

BYLAWS
OF
THE GEORGIA DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Eighth Revision April 24, 2023
Christ Chapel Community Church
Zebulon, Georgia

Seventh Revision April 25, 2022
Chapelhill Church
Douglasville, Georgia

Sixth Revision April 16, 2021
The Assembly
Warner Robins, Georgia

Fifth Revision August 21, 2020
First Assembly of God
Griffin, Georgia

Fourth Revision May 3, 2016
The Assembly
Warner Robins, Georgia

Third Revision April 30, 2014
North Highland Assembly of God
Columbus, Georgia

First Revision May 3, 2011
First Assembly of God
Warner Robins, Georgia

BYLAWS TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREAMBLE	3
ARTICLE I. NAME	3
ARTICLE II. TERRITORY	4
ARTICLE III. RELATIONSHIPS	4
ARTICLE IV. PRINCIPLES FOR FELLOWSHIP	4
ARTICLE V. PREROGATIVES	4
ARTICLE VI. TENETS OF FAITH	5
ARTICLE VII. RELEVANT POSITIONS	5
ARTICLE VIII. MEMBERSHIP	5
ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS	6
ARTICLE X. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS	7
ARTICLE XI. DUTIES OF OFFICERS	10
ARTICLE XII. MEETINGS	14
ARTICLE XIII. COMMITTEES	16
ARTICLE XIV. DEPARTMENTS	17
ARTICLE XV. MINISTRY	18
ARTICLE XVI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES	19
ARTICLE XVII. THE GEORGIA DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONAL MANUAL	22
ARTICLE XVIII. EMERGENCY BYLAWS	22
ARTICLE XIX. DISSOLUTION	23
ARTICLE XX. AMENDMENTS	24
ADDENDUM	25

PREAMBLE

The Georgia District Council of the Assemblies of God exists to serve and support the local church in carrying out the final words of Jesus to, “go into all the world and preach the gospel” (Matthew 28:19-20). We believe that the local church is the hope of the world! From local churches, the work of ministry is carried out by men and women who are called by God to establish a healthy, growing, Spirit-empowered church in every community in Georgia. Until Jesus returns, we commit ourselves to the work of evangelism and the care of local churches through a firm commitment to Biblical truth and integrity, Spirit-empowerment, and an undying love for the world.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this corporation is the GEORGIA DISTRICT COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC.; also referred to hereinafter as the “Georgia District” or the “District.”

ARTICLE II. TERRITORY

The state of Georgia is the territory of the Georgia District. The District shall be divided into regions, the boundaries of which are determined by the District Presbytery. The District Presbytery is authorized to alter regional boundaries, create new regions, merge, or close existing regions.

ARTICLE III. RELATIONSHIPS

Section 1. General Council

The GEORGIA DISTRICT COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC is an integral part of The General Council of the Assemblies of God with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, also referred to hereinafter as “General Council.” Therefore, the principles of voluntary unity and cooperative fellowship, as set forth in the Constitution of the General Council, are the principles that shall govern this District.

Section 2. Churches

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

ARTICLE IV. PRINCIPLES FOR FELLOWSHIP

The Georgia District shall represent, as nearly as possible, the body of Christ as described in the New Testament. It shall recognize the principles inherent in the Body as also inherent in this Fellowship, particularly the principles of unity, cooperation, and equality. It recognizes that these principles will enable it to achieve its priority reason for being as an agency of God for evangelizing the world, as a corporate body who may worship God, as a channel of God’s purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and to be a people who demonstrate God’s love and compassion for all the world.

ARTICLE V. PREROGATIVES

In connection with its purpose to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ at home and abroad by all available means, the District shall have the following rights:

- a. To supervise all activities of the Assemblies of God in its prescribed territory, in accordance with the rights conferred by Article X of the Constitution and Article V of the Bylaws of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- b. To examine and recommend for certification, license, and ordination those individuals who have met the requirements as stated in Article VII of the General Council Bylaws.
- c. To elect its own officers and committees, to arrange for its own meetings and govern itself. It shall be subordinate to the General Council and amenable thereto in all matters of doctrine and the conduct of its ministers who shall have the District endorsement.
- d. To establish and maintain such departments and institutions for the District as may be required for the propagation of the Gospel within its borders.
- e. To have the right to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of such property as may be needed for the prosecution of its work.

