

# **South Texas Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God, Incorporated**

## **Constitution and Bylaws**

### **CONSTITUTION**

#### **ARTICLE I. Name and Location**

The name of this body shall be the South Texas Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God, Incorporated, with headquarters in Houston, Texas.

#### **ARTICLE II. Territory**

The Ministry Network shall include the territory of the State of Texas south of the northernmost county boundary lines of the following counties: Edwards, Kerr, Kendall, Comal, Guadalupe, Gonzales, Fayette, Washington, Grimes, Walker, San Jacinto, Liberty, Tyler, Jasper, and Newton.

#### **ARTICLE III. Relationship**

The South Texas Ministry Network is an integral part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri. Therefore, the principles of unity and cooperative fellowship set forth in the Constitution of the General Council are the principles which shall govern the South Texas Ministry Network.

#### **ARTICLE IV. Prerogatives**

In connection with its purpose to promulgate the Gospel of Jesus Christ at home and abroad by all available means, the prerogatives of the South Texas Ministry Network shall be:

- a. To encourage and promote the evangelization of our Ministry Network, our State, our Nation and the world.
- b. To encourage and promote the worship of God.
- c. To encourage and promote the edification of believers.
- d. To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like precious faith.
- e. To respond to human need with ministries of compassion.
- f. To establish and maintain such departments and institutions as may be necessary for the propagation of the gospel and the work of this Pentecostal fellowship.
- g. To approve all scriptural teachings, methods, and polity, and to disapprove all unscriptural teachings, methods, and practices as listed in General Council bylaws, Article IX and X.
- h. To examine and recommend candidates for the ministry, those who shall have met the requirements of the General Council as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws.
- i. To elect its own officers, to appoint committees, to arrange for its own meetings, and to govern itself.
- j. To have the right to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of such property, real or chattel, as may be needed for the prosecution of its work.

## ARTICLE V. Tenets of Faith

### 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 needs 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, 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 the 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; John 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; Revelations 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 at 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 the 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); 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 enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy 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; Romans 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 worshiped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, 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 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).

# **Article VI - Standards of Marriage and Sexuality**

### **Section 1.**

We believe that the only scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 5:22-23)

### **Section 2.**

We believe that Scripture commands that there be no intimate sexual activity outside of marriage. We also believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Genesis 26:8-10; Hebrews 13:4; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:9-10; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8)

### **Section 3.**

To qualify for credentials or hold a leadership position with the South Texas Ministry Network, a person must be in agreement with Article VI and shall not engage in any of the disapproved behaviors outlined in Article VI, Section 2.

## **Article VII. Membership**

### **Section 1.**

All ministers holding valid credentials with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, whose credentials are registered with the South Texas Ministry Network, shall be recognized as members.

### **Section 2.**

All authorized Assemblies of God churches of the South Texas Ministry Network shall be recognized as members, but the voting privilege shall be limited to one delegate from said churches. Parent Affiliated Churches (PAC) are represented in the district or network by a single delegate of the parent church with which they affiliate with (By-Laws; Art. III, Sec. 1). Cooperating churches and Network Affiliated New Work (NANW) Assemblies are solely represented through their Assemblies of God credentialed minister(s).

## **Article VIII. Meetings**

### **Section 1. Regular Sessions**

There shall be an annual Ministry Network meeting held within the South Texas Ministry Network geographical territory (Article II), the time and place to be decided by the Executive Presbytery.

### **Section 2. Announcement of Meetings**

Announcement of annual and/or Special Session meeting(s) shall be announced at least thirty (30) days prior to the time of meeting. Announcement of meetings shall be through standard communication such as Network website, mailings, emails, electronic postings and/or any communication that is regularly used by the Ministry Network.

### **Section 3. Special Sessions**

Special Sessions of the South Texas Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God can be called by the Superintendent and/or Executive, Regional and Sectional Presbyteries if agreed by a majority vote of these combined Presbyteries.

### **Section 4. Right of Initiative**

The right of initiative shall be granted to any credentialed member of the Ministry Network when the occasion demands. A statement setting forth the reason for a special session of the Ministry Network shall be submitted to both the Executive and Regional Presbyteries. After reviewing the written request and its reasons, a special session can be called according to Section 3. Special Sessions.

