

# **Faith Assembly Constitution & By-Laws**

# **CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

**FAITH ASSEMBLY OF GOD, INC.  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA**

## **PREAMBLE**

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Spirit may be honored according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and abroad; we, whose names appear upon the Assembly Roster, do hereby recognize ourselves as a Local Assembly in fellowship with and part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, and also of the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Lakeland, Florida, and do adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

## **OUR CREED AND COVENANT**

[We] believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. [We] believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day, He rose again; He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

[We] believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

### **(Covenant)**

We, having been called out of the world by the precious Spirit of God, and having become acquainted with the ARTICLES OF FAITH and policy of the Faith Assembly of God, Inc. and believing it to be of God, and having become members of same, do solemnly, but cheerfully, and with joy and gladness enter into this covenant:

We will watch over each other with the love of Christ as brothers and sisters. We will abstain from wrong conversations and gossiping about our fellow Christians, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace.

We will warn them that are unruly, or who walk disorderly; comfort the feeble-minded; support the weak; be patient toward all men; see that none render evil for evil unto any man; and ever follow that which is good, both among ourselves and those who are without. We will provide things honest in the sight of all men, and if it be possible, as much as lies in us, live peaceably with all men.

Realizing that the Church is the Body of Christ, and that He purchased it with His own blood, and since we are members of His Church, we will faithfully attend its Services and support it with God's Tithes and our Offerings. We will strive to so live as not to bring any reproach upon the Church, and will faithfully adhere to its doctrines and teachings, as well as support its program.

This we will do by God's Divine Enablement, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

# CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this Assembly will be Faith Assembly of God, Inc. of the City of Orlando, State of Florida.

## ARTICLE II PREROGATIVES

**Section 1.** This Assembly will have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures, Ephesians 4:3: "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" and Ephesians 4:13: "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

**Section 2.** In connection with, or incidental to, it will have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purpose; all in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws or as same may be hereafter modified or amended, as long as it is in harmony with the parent bodies.

## ARTICLE III AFFILIATION

While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, this Assembly will voluntarily enter into full cooperative fellowship with Assemblies of like precious faith associated in the Peninsular Florida District Council, and the General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri; and will share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation.

## ARTICLE IV TENETS OF FAITH

This Assembly shall accept the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God, the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopts the Statement of Fundamental Truths approved by the General Council of the Assemblies of God, which are as follows:

**1. The Scriptures Inspired.** The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct. (II Tim. 3:15-17; I Peter 1:23-25; Heb. 4:12).

**2. The One True God.** The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Deut. 6:4; Mark 12:29; Isa. 43:10; Matt. 28:19).

### 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, Matt. 28:19; II Cor. 13:14; John 14:16, 17)

- (B) Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead.** Christ taught a distinction of Persons in the Godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Luke 1:34; I Cor. 1:24; Matt. 11:25-27, 28:19; II Cor. 13:14; I John 1:3, 4)
- (C) Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.** Accordingly, therefore, there is that in the Father which constitutes him the Father and not the Son; there is that in the Son which constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Spirit which constitutes Him the Holy Spirit and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore the Father is the Begetter, the Son is the Begotten, and the Holy Spirit is the one proceeding from the Father and the Son. Therefore, because these three persons in the Godhead are in a state of unity, there is but one Lord God Almighty and His name one. (John 1:18; 15:26; 17:11; 21; Zech. 14:9)
- (D) Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead.** The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are never identical as to Person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the Godhead; nor opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father, as to authority. The Holy Spirit is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation and authority. Hence, neither Person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others. (John 5:17-30, 32, 37 & 8:17-18)
- (E) The Title, Lord Jesus Christ.** The appellation, "Lord Jesus Christ," is a proper name. It is never applied in the New Testament, either to the Father or to the Holy Spirit. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God. (Rom. 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. (Matt. 1:23; I John 4:2, 10, 14; Rev. 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. (Matt. 1:21-23; II John 3; I John 3:8; Heb. 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. (II John 9; John 1:1, 2, 14, 18, 29, 49; I John 2:22, 23; 4:1-5; Heb. 12:2)
- (I) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord.** The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him. And having been made both Lord and Christ, He sent the Holy Spirit that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. (Heb. 1:3; I Peter 3:22; Acts 3:32-26; Rom. 14:11; I Cor. 15:24-28)
- (J) Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son.** Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only the express duty of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is an unspeakable joy in the Holy Spirit to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of Deity, and to give Him all honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the Godhead except those which express relationship (see Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead, Unity of the One Being of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead) and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father. (John 5:22, 23; I Peter 1:8; Rev. 5:6-14; Phil. 2:8, 9; Rev. 4:8-11; 7:9-10)