ARTICLE VI. TENETS OF FAITH

The Georgia District accepts the Holy Bible as the inspired and revealed Will of God, the all sufficient rule of faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopts Article V. of the Constitution of The General Council of the Assemblies of God Statement of Fundamental Truths, as the same is now or from time to time may be revised, and as recited as an addendum to these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII. RELEVANT POSITIONS

In its commitment to the upholding of scriptural doctrine as the healthiest response to relevant concerns regarding marriage and family and regarding doctrines and practices which are disapproved, the GEORGIA DISTRICT COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC affirms Articles VIII and IX of the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE VIII. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Ministers

All General Council of the Assemblies of God credentialed ministers (Ordained, Licensed and Certified) in good standing who have their permanent residence within geographical territory of the state of Georgia together with those who meet the exceptions listed in Article VII., Section 8, Subsection b. and Section 9, Subsection a. of the General Council Bylaws.

Section 2. Local Churches

Churches within the geographical territory of the state of Georgia that are currently General Council Affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, or currently District Council Affiliated with the Georgia District.

Section 3. Voting Constituency

- a. In accordance with Article V, Section 4 of The General Council Bylaws, the voting constituency for District Councils shall include all ordained, licensed and certified ministers, and accredited delegates from affiliated churches, who are present and registered at District meetings. When possible, the voting constituency may be expanded through electronic means to include approved

credentialed missionaries on assignment who have registered for the District meetings. The same shall apply to Regional Meetings.

- b. A delegate elected by an affiliated assembly or appointed by the official board of an affiliated assembly shall have a letter of authorization from the assembly secretary to be eligible to vote. Each General Council Affiliated assembly shall be entitled to two (2) delegates and each District Council Affiliated assembly shall be entitled to one (1) delegate.

ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS

Section 1. Executive and Corporate Officers

The Georgia District executive officers shall consist of the district superintendent, the assistant district superintendent, and the district secretary-treasurer. By virtue of office they shall serve as the officers of the corporation.

Section 2. District Presbyters-at-Large

The Georgia District Presbyters-at-Large shall consist of five (5) ordained credential holders. Three (3) of the five may be designated as an Ethnic Presbyterian-at-Large, a Female Presbyterian-at-Large, and an Under 40 years of age Presbyterian-at-Large and a Grassroots-at-Large.

Section 3. Regional Presbyters

The Regional Presbyters shall consist of seven (7) ordained credential holders, one (1) Presbyterian from each of the seven (7) geographical regions. The seven (7) regions are divided in the following manner:

1. Central Region: Dublin, Griffin, and Macon sections
2. Coastal Region: Savannah and Waycross sections
3. Eastern Region: Athens and Augusta sections
4. Metro Region: East Atlanta, North Atlanta, South Atlanta, and West Atlanta sections
5. Mountain Region: Gainesville, and Rome sections
6. Southern Region: Blakely, Moultrie, and Valdosta sections
7. Western Region: Albany and Columbus sections

Section 4. General Presbyters

The General Presbyters shall consist of three (3) ordained credential holders, the district superintendent together with two others who shall be elected by the District Council, one of whom shall be an ordained pastor of a church located in the district as stated in General Council Constitution, Article IX, Section 3.

Section 5. District Presbytery and Board of Directors

- a. District Presbytery. The District Presbytery shall consist of the district superintendent, the assistant district superintendent, the district secretary-treasurer, Presbyters-at-Large, Regional Presbyters, and General Presbyters.
- b. The Board of Directors. The District Presbytery shall constitute the Board of Directors of The GEORGIA DISTRICT COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC, performing such functions as are usual and customary for a board of directors. District Presbytery and Board of Directors shall be interchangeable terms.

Section 6. Conflict of Interest

Whenever a director or officer has a financial or personal interest in any matter coming before the board of directors, the affected person shall a) fully disclose the nature of the interest and b) withdraw from discussion and voting on the matter. The minutes of meetings at which such votes are taken shall record such disclosure, abstention, and rationale for approval.

ARTICLE X. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS

Section 1. Qualifications

- a. District Superintendent. The District Superintendent shall be an ordained minister of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and shall be a person of ability and mature experience, whose life and ministry are above reproach and who has been a member of the Georgia District for at least two (2) years. The superintendent shall be elected as a full-time, resident officer.
- b. Assistant District Superintendent, Presbyters-at-Large, and General Presbyters. The Assistant District Superintendent, Presbyters-at-Large, and General Presbyters shall be ordained ministers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and shall be persons of ability and mature experience, whose lives and ministry are above reproach and who have been members of the Georgia District for at least two (2) years.
- c. Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be an ordained minister of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and shall be a person of ability and mature experience, whose life and ministry are above reproach and who has been a member of the Georgia District for at least two (2) years. The secretary-treasurer shall be specifically qualified to fulfill the assigned responsibilities in the District's Bylaws, Article XI, Section 3.
- d. Regional Presbyters. Regional Presbyters shall be ordained ministers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and shall be persons of ability and mature experience, whose lives and ministry are above reproach and who have been members of the Georgia District for at least one (1) year and reside in the region from which they are elected.

