If previously elected or appointed to serve a vacated, partial term, Executive
38 Presbyters shall be eligible to serve two (2) full consecutive terms.
39
40

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

11
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 **b. Nominations and Elections:**

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

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

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

18
19 **Section 6. General Council Presbyters**

20
21 The Network shall be represented in the General Presbytery by three members.

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

37
38 They shall be nominated in the following manner:

39
40 In the year in which the Michigan Ministry Network is scheduled to elect additional
41 General Presbyters, each Sectional Council at its annual meeting prior to the next
42 regular Network Council in session shall receive a nominating ballot by secret ballot.
43 They shall choose from a list of names who qualify for each office under the above
44 provision. All of those nominated will be contacted by the Network Office, and only
45 those willing to accept the nomination will be presented to the Network Council as
46 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.

- 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.

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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 Network Affiliated Bylaws.

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

32
33 **b. Assistant Sectional Presbyters**

34
35 *Assistant Sectional Presbyters shall:*

- 36
37 1) Be available to serve in a pastoral care and leadership development role for
38 ministers in the Section.
39
40 2) Keep an up-to-date list of names and addresses of ministers and churches in their
41 respective Sections.
42
43 3) Keep a record of funds received and disbursed in the interest of their Sections
44 and submit an annual written report at their respective Sectional Councils.

- 1 4) Be custodians of the funds of their Sections and deposit same in the name of their
2 respective Sections in accordance with the financial policies determined by the
3 Presbyter Board.
- 4
- 5 5) Notify the credentialed ministers of their Sections about fellowship meetings and
6 events in their Sections.
- 7
- 8 6) Assist the Sectional Presbyters in the promotion of Sectional projects.
- 9

10 **Section 9. Additional Presbyters**

11 *The Additional Presbyters shall:*

- 12
- 13
- 14 a. Cooperate with, assist, and act under the authority of the Superintendent to
15 promote participation in Network activities.
- 16
- 17 b. Identify and develop emerging leaders in their groups.
- 18
- 19 c. Encourage and educate their groups to obtain credentials or advance their
20 credential level.
- 21
- 22 d. Encourage and educate Network churches to be more effective in reaching
23 diverse populations and developing leaders.
- 24

25 **Section 10. General Presbyters**

26

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

29

30 **Section 11. Network Directors**

31

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

35

36 **ARTICLE VIII. BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

37

38 **Section 1. Standing Committees**

39

- 40 a. **Qualifications.** All members of standing committees shall be ordained or licensed
41 ministers of mature experience and ability or individuals who are members in good
42 standing of affiliated local churches; all of whom have resided within the Network for
43 six (6) months prior to the time of appointment.

- 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
19 seventy-five (75) days prior to a Network Council. The Resolutions Committee shall
20 prepare the resolutions and present them to the Presbyter Board prior to Network
21 Council for review. The Network Secretary will have the finalized resolutions sent to
22 the Network Council Credential Holders by mail or electronic means at least 30 days
23 prior to the Network Council.

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

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

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

40
41 **e. Format of presentation.** The Resolution Committee shall:

- 42 (1) Put resolutions in proper form.
43 (2) Eliminate duplication of similar resolutions relating to a specific subject.
44 (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 or do
7 not meet the qualifications of the General Council Bylaws (Article VI, Section 5) shall
8 be held under the general supervision of the Presbyter Board as a Network Affiliated
9 church.

10
11 The Presbyter Board shall provide appropriate Network Affiliated Bylaws for Network
12 Affiliated churches.

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

16
17 An annual review of Network Affiliated churches will be done by the Presbyter Board
18 on the basis of their ACMR and shall initiate appropriate action to encourage the
19 church to advance to a General Council classification when they meet the
20 qualifications.

21
22 A new Network Affiliated church, which is a church plant, will be under the direction
23 of the Church Planting Director for up to three (3) years unless it is deemed prudent
24 to advance the church sooner.

- 25
26 **b. General Council churches.** Local churches that meet the criteria set forth by the
27 General Council that are self-governing and are amenable to the General Council and
28 the Network in matters of doctrine and polity shall be considered a General Council
29 church. General Council churches shall complete an Annual Church Ministry Report
30 (ACMR) each year.