**3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.** The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare: His virgin birth (Matt. 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35), His sinless life (Heb. 7:26; I Pet. 2:22), His miracles (Acts 2:22, 10:38), His substitutionary work on the cross (I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21), His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matt. 28:6; Luke 24:39; I Cor. 15:4), and His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, 11; 2:33; Phil. 2:9-11; Heb. 1:3).

**4. The Fall of Man.** Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our own 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 (Gen. 1:26-27, 2:17, 3:6; Rom. 5:12-19).

**5. The Salvation of Man.** Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**(A) Conditions to Salvation.** Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God, according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Rom. 10:13-15; Eph. 2:8; Titus 2:11, 3:5-7).

**(B) Evidence of Salvation.** The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Rom. 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Eph. 4:24; Titus 2:12).

## **6. The Ordinances of the Church**

**(A) Baptism in Water.** The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded by the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Saviour 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 (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47, 48; Rom. 6:4).

**(B) Holy Communion.** The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements--bread and the fruit of the vine-- (Matt. 26:26,29) are the symbols expressing a memorial of His suffering and death, and a prophecy of His second coming (I Corinthians 11:26), and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

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

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

**9. Sanctification.** Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Rom. 12:1-2; I Thess. 5:23; Heb. 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14). By the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (I Pet. 1:15-16). Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by the faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering your mental and physical abilities continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 6:1-11, 13; 8:1-2, 13; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 2:12-13; I Pet. 1:5).

**10. The Church and Its Mission.** The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with Divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the Firstborn, which are written in heaven (Eph. 1:22-23, 2:22; Heb. 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 primary 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; Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16);
- (B) To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (I Cor. 12:13);
- (C) To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Eph. 4:11-16; I Cor. 12:28, 14:12);
- (D) To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world (Ps. 112:9; Gal. 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

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

- (A) Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Heb. 2:3,4),
- (B) Adds a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God (I Cor. 2:10-16; I Cor. 12, 13, 14),
- (C) and enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ and care for the poor and needy of the world (Matt. 25:37-40; Gal. 5:22-26, 6:10; I Cor. 12:28, 14:12; Eph. 4:11,12; Col. 1:29).

**11. The Ministry.** A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the fourfold purpose of leading the Church in: (1.) Evangelization of the world, (2.) Worship of God, (3.) Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and (4.) Meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Mark 16:15, 20; John 4:23, 24; Eph. 4:11-16; Ps. 112:9; Gal. 2:10, 6:10; James 1:27).

**12. Divine Healing.** Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers (Isa. 53:4, 5; Matt. 8:16, 17; John 5:14-16).

**13. The Blessed Hope.** The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the church (I Thess. 4:16, 17; Rom. 8:23; Titus 2:13; I Cor. 15:51, 52).

**14. The Millennial Reign of Christ.** The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on earth for one thousand years (Zech. 14:5; Matt. 24:27, 30; Romans 11:25; Rev. 1:7, 19:11-14, 20:1-6).

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

**16. The New Heavens and the New Earth.** We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness (II Peter 3:13; Rev. 21-22).

## **ARTICLE V ORDINANCES**

**1. Water Baptism.** The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded by the Scriptures. All who repent and believe in Christ as Saviour 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 (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47-48; Rom. 6:4). This ordinance will be available for all believers to participate.