### **Section 5. Action Without Meeting**

Members of the Executive Regional, and Sectional Presbyteries may participate and act at any meeting through the use of a conference telephone or communications device by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can communicate with each other. Participation in such meetings shall constitute attendance and presence in person at the meeting of the member or members so participating.

Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Presbyteries may be taken without a meeting if a majority of the members consent thereto, and the consents are documented and filed with the minutes of proceedings.

## **Article IX. Officers**

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

The executive officers shall consist of the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent, and the Executive Secretary-Treasurer. The term of office is four years.

### **Section 2. Executive Presbytery**

The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, and General Presbyter to be elected by the Ministry Network at its' annual or special session meetings, the term of office is four years. There shall be four additional members of the Executive Presbytery elected by the Ministry Network. Two members are elected for four-year terms. In addition, there shall be two Executive Presbyters elected for a two-year term that align with General Council example of broadening leadership to include a person under the age of 40, or a female, or an ethnic minority.

### **Section 3. Regional Presbytery**

The Regional Presbytery shall consist of duly elected Regional Presbyters, the term of office is four years.

### **Section 4. Network Presbytery**

The Network Presbytery shall consist of the Executive, General, Regional, Sectional and Honorary Presbyters.

### **Section 5. General Council Presbytery**

The General Council Presbytery shall consist of the Network Superintendent, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, and General Presbyter.

## **ARTICLE X. Local Assemblies**

### **Section 1.**

Local assemblies shall consist of Pentecostal believers associating themselves in local, independently incorporated bodies known as assemblies. They shall qualify for membership in accordance with the requirements of membership with The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **Section 2.**

In order to maintain standards of righteousness in the assembly, only those known to be living consistent and overcoming lives shall be eligible for office. It is recommended that positions of official responsibility be left vacant in local assemblies in which the number of people qualified to hold office is insufficient.



### Section 3.

#### Classifications:

##### a. General Council Affiliated

(1) Provisions and requirements for General Council affiliated assemblies, including eligibility, incorporation, membership and relationship are outlined in Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and Article VI of the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

##### (2) Network Involvement

(a) General Council affiliated assemblies shall be set in order under the direction of the Regional Presbytery and shall be amenable to the Ministry Network in doctrine, polity, and all other matters which affect the peace and harmony of the fellowship. They shall have the right to choose their own pastors, elect officers, hold property either through officers or a corporate name, discipline members, and transact all other business pertaining to their life as local churches. They shall have a standard for membership determined by the assembly that is in agreement with General Council Constitution Art. XI Section 1 (see Art. XVIII Terminology).

(b) In the event that a General Council affiliated assembly should fail to maintain minimum membership requirements, or scriptural order in accordance with Article XI, Section 1a of the Constitution of The Assemblies of God or with this constitution and bylaws, or elects by majority vote it shall revert to the support and guidance of the South Texas Ministry Network. In that event, at the discretion of the Regional Presbytery, the assembly shall revert to the status of a Network Affiliated Sovereign Assembly (Article X, Section 3, b, (b) ), until such time as General Council status may be reestablished (Article X, Section 3, a, (1) ).

##### b. Network Affiliated

###### a. Network Affiliated New Work (NANW):

NANW are approved Assemblies of God churches and local congregations which have been brought into being as the result of evangelistic or church planting efforts and are still in a formative state in need of maturing. They shall be under the general spiritual supervision of the Regional Presbytery who shall provide advice, supportive counsel, access to Network ministries, etc., until such time as they give evidence of sufficient maturity to warrant full recognition of sovereignty. It is understood that the Ministry Network and Regional Presbytery serve as spiritual support. The church retains its governing and preserves its fiduciary interest. The guidelines and policy for Network Affiliation are in the South Texas Ministry Network Manual. These assemblies shall be required to proceed to the status of sovereign General Council affiliated assemblies, or Network Affiliated Sovereign status, the requirements as listed in South Texas Ministry Network Bylaws, Article XI, Section 1a, Network Affiliated New Work (NANW).

**b. Network Affiliated Sovereign Assemblies:**

Local assemblies and congregations which may or may not meet the criteria for a General Council affiliated church, but are self-governing assemblies and have filed for affiliation with the South Texas Ministry Network and have met the requirements as listed in South Texas By-Laws, Article XI, Section 1b, Sovereign.