- 31
32 **c. Parent Affiliated Churches.** A local church that has begun at the initiation of a
33 General Council (parent) church and is under the supervision of the parent church
34 and its constitution and bylaws, will be classified as a Parent Affiliated Church (PAC).
35 A Parent Affiliated Church shall be chartered through the General Council. Parent
36 Affiliated Churches shall complete an Annual Church Ministry Report (ACMR) each
37 year.

- 38
39 **d. Cooperating Assemblies local churches.** Provision may be made by the Network
40 Council and the General Council Executive Presbytery for the status of a cooperating
41 assembly, which would allow churches that subscribe to Article V. Statement of
42 Fundamental Truths of the General Council Constitution to enter into a cooperative
43 status with the Network and the General Council on a temporary basis (four-year
44 term, renewable by the request of the church congregation at the discretion of the

1 Network in cooperation with the General Council Executive Presbytery) before
2 officially affiliating with the Network and the General Council.

3
4 **Section 2. Reclassification of Local Churches**

- 5
6 **a.** If a General Council church falls below the standards for its current classification, in
7 regard either to membership or the number of individuals qualified for election to
8 office, the church may, at the discretion of the Presbyter Board, be reclassified to a
9 Network Affiliated church.
- 10
11 **b.** If a General Council church falls below the standards for its current classification, in
12 regard to the minimum membership required by the General Council, and the church
13 is without a lead pastor, the church will be immediately reclassified to a Network
14 Affiliated church. The church will return to its former status at the request of the
15 congregation and the approval of the Executive Board.
- 16
17 **c.** When a General Council church needs guidance for any reason, the Pastor or Official
18 Board of the should contact the Network Superintendent for counsel and advice.
19 The Official Board of a church may request that the church be reclassified to Network
20 Affiliated. The church will return to its former status at the request of the
21 congregation and the approval of the Executive Board.
- 22
23 **d.** Should a crisis arise in a General Council church and a resolution appears unlikely, the
24 Network Superintendent or authorized Network Officer invited for counsel and
25 advice may recommend to the church a vote to become reclassified to Network
26 Affiliated. The church will return to its former status at the request of the
27 congregation and the approval of the Executive Board.
- 28
29 **e.** The Superintendent may contact and meet with the Pastor, or Pastor and Official
30 Board, of a General Council church in an effort to resolve problems and conditions
31 that may have arisen. If any situation is such that it requires immediate action, the
32 Network Superintendent may reclassify the church to Network Affiliated subject to
33 the ratification of the Executive Board and a 75% approval vote of the Presbyter
34 Board within seven (7) days. The church will return to its former status at the request
35 of the congregation and the approval of the Executive Board.
- 36
37 **f.** In the event that the Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network, is required or
38 becomes obligated to pay bills and/or mortgage payments for a General Council
39 church, the church shall immediately become reclassified to Network Affiliated.
- 40
41 **g.** Any reclassification of a General Council church that takes place in accordance with
42 this section may be appealed to the Presbytery Board at its next regularly scheduled
43 meeting. The church shall remain reclassified until the appeal has been acted upon
44 by the Presbyter Board.
- 45
46

1 **Section 3. Senior Pastor**

2
3 The senior Pastor for every Assemblies of God local church shall be a credentialed minister
4 in good standing with the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

5
6
7 **Section 4. Membership Requirements**

8
9 It is recommended that the minimum requirements for membership be:

- 10
11 **a. Born Again.** Members in this local church shall be expected to give a clear testimony
12 of having been born of the Spirit of God (John 3:3, 5-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17).
- 13 **b. Baptism in the Holy Spirit.** Members shall have received the Holy Spirit or be
14 earnestly seeking to be baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2-4).
- 15
16 **c. Baptism in Water.** All members shall have followed the scriptural command to be
17 baptized in water by immersion in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the
18 Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19).
- 19
20 **d. God's Word.** Members shall believe in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures as the
21 Word of God and the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
- 22
23 **e. Holiness.** Members shall separate themselves from the world by refraining from the
24 reading, viewing, listening, and participation in any activity, material and/or media
25 that would be contrary to Scripture as pertaining to holiness, righteousness, clean
26 living, and the testimony of such to this world. They shall reflect the truth that each
27 believer's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 21:34,35; Romans 8:5-8; 12:1-
28 2; 14:17-18; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 18-20; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Galatians 5:18-20;
29 Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 2:8-10; 4:12; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12;
30 Revelation 21:8).
- 31
32 **f. Habits.** Members shall abstain from the use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and the
33 misuse of drugs (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).
- 34
35 **g. Christ's Return.** Members shall earnestly cherish the hope and expectancy of the
36 premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17).
- 37
38 **h. Tenets of Faith.** Members shall fully subscribe to the Tenets of Faith as set forth in
39 the Constitution and Bylaws of the Assemblies of God.
- 40
41 **i. Cooperation.** Members shall indicate a willingness to cooperate in the work of the
42 church, to be governed by its Rules of Order and to contribute regularly to its financial
43 support as the Lord may prosper.
- 44

- 1 **j. Application for Membership.** It is recommended that all churches use the
2 application for membership form provided by the General Council.

3
4 **Section 5. Officers**

5
6 It is recommended that all officers of a local church meet the following minimum
7 requirements:

- 8
9 **a.** Meet the minimum requirements for membership.
10
11 **b.** Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
12
13 **c.** Have been an active member of the church for at least one year. "Not a novice..." (1
14 Timothy 3:6,8-13).
15
16 **d.** Hold to a high standard of Christian marriage. It is recommended that married
17 persons are ineligible if either marriage partner has a former spouse living, except for
18 an ecclesiastical annulment where deception and fraud was involved or when the
19 divorce occurred prior to conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17) or for the scriptural causes
20 of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9) or the abandonment of
21 the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15) or in the case of domestic
22 violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (Psalms 11:5; 146:5-9; Proverbs 6:16; Isaiah
23 1:16-17; Ephesians 4:1-3, 31-32; Ephesians 5) (General Council Bylaws, Article IX,
24 Section 5 subsection a.)

25
26 **Section 6. Transfer of Membership**

27
28 **Transfer to or from an Assemblies of God church.** When an individual desires to transfer
29 membership from an Assemblies of God church to another Assemblies of God church, a
30 letter of transfer of membership shall be required. The letter of transfer of membership
31 should be provided by the Pastor/Board and granted upon the request of the individual.
32 The letter should state whether or not the individual is in good standing and be sent by
33 mail or electronic means. Responsibility for accepting or rejecting the transferee shall
34 rest with the Official Board of the receiving church.
35

36 **Section 7. Network Assistance**

- 37
38 **a. Calling of Pastors.** As soon as the Pastorate becomes vacant, the Official Board of
39 the church shall notify the Network Office, seek the advice of the Network
40 Superintendent, and invite the Network Superintendent to meet with its Pulpit
41 Committee before making contact with any prospective Pastor.

42
43 If the Network Superintendent cannot meet personally with the Pulpit Committee,
44 the Network Superintendent may send a designee.
45

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

4
5 1) Written request of the Pastor.

6
7 2) A majority vote of the Official Board of the church certified in a written statement
8 bearing the signatures of two (2) members of the Board.

9
10 3) Petitions signed by twenty (20) percent of the active membership of the local
11 church.

12
13 **c. New Local Churches Resulting from a Division.** When efforts to maintain unity and
14 harmony in a local church have failed and a division results in a new congregation
15 being formed, the Network will exercise strong and wise leadership in ascertaining
16 the facts and seek to preserve Assemblies of God adherents for the Fellowship.
17 Within the bounds of ethical principles, sound doctrine, and Network policy, the
18 Network Officials should seek to retain any meritorious group with the Assemblies of
19 God.

20
21 **Section 8. Church Property**

22
23 It is recommended that all local churches of the Michigan Ministry Network include the
24 following in their Bylaws.

25
26 **a. Incorporation.** The church shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of
27 Michigan and all real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other
28 property of whatever kind, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the
29 corporate name of the church.