Section 2. Nominations and Elections

- a. District Superintendent, Assistant District Superintendent, Two (2) Undesignated Presbyters-at-Large, and General Presbyters. All candidates for the offices of district superintendent, assistant district superintendent, two (2) undesignated presbyters-at-large, and general presbyters shall be nominated by receiving five (5) votes or more by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote of all votes cast shall be necessary to constitute an election. In the event two-thirds of the votes cast are received by a qualified candidate on the nominating ballot, an election shall be declared. If no election has been declared after the third elective ballot, the three candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated.
- b. Secretary-Treasurer and four (4) Designated Presbyters-at-Large. All candidates for the offices of secretary-treasurer and four (4) designated presbyters-at-large, shall be nominated by the District Presbytery to District Council in session. The vote distinction by the District Council shall be by selecting "yes" or "no." There shall be no further nominations from the floor. A two-thirds vote of all votes cast shall be required to elect.

- c. Regional Presbyters. Regional elections are held at a Regional Meeting or at Regional Caucus during a District Council. All candidates for the offices of regional presbyters shall be nominated by receiving three (3) votes or more by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote of all votes cast shall be necessary to constitute an election. In the event two-thirds of the votes cast are received by a qualified candidate on the nominating ballot, an election shall be declared. If no election has been declared after the third elective ballot, the two candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated. Beginning with the fourth elective ballot the candidate with a majority of the votes cast (50% + 1 vote) constitutes an election.

Section 3. Terms and Limits of Office

- a. District Superintendent. The term of office for the district superintendent shall begin thirty (30) days after date of election and shall continue for four (4) years or until a successor qualifies.
- b. Assistant District Superintendent, Presbyters-at-Large, and Regional Presbyters. The terms of office for the assistant district superintendent, presbyters-at-large, and regional presbyters shall begin thirty (30) days after date of election and shall continue for four (4) years or until their successors qualify. The assistant district superintendent, presbyters-at-large, and regional presbyters may serve a maximum of two (2) consecutive four-year terms. The assistant district superintendent, presbyters-at-large, and regional presbyters who have completed two (2) consecutive four-year (4) terms, are eligible to be nominated and elected again after having not served for four (4) years. The Grassroots Presbyter at Large may serve a maximum of 2(two) consecutive one(1) year terms.
- c. Secretary-Treasurer. The term of office for the secretary-treasurer shall begin thirty (30) days after date of ratification and shall continue for four (4) years or until a successor qualifies.
- d. General Presbyters. The terms of office for general presbyters shall begin thirty (30) days after date of election and shall continue for four (4) years or until their successors qualify.

Section 4. Vacancies

- a. District Superintendent. In the event the office of the district superintendent shall become vacant through death or other cause one hundred twenty (120) days or less before the next District Council, the assistant district superintendent shall succeed to the office of district superintendent until the next District Council. In the event the office of the district superintendent shall become vacant through death or other cause with more than one hundred twenty (120) days remaining before the next District Council, the District Presbytery shall call for a special District Council to elect a district superintendent and any other office that may become vacant as a result of the special election. In the event a district superintendent is elected during a special called District Council the term of office for district superintendent and any other offices that are filled because of the special election shall continue for four (4) years in addition to the time between the special and regularly called District Councils.
- b. Board of Directors other than District Superintendent or Regional Presbyters. In the event an office on the board of directors other than the district superintendent or regional presbyters shall become vacant through death or other cause the District Presbytery may choose to appoint a

person to fill the vacancy until the next District Council or call for a special District Council to elect the specified board of director. In the event a board of director is elected during a special called District Council the term of office shall continue for four (4) years in addition to the time between the special and regularly called District Councils.

- c. Regional Presbyter. In the event the office of regional presbyter shall become vacant through death or other cause, the District Presbytery shall call for a special Regional Meeting or Regional Caucus during a District Council, whichever date is most expedient, to elect a regional presbyter.

Section 5. Removal for Cause

The District Presbytery by two-thirds vote may remove a member of the Board of Directors from office prior to the end of a term if, in its judgment, there is clear and convincing evidence of incapacity, inefficiency, incompetence, or other grounds, not constituting a basis for formal discipline pursuant to Article X of the Bylaws of the General Council, that renders the member of the Board of Directors unfit for office and compromises the mission of The GEORGIA DISTRICT COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC.