**2. Holy Communion.** The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements--bread and the fruit of the vine-- (Matt. 26:26,29) are the symbols expressing a memorial of His suffering and death, and a prophecy of His second coming (I Corinthians 11:26), and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!" The Lord's Supper will be regularly observed.

**3. Tithing and Giving.** Members are expected to wholeheartedly embrace the Scriptural teaching of tithing and giving of their increase to the Church for the propagation of the Gospel (Mal. 3:8-12; Luke 11:42; I Cor. 16:2; Deut. 16:17; II Cor. 9:7; Prov. 3:9).

**4. Marriage.** Based on our Christian beliefs, we will only perform wedding ceremonies and recognize marriages between one man and one woman as biologically designed by birth. We believe weddings performed in our church are Christian worship services. As a result, we will only allow weddings on church property that adhere to our ministry beliefs and our religious purposes (Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:6-9).

## **ARTICLE VI MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1. Membership Eligibility.** Membership in this Assembly will be extended to all applicants who profess and demonstrate their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; who have been or plan to be baptized in water as an outward declaration of their salvation; and who agree to the Assembly's tenets of faith and to be governed by its by-laws.

**Section 2. Voting Membership.** All those who meet the Scriptural standards for membership--whose names appeared on the original membership roll of the Assembly when it was first organized, together with those names which will be added from time to time--will constitute the legal voting membership of the Assembly, provided they are 16 years of age or over; they regularly attend and take part in services; they are living consistent Christian lives; and they are in agreement with our distinctive testimony.

**Section 3. Inactive Membership.** Members who, without good cause, absent themselves from the services of the Assembly for a period of three consecutive months or more; who voluntarily withdraw from the fellowship; or who have not faithfully supported the church with tithes and offerings will be considered inactive members and therefore lose their voting privileges.

**Section 4. Honorary Members.** Honorary members will consist of those members who have entered the ministry as District Officers, Pastors, Evangelists, Missionaries, Religious Educators, or those serving in the Armed Services, which makes it impossible to serve as active members. Honorary membership recognition will continue as long as the member maintains a cooperative attitude towards the home Assembly. Voting privileges may be granted at the discretion of the Pastor or Designee.

### **Section 5. General Church Standards.**

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

In its teaching regarding worldliness, the Scriptures warn against: participation in activities which defile the body, or corrupt the mind and spirit; the inordinate love of, or preoccupation with, pleasures, position, or possessions, which lead to their misuse; manifestation of extreme behavior, unbecoming speech, or inappropriate appearance; and any fascination or association which lessens one's affection for spiritual things (Luke 21:34, 35; Rom. 8:5-8; 12:1, 2; II Cor. 6:14-18; Eph. 5:11; I Tim. 2:8-10; 4:12; James 4:4; I John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12).

**(B) Regarding Secret Societies.** We feel that it is inconsistent for the followers of Christ to belong to secret or oath-bound societies, which involve Christians in unscriptural alliances, and which we recognize as of the world. We advise any who may have identified themselves with such orders to sever their connections with them (Matt. 5:34-37; II Cor. 6:14-17; Eph. 5:11-13).

**(C) Temperance.** Temperance is the moderate use of that which is beneficial and a total abstinence from that which is harmful. Therefore, no member of this Assembly should use intoxicating liquors, illegal or harmful drugs, or participate in other practices which are unbecoming and inconsistent with our Christian profession.

**(D) Heresies Disapproved.** We disapprove of false teachings and heretical denominations that contradict the sound, full gospel doctrine to which the Assemblies of God adheres. This may include but is not limited to: Christian Science, Spiritualism, Jehovah's Witness, Mormonism, Scientology, Hinduism, Islam, etc. Those believing and promoting such teachings, causing confusion and division among God's people, will be addressed according to Titus 3:10.

## **ARTICLE VII CHURCH GOVERNMENT**

**1. The Pastor.** The Pastor, under Jesus Christ, is recognized as the head of the church. He is responsible to both the District fellowship and to the church he serves. As long as he conforms to Scriptural order and complies with the Constitution and By-Laws of the local church, his office will be recognized.