**c. Parent Affiliated Churches**

As outlined in Article XI, Section 3 of the Constitution of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, provision shall be made for Parent Affiliated Churches (PAC). The PAC shall be under the supervision and governing control of a parent church, in accordance with the parent church's constitution and bylaws.

**d. Cooperating Assemblies**

As outlined in Article XI, Section 4 of the Constitution of The General Council of the Assemblies of God provision may be made by the South Texas Ministry Network and the General Council Executive Presbytery for the status of a cooperating assembly.

**Section 4. Assemblies of God Total Giving Participation**

All assemblies are expected to have an interest in, and contribute regularly to, the Assemblies of God Total Giving plan (see Network Operation Manual).

**Article XI. Dissolution**

The assets of the South Texas Ministry Network of The Assemblies of God, a Texas corporation, are irrevocably dedicated to religious and charitable purposes as set forth in its Articles of Incorporation and this Constitution. In the event of the dissolution of the corporation, and after providing for the payment of its debts and obligations, all remaining assets will be distributed to The General Council of The Assemblies of God, a Missouri corporation, which is organized and operated exclusively for religious and charitable purposes, and which are exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The General Council of The Assemblies of God shall have full authority to sell such property and to use the proceeds derived there from for the extension of the work of the Assemblies of God.

**ARTICLE XII. Amendments**

Amendments to the constitution may be made by a two-thirds vote. The proposed amendments must be submitted to the membership no later than ninety (90) days prior to a regular Ministry Network annual or Special Session meeting (Article VIII, Section 3). Furthermore, amendments may be originated by any ten (10) ordained and/or licensed ministers of the Ministry Network, or a two-thirds vote of the Executive Presbytery, or by the standing Constitution and Bylaws Committee. All recommended amendments shall be submitted to the Constitution and Bylaws Revisions Committee through the Network office. The Constitution and Bylaws Revisions Committee must be given at least ninety (90) days to review recommended revisions. The reason for the recommended amendment must be stated and must bear the name of the author of the recommended amendment.

## **Bylaws**

### **ARTICLE I. Parliamentary Order**

a. In keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the business sessions of the Ministry Network shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order – Newly Revised*.

b. Two parliamentarians shall be appointed to serve the chair and the body, thereby helping to facilitate the business sessions of the Ministry Network meetings.

### **ARTICLE II. Order of Business**

All business sessions of the South Texas Ministry Network shall begin with prayer and it is suggested that they shall be conducted in the following order:

- a. Devotional
- b. Report of Roster Committee
- c. Recognition of Committees
- d. Report of Superintendent
- e. Report of Secretary-Treasurer
- f. Unfinished Business
- g. Election of Officers
- h. New Business
- i. Adjournment

### **ARTICLE III. Voting Constituency and Quorum**

#### **Section 1. Voting Constituency**

The voting constituency shall consist of all ordained, licensed and certified ministers, and recognized church delegates, who are present and registered at meetings. General Council and Network Sovereign assemblies shall be entitled to one delegate. Parent Affiliated Churches (PAC) shall be represented in the district or network by the single delegate from the parent church with which they affiliate. Cooperating Assemblies and NANW Assemblies are solely represented through their Assemblies of God credentialed minister(s).

#### **Section 2. Quorum**

The voting constituency present in any business session of the Ministry Network shall constitute a quorum.

#### **Section 3. Absentee Voting**

a. There shall be no proxy voting at the regularly scheduled Ministry Network meetings. Absentee voting is only allowed if approved by the Executive Presbytery. The means and manner of absentee voting will be determined by the Executive Presbytery.

b. The Executive Presbytery and Regional Presbytery may vote absentee at any regularly called or special called meetings of the Executive Presbytery and Regional Presbytery meetings. Voting may be by signed ballot, mail, email, electronic communication, conference call, telephone, or other communications device. Proxy vote is permitted with verification that such voting expresses the position of the absent member; such verification can be by signed communication, mail, email, or other electronic communication, conference call, telephone, or other communications device. All means of communication and actual communication are filed with the minutes of proceedings.