ARTICLE XI. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Duties of the District Superintendent

The duties of the district superintendent shall include the following:

- a. Act as president of the corporation in all legal matters and be an ex officio member of all committees and boards.
- b. Sign all official and legal documents on behalf of the corporation.
- c. Superintend all work of The GEORGIA DISTRICT COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC.
- d. Perform any other functions usual and customary as presiding officer or such as may be directed by the District Council or by the District Presbytery.
- e. Preside at the sessions of the District Presbytery and the District Council.
- f. Supervise all activities and business at the District Council office.
- g. Fulfill responsibilities outlined in the Georgia District Organizational Manual.

Section 2: Duties of the Assistant District Superintendent

The duties of the assistant district superintendent shall include the following:

- a. Act as vice president of the corporation and preside at meetings of the District Presbytery in the absence of the district superintendent.
- b. Sign all official and legal documents on behalf of the corporation in the event that either the district superintendent or district secretary-treasurer are incapacitated.
- c. Perform the functions customary as vice president or such as may be directed by the District Council or District Presbytery.
- d. Assist the district superintendent.
- e. Fulfill responsibilities outlined in the Georgia District Organizational Manual.

Section 3. Secretary-Treasurer

The duties of the secretary-treasurer shall include the following:

- a. Act as the secretary of the corporation.

- b. Sign all official and legal documents on behalf of the corporation.
- c. Perform the functions customary as corporate secretary.
- d. Make and keep true records of the proceedings of the District Council.
- e. Serve as secretary of the District Presbytery and keep accurate minutes of the deliberations of this body.
- f. Endorse and certify all applications for ministerial credentials approved by the District Presbytery as authorized by the General Council Credentials Committee.
- g. Keep a record of the assemblies within this District Council, and shall maintain a continuing record of reception, transfer, discipline, dismissal, withdrawal, or death of all ministers whose credentials are, have been, or shall in the future be registered with this District.
- h. Serve as custodian of all funds of The GEORGIA DISTRICT COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC. and keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements according to generally accepted accounting principles.
- i. Provide budgets and financial reports as periodically requested by the District Council and the District Presbytery.
- j. Perform such other functions as are customary under the supervision of the district superintendent, or such as may be directed by the District Council or the District Presbytery.
- k. Fulfill responsibilities outlined in the Georgia District Organizational Manual.

Section 4. District Presbytery

The District Presbytery is authorized to perform the following functions and duties:

- a. Serve as the Board of Directors of The GEORGIA DISTRICT COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC. They shall be authorized to act for the corporation in all matters that affect its interests while the District Council is not in session.
- b. Buy, take, lease, or otherwise acquire, own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of real property, personal and mixed, tangible and intangible of whatsoever kind; to borrow monies as deemed necessary, trust deeds, mortgages, debentures, and notes; and to enter into contracts; all as may seem expedient and proper in the furtherance of the work of The GEORGIA DISTRICT COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC.
- c. Purchase or dispose of securities as need requires in an effort to strengthen the financial position of the corporation.
- d. All properties of the corporation shall be bought, taken, held, sold, transferred, mortgaged, leased, assigned, or conveyed in the corporate name upon authorization by the District Presbytery, as trustees thereof, and the president and the district secretary shall be authorized to execute all documents pertaining to such transactions.
- e. Interpret policy originating in the legislation of the District Council. Such interpretations shall be final unless reversed at the next meeting of the District Council.
- f. Protect and enhance the vision of the district superintendent.
- g. Serve as the District Council Credentials Committee, strongly advocating for aspects of Assemblies of God doctrine and support for its missionary initiatives.
- h. Fulfill responsibilities outlined in the Georgia District Organizational Manual.

Section 5. Presbyters-at-Large

The duties of the presbyters-at-large shall include the following:

- a. Act as a member of the Board of Directors.
- b. Assist the district superintendent to counsel or consult in special cases, such as church matters, ministerial counseling, or ministerial restoration.
- c. Serve the District by being available to provide counsel and prayer to District ministers from their represented group.
- d. Be available to participate in and strengthen the activities of the Region and Section.
- e. Be available to participate with credential interviews.
- f. Participate in District Council services, such as ordination, communion, and prayer.
- g. Fulfill responsibilities outlined in the Georgia District Organizational Manual.

Section 6. Regional Presbyters

The duties of the regional presbyters shall include the following:

- a. Act as a member of the Board of Directors.
- b. Arrange for and preside at regional and/or sectional meetings.
- c. Assist the district superintendent in conducting official business within the region and give counsel on church matters, ministerial counseling, or ministerial restoration.
- d. Serve under the direction and supervision of the district superintendent.
- e. Work together with the district superintendent and the director of church resourcing in managing district church multiplication and health strategies in the region of responsibility.
- f. Be available to participate with credential interviews.
- g. Participate in District Council services, such as ordination, communion, and prayer.
- h. Fulfill responsibilities outlined in the Georgia District Organizational Manual.