30
31 **b. Disposal of property.** No real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other
32 property of whatever kind of the church shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or
33 otherwise alienated without the same shall have been authorized by at least a two-
34 thirds majority vote of the membership present at any duly called business meeting.
35 The proposed action shall be announced in the notice of the business meeting.

36
37 **c. Certification.** The Pastor and the Secretary of the church shall certify in such
38 conveyance, lease, or mortgage that the same has been duly authorized by the vote
39 of the membership. Such certification shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

40
41 **d. Defection.** In the case of a defection from the faith as set forth in the Statement of
42 Fundamental Truths in the Constitution of Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry
43 Network, or from affiliation with the Assemblies of God, any portion of the
44 membership subscribing to and practicing the above mentioned Tenets of Faith, and
45 retaining their affiliations with the Assemblies of God shall hold possession of and full

1 title to all real, personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or other property of
2 whatever kind of the church with full rights under the provision of this Constitution
3 and Bylaws.

- 4
- 5 **e. Church Closing.** Should the church cease to function as an Assemblies of God church
6 for a period of ninety (90) days, title to all real, personal, intellectual, tangible and
7 intangible, or other property and assets of whatever kind of the church shall revert
8 to the Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network, an ecclesiastical corporation
9 organized under the laws of the State of Michigan with headquarters in Brighton,
10 Michigan.

11

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

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

22

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

24

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

- 28
- 29 **a.** 40% of the proceeds shall be designated for Church Planting in the Michigan Ministry
30 Network to help with the initial purchase of land, buildings, and/or rental of buildings
31 for new church plants. The Church Planting and Development Board will make grants
32 for new church plants under the policies approved by the Presbyter Board.
- 33
- 34 **b.** 40% of the proceeds shall be designated to church recalibration in the Michigan
35 Ministry Network to help with building repairs, sound, video and technology
36 upgrades, operational expenses such as utilities and grounds (winter/summer)
37 maintenance. The Recalibration Board will make grants under the policies approved
38 by the Presbyter Board.
- 39
- 40 **c.** 20% of the proceeds shall be designated to Michigan Ministry Network Camps for
41 debt reduction or capital improvements.
- 42

ARTICLE X. MINISTRY

Section 1. Requirements for Ministry

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

Section 2. Discipline

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

Section 3. Arbitration

Inasmuch as the Scriptures require Christians to take their disputes to other believers and not to the civil courts (I Corinthians 6:1-8), all disputes which may arise between any credential holder of the Michigan Ministry Network (including anyone holding a Layman's Certificate) and the Network itself (including any officer or director thereof) while the individual is a member, shall be resolved by binding arbitration if efforts to mediate or conciliate the dispute have failed. Either party to the dispute may initiate the arbitration process by filing with the other party a written request for arbitration within a reasonable time after the dispute has arisen and efforts to mediate or conciliate have failed. In such a case, the credential holder and the Network shall each name an arbitrator, and the two so selected shall name a third. All arbitrators must be born-again Christians, who have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit (according to Acts 2:4) and who are members in good standing of an Assemblies of God church. The third arbitrator chosen by the other two shall disclose, before the appointment, any financial or personal interest in the outcome of the arbitration, and any existing or past financial, professional, family or social relationships which are likely to affect impartiality or might reasonably create an appearance of partiality or bias. Either of the parties to the arbitration, on the basis of such disclosures, may disqualify such a candidate from serving as a third arbitrator. A third arbitrator who serves without objection from either party has a continuing duty to disclose relationships or interests which may impair impartiality. Either party, regardless of the stage of the arbitration process, may, on the basis of such disclosures, disqualify such a person from further participation. The arbitration process shall not proceed until the third arbitrator is selected.