## **ARTICLE IV. Election of Officers**

### **Section 1. Officers**

The Officers of the Ministry Network shall be chosen from the membership of the network and shall be credentialed Assemblies of God ministers of mature experience and ability. No officer shall serve more than one elective office. Upon election and acceptance of a second office, the elected shall automatically terminate the former office. The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Secretary-Treasurer, Executive Presbyters, General Presbyter, and Regional Presbyters must be ordained Assemblies of God ministers and have been members of the Ministry Network for at least two (2) full years. The General Presbyter, according to General Council requirement, must be a Lead Pastor of a church within the Network. Sectional Presbyters must be either ordained or licensed Assemblies of God ministers and members of their section. An exception to residency requirements shall be allowed when candidates have previously served in official capacity within the General Council fellowship. A two-thirds vote shall be necessary to constitute an election unless otherwise stipulated by these bylaws.

### **Section 2. Nomination and Election of Administrative Officers**

All nominations for the offices of Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Secretary-Treasurer, the two, four-year term Executive Presbyter, and General Council Presbyter shall be made by secret ballot, it being understood that the first ballot cast shall be a nominating ballot. All names thus presented shall be revealed to the body. After prayer for guidance, the vote shall be cast. Any candidate receiving two-thirds of all ballots cast on a nominating ballot shall be considered elected. If no election is reached on the second electoral ballot, all names except the three receiving the highest number of votes shall be dropped; if no election is reached on the third electoral ballot, the two receiving the highest number of votes will be balloted upon until one receives two-thirds of votes cast. If no candidate receives a two-thirds vote by the fifth electoral ballot, the requirement for election shall be reduced to a simple majority on the sixth ballot. This election procedure shall be used for all network elections unless specified otherwise by this constitution and bylaws.

### **Section 3. Nomination and Election of Executive Presbytery**

The Executive Presbytery shall consist of eight (8) ordained ministers, four (4) of whom shall be the Superintendent, Secretary-Treasurer, Assistant Superintendent, and General Council Presbyter. Two (2) Executive Presbyters shall be nominated by secret ballot and elected by a two-thirds vote in the annual meeting.

Two (2) Executive Presbyters that align with General Council examples of broadening leadership to include a person under the age of 40, or a female, or an ethnic minority – they shall be nominated by the Executive and Regional Presbyteries with a minimum of three names for each position presented

to the members for election to a two-year term at the annual meeting. Also to broaden leadership participation, the two-year (2) term Executive Presbyters can serve only two, two-year terms and then rotate off. These term limits apply exclusively to the two-year terms. Any person rotating off is eligible for nomination to other Ministry Network positions.

#### **Section 4. Nomination and Election of Regional Presbytery.**

No Regional Presbyter shall serve on a full-time basis.

The Regional Presbyter shall be nominated by ministers within the Region. Nominations for Regional Presbyter shall be submitted through Sectional Presbyters within the Region. Then all nominations must be reviewed by the Executive Presbytery to attest nominees' eligibility, willingness to serve, and qualifications as stated in these bylaws. The Sectional Presbyters within the Region will receive the list of qualified nominees and they shall narrow down the list to four nominees. To be eligible for nomination as a Regional Presbyter, the individual must have a minimum of 5 years experience as lead/senior pastor. There shall be no more than four nominees presented to the Region for election. Regional Presbyters are elected by the ministers within the determined geographical region. The term of office for a Regional Presbyter shall be four (4) years. Any candidate receiving two-thirds of all ballots cast shall be considered elected. If no candidate receives a two-thirds vote by the second electoral ballot, the three candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be presented for the third ballot. If there is no election on the fourth ballot, then fifth ballot requirement for election shall be reduced to a simple majority.

#### **Section 5. Nomination and Election of Sectional Presbyters**

The Sectional Presbyters shall be nominated by the sections and elected by ministers in the section. The nominee for Sectional Presbyter shall have been a ministerial resident of the region and shall be ordained or licensed minister. The nomination shall be at a meeting scheduled by the Regional Presbyter and by secret ballot. The voting constituency for the nominee shall consist of the qualified ministers of the section.