Section 7. General Presbyters

The duties of the general presbyters shall include the following:

- a. Act as a member of the Board of Directors.
- b. Represent the Georgia District Council to the General Council.
- c. Represent the General Council to the ministers and churches of the Georgia District Council.
- d. Be available to participate with credential interviews.
- e. Participate in District Council services, such as ordination, communion, and prayer.
- f. Fulfill responsibilities outlined in the Georgia District Organizational Manual.

ARTICLE XII. MEETINGS

Section 1. Parliamentary Order

The work of the District Council shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

Section 2. Regular Sessions

Regular sessions of The GEORGIA DISTRICT COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC. shall be held annually, pursuant to a call by the District Presbytery.

Section 3. Special Sessions

Special sessions of The GEORGIA DISTRICT COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC. shall be called by the District Presbytery if agreed to by a two-thirds vote of the District Presbytery. Special sessions shall be announced at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

Section 4. Right of Initiative

Special sessions of The GEORGIA DISTRICT COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC. may be called by the District Presbytery when presented with a written statement signed by at least fifteen (15) ordained Assemblies of God ministers setting forth the reasons for a special session, but only if the District Presbytery determines that such a special session is advisable.

Section 5. District Presbytery Meetings

- a. The Board of Directors or District Presbytery shall meet at least quarterly and at other such times as deemed necessary by the superintendent or the District Presbytery.
- b. Any Board meeting may be conducted solely by one or more means of remote communication through which all of the Directors may participate with each other during the meeting, if the number of Directors participating in the meeting would be sufficient to constitute a quorum. Participation in a meeting by that means constitutes presence in person at the meeting.
- c. Votes of the District Presbytery may be made either by US Mail or at the option of the members by email or other electronic means established and authorized by the Board for such purpose.

Section 6. Regional Meetings

- a. Each region in the Georgia District shall schedule at least one council annually, date and location to be decided by the regional presbytery in consultation with the district superintendent, and announcement to be published at least thirty (30) days prior to date of meeting.
- b. Regional meetings may be conducted solely by one or more means of remote communication through which all members may participate with each other during the meeting, if the number of members participating in the meeting would be sufficient to constitute a quorum. Participation in a meeting by that means constitutes presence in person at the meeting.
- c. Regional votes may be made either by US Mail or at the option of the members by email or other electronic means established and authorized by the Board of Directors for such purpose.

Section 7. Quorum

All members registered and voting in any meeting of The GEORGIA DISTRICT COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC, shall constitute a quorum. For meetings of the District Presbytery, one half (50%) of members present shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XIII. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees

Standing committees shall be appointed as necessary. They shall serve for the designated time or until their purpose is accomplished. In the event a vacancy shall occur in a standing committee, the District Presbytery shall be authorized to fill such vacancy.

Section 2. Credentials Committee

The District Presbytery shall constitute the Credentials Committee for the Georgia District. It shall have the authority to recommend credential candidates to the General Council Credentials Committee to issue certificates of ordination, ministry licenses, and certified ministers certificates. It may delegate the routine work of the Credentials Committee to a Credential Interview Team.

Section 3. Roster Committee

A Roster Committee shall be appointed by the District Presbytery prior to each meeting of the District Council. It shall be entrusted with the responsibility of examining credentials of all ministers and delegates. Ordained, licensed, and certified ministers shall identify themselves by fellowship cards of the current year; delegates from assemblies shall obtain letters from their church secretary or pastor certifying to their appointment by the assembly to represent it in the District Council.

Section 4. Resolutions Committee

- a. Procedure for presentation of resolutions. A Resolutions Committee shall be appointed by the District Presbytery. All resolutions for presentation to the District Council, except emergency measures, shall be presented to the district secretary's office at least sixty (60) days prior to a District Council session. The Resolutions Committee shall prepare the resolutions in printed or electronic form and send them to the District Council ministers and churches at least thirty (30) days prior to the District Council, with the understanding that this does not apply to business growing out of District Presbytery meetings prior to the District Council, and that resolutions of an emergency nature shall be decided by a two-thirds vote of the District Council.
- b. Sponsorship policy. All resolutions presented to the Resolutions Committee shall be signed by the author or sponsor. When a resolution is presented for the consideration of the District Council in session the author, sponsor, or a spokesperson appointed by the author or sponsor shall be expected to be the first speaker on behalf of the resolution.
- c. Appropriateness of resolutions. The Resolutions Committee shall, by a two-thirds vote, determine the appropriateness of proposed resolutions. Inappropriate resolutions may include those that, if adopted, would conflict with the Bylaws; or whose substance is not in keeping with appropriateness for discussion by the District Council.
- d. Right of sponsor. If the Resolutions Committee determines that a resolution is inappropriate, it shall so advise the author and shall apprise the author of their right to present the proposed resolution to the District Council in session for a determination as to appropriateness.
- e. Format of presentation. The Resolutions Committee shall:
 - 1) Put resolutions in proper form.
 - 2) Eliminate duplication of similar resolutions relating to a specific subject.