The arbitrators shall appoint the time and place for the hearing and cause notification to the parties to be served personally or by registered mail not less than five (5) days before the hearing. Appearance at the hearing waives such notice. The arbitrators may adjourn the hearing from time to time as necessary, and, on the request of a party and for good cause upon their own motion, may postpone the hearing to a later date. The arbitrators may hear and determine the controversy upon the evidence produced notwithstanding the failure of a party duly notified to appear. The parties are entitled to be heard, to present evidence material to the controversy, and to cross-examine witnesses appearing at the hearing. The

1 hearing shall be conducted by all arbitrators, but a majority of them may determine any
2 question or render a final award. If during the course of the hearing, an arbitrator for any
3 reason ceases to act, he shall be replaced in the same manner in which he was originally
4 selected. The arbitrators may in their absolute discretion admit as evidence any affidavit or
5 declaration concerning the matter in dispute, a copy thereof having been given at least three
6 (3) days previously to the party against whom the same is offered, but that person whose
7 evidence is so taken shall be subject to cross-examination by such party. The arbitrators
8 shall have the power to order and direct what they shall deem necessary to be done by either
9 of the parties relating to the matters in the dispute. Costs and awards of the arbitration shall
10 be assessed at the discretion of the arbitrators. Any submission of a dispute shall not be
11 revoked by the death of any party to the dispute and award will be binding upon such
12 person's heirs and successors.

13
14 The decision of the arbitrators shall be binding on both parties, and both parties submit
15 themselves to the personal jurisdiction of the courts of Michigan, both state and federal, for
16 the entry of a judgment confirming the arbitrator's award. The arbitration process is not a
17 substitute for any disciplinary process set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of the General
18 Council of the Assemblies of God and the Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network,
19 and shall in no way affect the authority of the General Council of the Assemblies of God and
20 the Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network, to investigate reports of misconduct,
21 conduct hearings, or administer discipline. Any matter not provided for in herein shall be
22 governed by the provisions of the Uniform Arbitration Act.

23 24 **ARTICLE XI. MINISTERIAL RELATIONS**

25 26 **Section 1. Relationship to Network**

- 27
28 **a. Loyalty.** All credentialed ministers shall be amenable to the Network in matters of
29 doctrine and conduct.
30
31 **b. Transfers.** Assemblies of God credentialed ministers coming into the Network to
32 reside shall be required to affiliate with the Michigan Network within sixty (60) days
33 by filing a letter of transfer from their former Network. By so doing, they agree to be
34 governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Michigan Ministry Network.
35
36 **c.** Michigan Ministry Network credentialed ministers not located within the Network
37 desiring to retain their credentials with the Michigan Ministry Network, may do so
38 under the following conditions:
39
40 1) Ministers moving to serve at General Headquarters.
41
42 2) Those who are retired from active ministry.
43
44 3) Those who are in the Armed Forces currently on active duty.

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

Section 3. Relationship to Other Churches

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

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

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

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

8
9 **Section 5. Attitude Toward Those Removed From the Fellowship**

10
11 In order to render effective decisions made in the interest of proper discipline and for the
12 protection of our churches, all who hold credentials shall refrain from taking an attitude
13 toward those removed from the Fellowship that would tend to nullify or set at naught the
14 solemn verdict of those entrusted with this responsibility. A minister who so offends shall
15 be subject to reprimand or, if persisted in, appropriate discipline.

16
17 **ARTICLE XII. WORLD EVANGELISM**

18
19 **Section 1. Scope and Policy**

20
21 Since the Master has declared that the field is the world, the Michigan Ministry Network
22 Council shall assume the responsibility to do all in its power to spread the full Gospel in the
23 United States and throughout the whole world.

24
25 **Section 2. Organization**

- 26
27 **a. Network World Missions Director.** The Network Superintendent, in cooperation
28 with the Presbyter Board, shall appoint a Network World Missions Director.
- 29
30 **b. Network Missions Committee.** The Network Missions Committee shall review any
31 applicant for missionary appointment under Assemblies of God World Missions and
32 Assemblies of God US Missions as directed by the Presbyter Board.
- 33
34 **c. Church Planting Director.** The Network Superintendent, in cooperation with the
35 Presbyter Board, shall appoint a Church Planting Director.
- 36
37 **d. Network Church Planting and Development Board.** The Church Planting and
38 Development Board shall establish policies, budgets, new church planting strategies,
39 etc. Appointed members may be added to the Church Planting Board at the
40 discretion of the Network Superintendent.