**2. Church Boards.** In this Assembly, no board, committee, or group may take to themselves the right to supersede the authority vested in the Scriptural office of the Pastor, nor come between the Pastor and his relationship to the congregation itself. Boards or other church committees are chosen to serve the church in conformity to simple New Testament order and are directly responsible to both the Pastor and the Assembly for their actions and conduct.

## **ARTICLE VIII OFFICERS AND DUTIES**

**Section 1. The Pastor will be considered the spiritual overseer** of the Assembly and will direct all of its activities. He will be the president of the corporation and will be the presiding officer of all business meetings of the Assembly and of the Board. He will be an ex-officio member of all committees and departments. He will oversee or make arrangements for all the services of the Assembly, including special meetings, conventions, revival services, camps, and similar events. No person will be invited to speak or preach in the Assembly without his approval.

**Section 2. The Board, in addition to the Pastor, will consist of at least six members** chosen from the membership of the church. They will transact all routine business of the church. They are chosen to serve the church and therefore will act in an advisory capacity with the Pastor in all matters pertaining to the Assembly in its spiritual life and in the ministry of its ordinances and to assist the Pastor in the business of the church. They will review applications for membership at the request of the Pastor. For members in need of correction, the Board will assist the pastor in seeking reconciliation. A majority present at any meeting of the Board will constitute a quorum, provided all the members have been notified to be present.

**Section 3. The Secretary of the Assembly will keep the minutes of the official meetings** of the Board and of the business meetings of the Assembly. The Secretary will supervise the safekeeping of records including that of the membership roll, legal documents, and the corporate seal.



**Section 4. The Treasurer will be entrusted with all the finances of the Assembly.** The Treasurer will supervise the depositing of all funds in a bank designated by the Pastor and the Board, in the name of the Assembly, and will disburse the funds as authorized by the Pastor and the Board. A fund to handle operating expenses will be established under the supervision of the Treasurer and Pastor.

The Treasurer will be responsible for supervising the maintenance of an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements. He will make an itemized written report monthly for the regular Board Meeting and a summarized written report with copies provided to the members of the Assembly at its Annual Business Meeting. All accounts will be audited annually, and all signers of checks may be bonded at the discretion of the Pastor and Board.

## **ARTICLE IX MEETINGS**

**Section 1. Meetings for public worship will be held on each Lord's Day** as well as during the week, under the direction of the Pastor.

**Section 2. There will be an Annual Business Meeting of the Assembly,** at which time the Board will be elected and the reports will be read. This meeting will be held at the church during the month of February. Due notice is to be given at least two Sundays prior to the meeting.

### **Section 3.**

**(A) Special business meetings of the Assembly may be called when necessary** after proper notice has been given at least two Sundays prior to the meeting by the Pastor or by the Secretary, provided the meeting has been agreed upon by a majority of the Board.

**(B) Resolutions in writing must be presented at least one week in advance** by any active voting member, provided such resolutions are signed by said member.

**Section 4. A quorum will consist of the members who attend** any special or Annual Business Meeting (announced two weeks in advance).

**Section 5. The Board will meet monthly, or as often as it is deemed necessary,** for the transaction of routine business of the Assembly. The time and place will be announced by the Pastor.

## **ARTICLE X DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES**

The Assembly will hereby provide for the establishment of any departments or committees as the needs of the work may require. All such departments and committees will be subordinate to the Assembly and will contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. The departments and committees and their funds will be under the general supervision of the Pastor and Board and the Pastor will be an ex-officio member of all committees or departments. All departments will be regulated by an annual budget, which will be submitted by the respective departments and approved by the Pastor and the Board. In the endeavor to establish ministry departments, all associate and assistant Pastors, Directors, members of the Pastoral and Support Staff, and all other employees may be appointed or dismissed by the Pastor. The Board will be notified of appointments or dismissals of Pastors, Directors, and Pastoral Staff.