- 3) Present resolutions in a logical sequence.

Section 5. Other Committees

Other committees may be appointed by the District Presbytery.

ARTICLE XIV. DEPARTMENTS

Section 1. Authorization

The District Presbytery shall establish departments as deemed necessary and identified in the Georgia District Organizational Manual.

Section 2. Qualifications and Duties of Departmental Directors

The qualifications and duties of departmental directors shall be provided for in the Georgia District Organizational Manual.

Section 3. Selection of Departmental Directors and Auxiliary Coordinators

Departmental directors and auxiliary coordinators shall be recommended by the district superintendent and ratified by a two-thirds vote of the District Presbytery. Departmental directors and auxiliary coordinators shall be amenable to the district superintendent who is authorized to terminate the employment of the director or coordinator with the GEORGIA DISTRICT COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC.

ARTICLE XV. MINISTRY

Section 1. General Council Credentials

The Georgia District adopts and incorporates the provisions for ministry including qualifications, credentialing, classifications, relations, cooperation, doctrinal standards, and discipline are outlined in Articles VII, IX, and X of the General Council of the Assemblies of God Bylaws as the same is now or from time to time may be revised.

Section 2. District Council Recommendations

Credential recommendations to the General Council Credentials Committee by the District Presbytery regarding ministers or ministerial candidates shall be by a two-thirds vote.

Section 3. Ministerial Relations

Recognizing the critical importance of healthy and cooperative relationships among ministers and congregations for building the kingdom of God, the following is recommended:

- a. That credentialed ministers in the same community relate to each other as fellow laborers, modeling respect, unity, and cooperation as a team of spiritual leaders.
- b. That credentialed ministers seek doctrinal compatibility when co-sponsoring ministries with non-Assemblies of God churches.
- c. That credentialed ministers desiring to participate in non-Assemblies of God settings in other communities first confer with the Assemblies of God senior pastors in those communities, as an expression of cooperative fellowship.

- d. That leaders of sovereign local churches communicate with district leadership when dealing with difficult and complicated circumstances.
- e. That credentialed ministers recognize district leadership as a valuable resource for counsel and wisdom when considering ministry transitions.
- f. That credentialed ministers refrain from serving on local church boards.
- g. That the District directory of credentialed ministers and churches are not used for solicitation purposes.

Section 4. Failure to Fulfill Financial Responsibility to the District

- a. The district secretary-treasurer shall communicate with each credentialed minister who fails to contribute ninety (90) percent of their ministerial tithe and sixty-five (65) percent of their tithe on income received from secular employment to the district within a given year, with the exception of ministers with disabled and/or retired credential status who have no further financial obligation to the district.
- b. Should the district's initial communication prove ineffective, the credential holder may be invited to meet with the district secretary-treasurer and the regional presbyter to address the matter.
- c. Should meeting with the district secretary-treasurer and the regional presbyter prove ineffective, the district may proceed with actions that include, but are not limited to:
 - 1) Informing the governing authority or organizational leader of the local church or ministry where the credentialed minister presently serves or affiliates, or is in consideration to serve or affiliate regarding the minister's failure to fulfill their financial responsibility to the district;
 - 2) Reclassifying the credentialed minister's status as "not in good standing" with the Georgia District;
 - 3) Not renewing the credentials of the minister.

Section 5. Tithe Return

The district recognizes that a church can from time-to-time experience financial hardship and to that end makes provision for the lead pastor to request that their tithe be returned to the church for a fixed time period as described in the Georgia District Organizational Manual.

ARTICLE XVI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

Section 1. General Council Governance

The Georgia District incorporates and adopts Article XI of the General Council Constitution and Article VI of the General Council Bylaws regarding the guidelines, rules, and regulations for assemblies as the same is now or from time to time may be revised,

Section 2. Classification of Assemblies

- a. General Council Affiliated. A General Council affiliated assembly is one that has applied for and has received a Certificate of Affiliation from The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Each General Council affiliated assembly has the right of self-government under Jesus Christ, its living Head, and shall have the power to choose or call its pastor, elect its official board, and transact all

other business pertaining to its life as a local unit. It shall have the right to administer discipline to its members according to the Scriptures and its constitution or bylaws. It shall have the right to acquire and hold title to property, either through trustees or in its corporate name as a self-governing unit.