41
42 The Church Planting and Development board shall have the prerogative to authorize
43 the purchase and disposal of all Church Planting and Development property. Legal
44 documents for the purchase and disposal of such property shall be approved and

1 signed by the Network Superintendent and Network Secretary-Treasurer or their
2 designees.

3
4 *Term of Office.* All appointed members shall be appointed for a period of one (1)
5 year. They shall serve a maximum of five (5) consecutive terms with a one (1) term
6 interim before becoming eligible again for appointment to this Board.

7
8 **Section 3. Assemblies of God World and U.S. Missions Support**

9
10 **a. Missionary and Ministry Support.** Every local church shall be encouraged to assume
11 responsibility for support of duly appointed missionaries and approved ministries in
12 cooperation with Assemblies of God World and U.S. Missions. It is the prerogative of
13 each lead pastor and local church to present a plan that promotes faith and
14 generosity that will work best in their local church setting to raise support for
15 missional endeavors.

16
17 **b. Other nationally endorsed Assemblies of God missions' programs.** Each Pastor is
18 encouraged to promote giving to other nationally endorsed Assemblies of God
19 missions funding programs.

20
21 **c. Missionaries.** Missionaries who itinerate in the Network with unrestricted
22 itineration privileges shall send 5% of their offerings received in the Michigan
23 Ministry Network to the Network Office to help support world missionary endeavors.

24
25 **Section 4. Planting New Local Churches**

26
27 The Church Planting and Development Board shall function under policies approved by the
28 Presbyter Board. New local churches shall be recognized by all concerned as Assemblies of
29 God churches from their very inception. They, except for Parent Affiliated Churches which
30 are under the supervision and governance of the parent church, shall be affiliated with the
31 Michigan Network as Network Affiliated churches and function under the Network Affiliated
32 Bylaws furnished by the Presbyter Board.

33
34 **ARTICLE XIII. NETWORK MINISTRIES**

35
36 **Section 1. Network Ministries**

37
38 Network Ministries and departments may be established as needed. They shall operate
39 under the general supervision of the Network Officiary and operate in accord with the
40 department's approved policies and guidelines.

41
42 **Section 2. North Central University**

43
44 **a. Ownership.** The Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry Network, is a partner in the
45 ownership and operation of North Central University, located in Minneapolis,

1 Minnesota. North Central University is recognized as an integral part of the Michigan
2 Ministry Network.

- 3
4 **b. Board of Regents.** The Michigan Ministry Network will provide representation to the
5 North Central University Board of Regents according to the policies established by
6 North Central University.

7
8 **ARTICLE XIV. ADULT AND TEEN CHALLENGE U.S.A.**

9
10 Adult and Teen Challenge U.S.A. operating within the Assemblies of God, Michigan Ministry
11 Network shall cooperate with the Network and the General Council of the Assemblies of God
12 by compliance with the accreditation standards established by Adult and Teen Challenge
13 U.S.A.

14
15 **ARTICLE XV. BENEVOLENT MINISTRIES**

16
17 The Michigan Ministry Network may involve itself in humanitarian and benevolent
18 ministries. Such benevolent ministries shall operate under the supervision of the Network
19 Officiary in accordance with approved policies and guidelines.

20
21 **ARTICLE XVI. PUBLICATIONS**

22
23 The Michigan Ministry Network shall continue to support all General Council papers and
24 publications and any other publications authorized by the General Council.

25
26 **ARTICLE XVII. FINANCE**

27
28 **Section 1. Network Council Support**

- 29
30 **a. Ministers.** Credentialed ministers of the Michigan Ministry Network receiving
31 ministerial income, including housing allowance, shall agree to contribute not less
32 than 85% of their tithe for Network support.

33
34 Credentialed ministers who receive no ministerial income shall agree to contribute
35 not less than \$240 annually of their tithe for Network support.

36
37 Every credential holder is encouraged to support the Network monthly and in no case
38 contribute less than \$240 annually.