## **ARTICLE XI FINANCES**

**Section 1. Funds for the maintenance of the Assembly** will be provided by the tithes and offerings of the members of the Assembly and by any other income collected. Offerings will be accepted by the Assembly at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the Pastor and the Board and will be administered by the Treasurer under the direction of the Pastor (Mal. 3:10; Luke 6:38; I Cor. 16:1, 2; II Cor. 9:6-8).

**Section 2. Employee Compensation.** Whatever salaries and allowances are to be paid and the amount to be paid will be decided upon by the Pastor or his designated supervisor(s), with the information being made available to the Board. Salaries and allowances are to be reviewed periodically throughout the year as deemed necessary but no less than annually.

**Section 3. Missionary Efforts and Funds.** Constant emphasis will be placed upon the importance of missionary endeavors. Money to be used for both home and foreign missions will be provided regularly. The time and method for the raising of these funds will be decided by the Pastor and the Board. A minimum of 10% of all tithes and undesignated offerings will be given to missions, in addition to all designated missionary offerings.

## **ARTICLE XII PROPERTY RIGHTS**

**Section 1. All property consisting of land or buildings of the Assembly will be deeded to the Assembly** and held in its name. No property of the Assembly will be bought, sold, or otherwise disposed of without recommendation by the voice of a majority of the Board of Directors. The Secretary and Treasurer of the Assembly will certify that the above transactions have been authorized and recommended by a vote of the Board of Directors. Certificates will be held as conclusive evidence of such transactions.

**Section 2. In the event defection** occurs from the tenets of faith of this church as the same are stated in the STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS in the Constitution of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, or from affiliation with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, any portion of the membership subscribing to and practicing the aforesaid tenets of faith and retaining membership with Faith Assembly of God will retain possession of, and title to, all properties of said church with full rights thereto as provided in its Constitution and By-Laws.

**Section 3. In the event this church will cease** to function for the purposes as declared in its Articles of Agreement and/or the Articles of its Constitution, then after providing for the payment of its debts, the remaining assets will not benefit any private person or persons, but all remaining assets will revert to and be transferred to the parent body (within one year), the General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Missouri Corporation with headquarters at Springfield, Missouri. The General Council of the Assemblies of God will have full authority to sell such property and to use the proceeds derived therefrom for the extension of the work of the Assemblies of God within the Peninsular Florida District to be used in the section in which the church resides.

## **ARTICLE XIII AMENDMENTS**

The By-Laws may be amended at any annual or special business meeting of the Assembly by at least two-thirds vote of the membership present, provided the meeting and nature of the proposed change have been announced publicly on the two Sundays prior to the date of the meeting. The announcement must be made by the Pastor or the Secretary.

# BY-LAWS

## ARTICLE I

### QUALIFICATIONS, DUTIES, ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND VACANCIES

#### Section 1. The Pastor

**(A) Qualifications.** The Pastor is designated in the Scriptures as the head of the church, under the leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ, and is referred to under the title of Pastor (Eph. 4:11), Overseer (Acts 20:28), and Shepherd (I Peter 5:2-4). The Pastor will therefore qualify according to these Scriptural standards and those in I Timothy 3:1-7. He will believe in and completely preach the doctrines set forth in the Tenets of Faith in Article IV of this Constitution. He will also be an ordained minister in good standing with the Assemblies of God.

**(B) Election.** The Pastor will be elected by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership present for an indefinite period of time. In the calling of a new Pastor, he will be nominated by the Board. Recommendations may be made to the Board in writing and properly signed by any voting member of the Assembly. The Board will refrain from presenting several ministers to the Assembly before taking a vote, but after hearing a qualified prospective pastor, a yes or no vote will be requested from the membership if the Board and the prospective pastor agree to place the prospective pastor's name before the Assembly. Election will be by secret ballot at a special meeting called for that purpose. The Board will appoint someone to preside at this election. The District Superintendent will be invited.