- b. District Council Affiliated. The Georgia District makes provision for district council affiliated assemblies. A district affiliated assembly is a church that does not meet the requirements to upgrade to a General Council Affiliated church or a General Council Affiliated church that with cause has been reverted to district affiliated status. These assemblies shall be encouraged to proceed to the status of sovereign General Council affiliated assemblies.
- c. Parent Affiliated Churches. The Georgia District makes provision for parent affiliated assemblies which shall be under the supervision of a parenting church, in accordance with the parenting church's constitution and bylaws.
- d. Cooperating Assemblies. The Georgia District may make provision with the General Council Executive Presbytery for the status of a cooperating assembly, which would allow churches that subscribe to Article V. Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council Constitution to enter into a cooperative status with the Georgia District and the General Council on a temporary basis (four-year term, renewable by the request of the local church congregation at the discretion of the Georgia District in cooperation with the General Council Executive Presbytery) before officially affiliating with the district council and the General Council.

Section 3. Procedure for General Council Affiliation

- a. Contact. Contact the office of district superintendent or district secretary-treasurer to obtain an Application for General Council Affiliation and affiliation guide.
- b. Complete. Complete all requirements as stated in Article XI of the General Council Constitution.
- c. Return. Return the completed Application for General Council Affiliation, Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, and membership list for review and approval.
- d. Approval. Upon District Presbytery approval, the Application for General Council Affiliation shall be forwarded to the general secretary of The General Council of Assemblies of God.

Section 4. District Council Affiliated Churches

- a. Church Plant. A church plant is a new church that is under the oversight of the district superintendent and the director of church resourcing. The board of directors includes the district superintendent, director of church resourcing, regional presbyter, pastor of the church plant, and a member of the church plant. All decisions shall be made by majority vote of the board of directors. Upon majority vote of the board of directors and District Presbytery approval, the district affiliated assembly shall have the authority to acquire and hold title to real and/or chattel property in the corporate name of the assembly, and to sell, lease, mortgage, encumber, dispose of, or otherwise alienate such property. Church plants shall be encouraged to proceed to the status of sovereign General Council affiliated assemblies.
- b. Reverted General Council Affiliated Church to District Council Affiliated. A General Council affiliated church shall revert to a district affiliated church when an event diminishes the church's spiritual, financial, numerical, unity, and/or leadership ability to the point it can no longer sustain

the qualifications to maintain a General Council affiliated status. The reverted General Council affiliated church will operate under the Georgia District Bylaws for district affiliated assemblies until the church can be restored to General Council affiliated status. The board of directors includes the district superintendent, district secretary-treasurer, regional presbyter, pastor of the church, and a member of the church. All decisions shall be made by majority vote of the board of directors. Officers of the assembly shall serve at the discretion of its board of directors, which shall have the right to remove any officer or to make new appointments as may seem advisable. Upon majority vote of the board of directors and District Presbytery approval, the district affiliated assembly shall have the authority to acquire and hold title to real and/or chattel property in the corporate name of the assembly, and to sell, lease, mortgage, encumber, dispose of, or otherwise alienate such property. Reverted General Council affiliated assemblies shall be encouraged to reestablish the status of sovereign General Council affiliated assemblies.

- c. District Council Affiliated Assemblies. A district affiliated assembly that has yet to qualify for General Council affiliated status will operate under the Georgia District Bylaws for district affiliated assemblies until the church can upgrade to General Council affiliated status. The board of directors includes the district superintendent, district secretary-treasurer, regional presbyter, pastor of the church, and a member of the church. All decisions shall be made by majority vote of the board of directors. Officers of the assembly shall serve at the discretion of its board of directors, which shall have the right to remove any officer or to make new appointments as may seem advisable. Upon majority vote of the board of directors and District Presbytery approval, the district affiliated assembly shall have the authority to acquire and hold title to real and/or chattel property in the corporate name of the assembly, and to sell, lease, mortgage, encumber, dispose of, or otherwise alienate such property. District council affiliated assemblies shall be encouraged to proceed to the status of sovereign General Council affiliated assemblies.
- d. Church plant churches, reverted General Council affiliated assemblies, and District affiliated assemblies shall be governed by the church board of directors and directed by the Georgia District Organizational Manual approved by the District Presbytery.

ARTICLE XVII. THE GEORGIA DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONAL MANUAL

The Georgia District Council of the Assemblies shall develop and maintain a set of documents referred to as The Georgia District Organizational Manual. This document shall set forth in detail the organization of commissions, departments, and ministries of The Georgia District of the Assemblies of God as from time to time may be established to carry out the fourfold mission of the church.