39
40 Those credentialed ministers who have the renewal status of Senior-Retired and are
41 no longer engaged in any regular appointed ministry, shall be free to distribute as
42 they desire the portion of their tithes previously given to the Network.

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

4
5 In cases where a senior Pastor feels that the local church is in dire financial need, the
6 Pastor shall continue to contribute the required Network support; and notify the
7 Network Secretary-Treasurer who shall investigate the situation and take
8 appropriate action.

9
10 **b. Local Churches.** It is recommended that each local church make a monthly
11 contribution equal to at least one percent (1%) of its general fund offerings to the
12 Network for its support.

13
14 **Section 2. Support of Network Ministries**

15
16 It is recommended that each local church support Network Ministries and Departments with
17 monthly offerings or in accordance with departmental policies.

18
19 **Section 3. Depositories**

20
21 All Network corporate funds shall be held in the name of the Assemblies of God, Michigan
22 Ministry Network, and deposited or invested with financial institutions approved by the
23 Executive Board.

24
25 **Section 4. Network Indebtedness**

26
27 **a. Limitations.** No unbudgeted indebtedness exceeding \$15,000 shall be incurred by
28 the Michigan Ministry Network unless authorized by a two-thirds vote of the
29 Presbyter Board.

30
31 **b. Loan Endorsement.** The Presbyter Board shall be authorized to endorse loans
32 obtained by local churches from banks or other sources up to the total amount of
33 fifty percent (50%) of the capital investment fund of the Network.

34
35 **Section 5. Financial Reviews and Audits**

36
37 An annual financial review or audit, as determined by the Presbyter Board, shall be done by
38 an independent certified public firm. The fiscal year of Departments and Sections shall
39 conform to the fiscal year of the Network.

40
41 **Section 6. Finance Committee**

42
43 The Executive Board shall serve as the Network Finance Committee. The Finance Committee
44 shall be charged with the responsibility of studying the budgets of all Network Departments
45 and shall serve in an advisory capacity in matters of general finance. They shall give

1 preliminary survey and advice concerning any major project on the Network or Department
2 level involving the expenditure of funds.

3
4 **Section 7. Budgets**

5
6 All Network Departments shall submit a proposed budget annually at least ninety (90) days
7 before the close of the fiscal year. These budgets shall be examined by the Finance
8 Committee and then submitted to the Presbyter Board for adoption.

9
10 **ARTICLE XVIII. RETIREMENT**

11
12 In order to provide a retirement income for ministers, it is recommended that each church
13 and each minister contribute a minimum amount equal to 2½ percent of the minister's
14 housing and salary to the Minister's Benefit Association.

15
16 **ARTICLE XIX. MILITARY SERVICE**

17
18 As a Movement we affirm our loyalty to the government of the United States of America in
19 war and peace.

20
21 We shall continue to insist, as we have historically, on the right of each member to choose
22 to declare their position as a combatant, noncombatant or a conscientious objector.

23
24 **ARTICLE XX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED**

25
26 In accord with its constitutional prerogatives, The General Council of the Assemblies of God
27 and the Michigan Ministry Network have declared themselves in agreement pertaining to
28 certain matters as stated in the following General Council Bylaws, Article IX. Doctrine and
29 Practices Disapproved, B. List of Doctrines and Practices Disapproved. It is the responsibility
30 of Credential Holders to familiarize themselves with the "Doctrines and Practices
31 Disapproved" by the General Council of the Assemblies of God and refrain from participating
32 in them.

33
34 **ARTICLE XXI. AMENDMENTS**

35
36 Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any regular or special meeting of the Network
37 Council provided the proposed amendment has been submitted to the Network Secretary's
38 office at least seventy-five (75) days prior to the session at which the amendment is to be
39 considered. The Network Secretary will present any proposed amendments to the Presbyter
40 Board prior to Network Council for their examination after the Resolutions Committee has
41 prepared them. The Network Secretary shall send, by mail or electronic means, a copy of the
42 proposed amendment to the Credential Holders of the Network Council at least thirty (30)
43 days prior to the meeting. A majority of all votes cast shall be necessary for the adoption of
44 an amendment to the Bylaws.

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

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