- a. No Sectional Presbyter shall serve on a full-time basis.
- b. The Sectional Presbyter shall be elected for a two-year term. A Sectional Presbyter must be ordained in order to be re-elected for a second term.
- c. The Ministry Network, by a two-thirds vote of the Executive and Regional Presbytery, can invalidate any nominees selected or remove a Sectional Presbyter if it deems such action is warranted.
- d. Any candidate receiving two-thirds of all ballots cast shall be considered elected. If no candidate receives a two-thirds vote by the second electoral ballot, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be presented for the third ballot. If there is no election on the fourth ballot, the fifth ballot requirement for election shall be reduced to a simple majority.

#### **Section 6. Selection of Sectional Committees**

Sectional Committees shall be any credentialed ministers selected by the Sectional Presbyter to assist in care and connection of ministers in the section. Members of the committees shall have been a ministerial resident in the region for at least one year prior to selection.

## **Section 7. Nomination and Election of General Council Presbyters**

The General Council Presbyters from the South Texas Ministry Network shall be as follows: the Superintendent, Secretary-Treasurer, and one ordained pastor, of a church located in the Ministry Network, who has been a member of the network for at least two full years prior to election. Nominations for General Council Presbyter shall be made by a secret ballot. All names thus presented shall be presented to the body for voting.

In the event of a vacancy, the Executive Presbytery can appoint one to serve as General Presbyter until that office is filled at the next annual meeting of the Ministry Network.

## **Section 8. Nominee for General Council Executive Presbyter**

By virtue of the office, the Superintendent shall serve as one of two nominees for General Council Executive Presbyter. A second nominee who is not an elected full-time Network Official from South Texas will be nominated by the Executive and Regional Presbyteries. This nominee will be presented to the General Council along with nominees from other Districts and Networks in the South Central Region, for election as non-resident Executive Presbyter. The nominee must be an ordained minister of mature experience and ability, whose life and ministry are above question, but there is no minimum residence requirement.

# **Article V. Duties of Officers and Presbyters**

## **Section 1. Duties of Superintendent**

- a. To serve exclusively in a full-time capacity.
- b. To promote the growth, development and health of Network churches and ministers.
- c. To cast vision for missional purposes that support the accomplishment of the Great Commission of Jesus to reach the lost and disciple believers in Network churches.
- d. To serve as a pastor to all Network ministers.
- e. To serve as President of the Corporation in all legal matters.
- f. To preside at all meetings of the Ministry Network.
- g. To supervise the general operations of the Ministry Network Office and employees.
- h. To oversee and be responsible for special assignments and functions of all Ministry Network Officers and ministry departments.
- i. To receive all communications addressed to South Texas Ministry Network and ensure duties are appropriately delegated and steward the Network Ministry Office budget and operations.
- j. To administer discipline in all cases when requested to do so by the Network Presbytery.
- k. To preside at all meetings of the Executive and Regional Presbyteries and to receive all communication addressed to them.
- l. To perform any other functions usual and customary for the presiding officer, or such as may be directed by the Presbytery or Ministry Network.
- m. By virtue of office, to serve as a General Presbyter and ex-officio member of all committees.
- n. To maintain compliance to the South Texas Ministry Network Operations Manual.
- o. To represent and advocate for South Texas Ministry Network.
- p. To respect confidentiality as normally expected of a pastor and President of the Corporation.
- q. By virtue of the office, to serve on the Pleasant Hills Children's Home Board, and SAGU Board of Regents.

## **Section 2. Duties of the Assistant Superintendent**

- a. To assist the Superintendent.
- b. To preside at meetings in the absence of the Superintendent.
- c. To assist the office and ministry of the Superintendent in the event such office becomes vacant.
- d. To perform any other duties upon being requested to do so by the Superintendent.
- e. To act as Vice-President in all legal matters of the Corporation.
- f. By virtue of the office, to serve on the Pleasant Hills Children's Home Board.
- g. To respect confidentiality as an Officer of the Corporation.
- h. To serve in a spirit of excellence and with humility – honoring the Superintendent.
- i. To maintain compliance to the South Texas Ministry Network Operations Manual.