The Georgia District Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual shall be administered by the Executive Officers as approved by the District Presbytery. The Executive Officers shall submit annually to the District Presbytery for approval all proposed additions, deletions, and modifications to The Georgia District Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual. The Georgia District Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual shall be available to all Georgia District churches and Georgia credentialed ministers.

ARTICLE XVIII. EMERGENCY BYLAWS

- a. Unless the articles of incorporation provide otherwise, the District Presbytery may adopt bylaws to be effective only in an emergency defined in subsection (e) of this section.
- b. The emergency bylaws may make all provisions necessary for managing the District during the emergency, including but not limited to the following:
 - 1) Procedures for calling a meeting of the District Council and District Presbytery.
 - 2) Quorum requirements for any meeting.
 - 3) Designation of additional or substitute directors.
 - 4) Modification of lines of succession to accommodate the incapacity of any director, officer, employee, or agent resulting from the emergency.
 - 5) Relocation of the principal office.

During an emergency, the District Presbytery shall have the maximum authority possible to run the District's interim affairs in the manner they deem best.

- c. All provisions of the regular bylaws consistent with the emergency bylaws remain effective during the emergency. The emergency bylaws are not effective after the emergency ends.
- d. Corporate action taken in good faith in accordance with the emergency bylaws both binds the District and may not be used to impose liability on a corporate director, officer, employee, or agent.
- e. An emergency exists for purposes of this section if a quorum of the District's members or directors cannot readily be assembled because of any of the following events:
 - 1) A natural catastrophe, including, but not limited to, a hurricane, tornado, storm, highwater, wind-driven water, tidal wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide, mudslide, snowstorm, or drought, or, regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion.
 - 2) An attack on this state or nation by an enemy of the United States of America, or upon receipt by this state of a warning from the federal government indicating that an enemy attack is probable or imminent.
 - 3) An act of terrorism or other manmade disaster that results in extraordinary levels of casualties or damage or disruption severely affecting the infrastructure, environment, economy, government functions, or population, including, but not limited to, mass evacuations.
 - 4) A pandemic.
 - 5) A state of emergency proclaimed by a governor or by the President.
 - 6) Any other condition as a result of which a quorum cannot readily be assembled.

ARTICLE XIX. DISSOLUTION

In the event this District shall cease to function for the purposes herein set forth, then all property, real or chattel, and all assets remaining after satisfying debts and obligations shall revert to the parent body, THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, a not-for-profit corporation, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, with authority to sell such property and use the proceeds derived there from for the extension of the work of the Assemblies of God.

In the event of the cessation of this Georgia District, its Board of Directors shall transfer all properties and any remaining assets in accordance with the foregoing provisions within one year after the date of such cessation. If such transfer is not made within the time prescribed above or if the aforesaid General Council shall be unable or unwilling to accept the aforesaid transfer, then disposition thereof shall be made by the court of the county in which the Georgia District headquarters office is located, provided that in such case proceeds of the dissolution shall be distributed to organizations having purposes nearest the purposes of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE XX. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any regular meeting of the Georgia District Council. All resolutions for presentation to the District Council, except emergency measures, shall be presented to the district secretary's office at least sixty (60) days prior to a District Council session. The Resolutions Committee shall prepare the resolutions in printed or electronic form and send them to the District Council ministers and churches at least thirty (30) days prior to the District Council, with the understanding that this does not apply to business growing out of District Presbytery meetings prior to the District Council, and that resolutions of an emergency nature shall be decided by a two-thirds vote of the District Council. Amendments to be adopted shall require a two-thirds majority of votes cast.

ADDENDUM

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

2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent “I AM,” the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (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 Spirit, 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 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; Zechariah 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, no person in the godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17–30, 32, 37; 8:17–18).

(e) The Title, Lord Jesus Christ

The appellation Lord Jesus Christ is a proper name. It is never applied in the New Testament either to the Father or to the Holy Spirit. 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 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 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 Spirit to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the godhead except those which express relationship (see paragraphs b, c, and d), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22–23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6–14; Philippians 2:8–9; Revelation 7:9–10; 4:8–11).

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

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

4. The Fall of Man

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

5. The Salvation of Man

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

- a. **Conditions 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; 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 the 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 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 endowment 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 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; 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 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 (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 Spirit 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, and 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 assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22–23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

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

- a. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19–20; Mark 16:15–16).
- b. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).

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

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

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

11. The Ministry

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

12. Divine Healing

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

13. The Blessed Hope

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

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

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

15. The Final Judgment

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and

the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43–48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11–15; 21:8).

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

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