**(C) Vacancy.** The tenure of office of the Pastor will be terminated by resignation, removal, death, or disqualification. Power is vested in the Board to ask for the resignation of the Pastor at any time. If the resignation is refused, the pastorate will be decided by a majority vote of the membership present at a meeting called for that purpose and conducted by the District Officiary. In the event of the Pastor's removal from office, a report will be given to the District Officiary. When a vacancy in the pastorate occurs, an interim Pastor will be appointed by the Board until a Pastor is chosen as prescribed in Paragraph 1b. If the Pastor voluntarily resigns, he will first notify the Board in writing and then he or a Board Member will read the Board-approved resignation letter to the congregation. This act is to be considered legal and final by the Assembly. The effective resignation date must be mutually agreed upon by the Pastor and the Board.

#### Section 2. The Board (other than the Pastor)

**(A) Qualifications.** The Members of the Board will meet the standards of qualifications as described in I Tim. 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-3. They will be a voting member of the Assembly for at least one year; at least twenty-five years old; and having proved themselves in other areas of service in the Assembly. No minister, holding papers with any denomination, will be eligible to serve as a Board Member unless agreed upon by the Pastor and the Board.

**(B) Election.** The Members of the Board will be elected for a term of one, two, or three years on a rotating basis at the Annual Business Meeting. At least one will be elected each year. A list of qualified prospective board members will be prepared for the existing Board for the purpose of nominating candidates. Recommendations may be submitted by any voting member, in writing and properly signed. At least two names for each vacancy will be presented, and nominations from the floor will not be permitted. Voting will be conducted by secret ballot, and a majority of all votes cast is required to constitute an election.

**(C) Vacancy.** In the event a Board Member is unable to properly fulfill the role, an attempt for reconciliation will be made; however, if reconciliation is unachievable, his seat may be declared vacant by an act of a majority of the membership of the Board. Grounds for such action may include: unscriptural conduct; doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith; incompetence in office; for any good and sufficient cause; or lack of cooperation with the program of the church. In the event a vacancy occurs, the Pastor may appoint a qualified interim Board Member (see Section 2a) to fill the office until the next Annual Business Meeting. At the next Annual Business Meeting, a Board Member will be elected, in accordance with Section 2b, to fill the remainder of the unexpired term.

### **Section 3. Secretary of the Corporation**

**(A) Qualifications.** The Secretary should have clerical skills, faithfulness in character, and possess a spirit of hearty cooperation.

**(B) Duties.** The Secretary will keep the minutes of the official meetings of the Board and also of the annual and special meetings of the church. They will keep a record of the membership of the church and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of their duties. They will have charge of all legal documents.

**(C) Appointment.** The Pastor will appoint the most qualified person. Their term in office will continue until they are succeeded.

**(D) Vacancies.** In the event a vacancy occurs for any reason, the Lead Pastor will appoint the most qualified person to serve as an interim or a permanent Secretary.

### **Section 4. Treasurer of the Corporation**

**(A) Qualifications.** The Treasurer should have financial management skills, faithfulness in character, and possess a spirit of hearty cooperation.

**(B) Duties.** The Treasurer will keep an itemized account of the receipts and disbursements of all monies received. The Treasurer will make an itemized statement for the regular meeting of the Board and a summarized statement for the church's annual meetings.

**(C) Appointment.** The Pastor will appoint the most qualified person. Their term in office will continue until they are succeeded.

**(D) Vacancies.** In the event a vacancy occurs for any reason, the Lead Pastor will appoint the most qualified person to serve as an interim or a permanent Treasurer.

## **ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1. Qualifications.** Membership in this Assembly will be extended to all applicants who profess and demonstrate their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; who have been or plan to be baptized in water as an outward declaration of their salvation; and who agree to the Assembly's tenets of faith and to be governed by its by-laws.

**Section 2. Reception of Members.** Anyone desiring to become an active Member of Faith Assembly of God will submit a completed membership application. Their application will be reviewed to ensure all qualifications for membership are met. Those desiring to transfer membership from another Assembly of God church will be required to submit a membership application. Applicants who meet the membership requirements will be publicly recognized and inducted into the Assembly at the next New Member Induction which will take place during a scheduled worship service. Inductees will have their status updated in the database to document they are an official Member of the Assembly. Applications not recommended for acceptance will be given to the Pastor and the Board for final decision.

**Section 3. Active Membership.** All those whose names appear on the current membership roll of the Assembly, provided they regularly participate in the services and are living consistent Christian lives and regularly support the church with tithes and offerings will be considered active members.

**Section 4. Voting Privileges.** Voting privileges will be extended to active members who meet the following qualifications: **1)** are sixteen years of age or over; **2)** have faithfully attended services within sixty days prior to an election, unless members have been incapacitated or are away from the area; and **3)** have contributed tithes and offerings to support the church on a regular basis.

At any business session, voting members will be seated in a special section of the auditorium. Each voting member will register prior to the business meeting. The Pastor's spouse and any associate or assistant Pastors and their spouses will be extended voting privileges in all matters of the church.

**Section 5. Inactive Membership.** Members who, without good cause, absent themselves from the services of the Assembly for a period of three consecutive months or more; who voluntarily withdraw from the fellowship; or who have not faithfully supported the church with tithes and offerings will be considered inactive members and therefore lose their voting privileges.

**Section 6. Transfer of Membership.** Members in good standing who desire to be transferred to some other congregation may apply for a letter; said letter is to be signed by the Pastor or the Secretary.

**Section 7. Withdrawal from Membership.** Members who desire to voluntarily have their names removed from the membership roll of the Assembly should submit their request in writing to the Secretary.

### **Section 8. Discipline**

**(A) Members of the Assembly** who willfully absent themselves from regular services, prior to a business meeting, or willfully fail to contribute tithes and offerings to support the church, voluntarily disqualify themselves from voting.

**(B) The Board may address** anyone who has fallen into sin or whose life misaligns with the standards and teachings of the Assembly in order to seek reconciliation. If reconciliation is unachievable, their next action may consist of revoking the individual's membership status. The person will be notified of the Board's action by the Secretary. If an appeal is made to the Board for reconsideration of their decision and reinstatement is not granted, the decision will stand. (Matt. 18:15; Rom. 16:17, 18; I Cor. 5:1-5; II Thess. 3:6-15)

**Section 9. Revision of Membership Roll.** The Pastor and the Board may revise the membership status of any person who becomes an inactive member. Inactivity may include failing to attend weekly services and not consistently supporting the church by giving tithes and offerings. If the membership status of any person is changed, that person may be notified of the action at least thirty days prior to the Annual Business Meeting. Names of the deceased will be removed from the membership database.

### **Section 10. Divorce and Remarriage**

**(A)** There are now among Christian people those who became entangled in marriage relations in their former lives of sin and who do not see how these matters can be adjusted. These people will be received into the membership of Faith Assembly upon application, and we will recommend they leave their marriage complications in the hands of the Lord (I Cor. 7:2, 17, 24).

**(B)** We recommend that in no case people be accepted into membership who are known to be living together without being legally married. We will extend our full effort and resources to marry a couple if they desire membership.

**(C)** Low standards on marriage and divorce are very hurtful to individuals, to the family, and to the cause of Christ. Therefore, we discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching. We positively disapprove of Christians getting divorces for any cause except fornication and adultery (Matt. 19:9). In these cases we urge the offending partner to repent and the offended partner to extend forgiveness, especially if they have children together. Where these exceptional circumstances exist or when a Christian has been divorced by an unbeliever, we recommend that the question of remarriage be resolved by the believer in the light of God's Word (I Cor. 7:15, 27, 28).

## **ARTICLE III ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The suggested order of business for the Annual Business Meeting of the Assembly is as follows:

1. Roll Call
2. Devotional
3. Reading of previous Annual or Special minutes by the Secretary
4. Report of the Treasurer
5. Report of Church Departmental Officers
6. Unfinished Business
7. Election of Officers
8. New Business
9. Adjournment