## **Section 3. Duties of Secretary-Treasurer**

- a. To serve exclusively in a full-time capacity.
- b. To keep a true record of the Ministry Network meetings and Executive Presbytery.
- c. To provide the Ministry Network Office with a true record of proceedings.
- d. To oversee and administer the credentialing process in compliance with Network and General Council requirements.
- e. To serve as Executive Secretary of the corporation in all legal matters and custodian of the corporate records and documents.
- f. To maintain a record of all ministers and churches in the Ministry Network.
- g. To receive and record all contributions to the Ministry Network and to disburse funds as directed by the Executive Presbytery.
- h. To establish and maintain a reliable system of bookkeeping and to provide a report of finances as requested by the Executive Presbytery, and provide a financial report to the members of the Ministry Network at the annual meeting.
- i. To have the financial records of the Ministry Network audited as directed by the Executive Presbytery and ensure that the Ministry Network business office is in compliance with generally accepted accounting practices (GAAP) for non-profit corporations.
- j. To administer discipline in all cases when asked to do so by the Network Presbytery.
- k. To serve as General Council Presbyter and ex-officio member of all committees.
- l. To manage properties, equipment and oversee maintenance.
- m. To be accountable to the Superintendent for special assignments and functions.
- n. To maintain compliance to the South Texas Ministry Network Operations Manual.
- o. To submit an annual Network operation budget to the Executive Presbytery for approval. To oversee compliance of the annual budget by Network employees, ministries, department, etc.
- p. To steward ministry resources.
- q. To ensure all funds are handled appropriately and deposited in accounts at authorized financial institutions.
- r. To respect confidentiality as an Officer of the Corporation.
- s. To maintain Ministry Network financial and ministerial records in a secure manner.
- t. To serve in a spirit of excellence and with humility – honoring the Superintendent.
- u. By virtue of the office, to serve on the Pleasant Hills Children's Home Board, and SAGU Board of Regents.

#### **Section 4. Duties of the General Council Presbyter**

- a. To represent the South Texas Ministry Network to the General Council, and to also represent the General Council to the South Texas Ministry Network.
- b. To serve as a member of the Network Executive Presbytery, the Board of Regents of SAGU.
- c. To serve with the Network Presbytery in assigned matters.
- d. To fulfill duties of a General Presbyter.
- e. To maintain compliance to the South Texas Ministry Network Operations Manual.
- f. To serve in a spirit of excellence and with humility – honoring the Superintendent.
- g. To respect confidentiality as an Officer of the Corporation.

#### **Section 5. Duties of Executive Presbytery**

- a. To serve as the Executive Board of the South Texas Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God and duly empowered to carry out responsibilities of an Executive Board.
- b. To manage all property of the South Texas Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God, with authority to purchase, sell, lease, encumber, or otherwise dispose of all property of the corporation.
- c. To supervise and have general oversight of Ministry Network Office finances and all departments.
- d. To act with the Regional Presbytery and Credentials Committee and to supervise all matters pertaining to disciplinary action.
- e. To fulfill other responsibilities assigned or delegated to it by the Executive Officers. It shall arrange for its own meetings and report at appropriate times.
- f. To review and approve the annual Ministry Network budget.
- g. To annually review Network staff salaries.
- h. To approve new Network staff positions, as recommended by the Superintendent.
- i. To authorize the creation and/or closing of all accounts at financial institutions.
- j. To approve authorized signers for Ministry Network banking accounts.
- k. To be authorized to call for financial audits when deemed necessary or timely.
- l. To oversee the general governance of the Ministry Network.
- m. To approve all Ministry Network policies.
- n. To serve in a spirit of excellence and with humility – honoring the Superintendent.
- o. To respect confidentiality as an Officer of the Corporation.

#### **Section 6. Duties of the Regional Presbytery**

- a. To be elected by ministers within the region.
- b. To be amenable to the Superintendent and Executive Presbytery.
- c. To administer policy and directives within the region.
- d. To represent the Ministry Network within the region.
- e. To serve as resource for churches in the region.
- f. To promote and facilitate church planting in the region.
- g. To be compensated through Regional Fund (see Network Operations Manual).
- h. To have oversight of Sectional Presbyters and Sectional Committees.
- i. To follow all policies and established procedure in the Ministry Network Operation Manual.
- j. To be responsible for training Sectional Presbyters.
- k. To have regional meetings for vision-casting from Superintendent and building relationships.
- l. To cultivate the growth, development, and health of churches and ministers within the region.



- m. To have oversight of increasing Sections within the region as needed.
- n. To have oversight of discipline issues within the region.
- o. To have oversight of credential candidates within region and facilitate a process to foster advancement of credentialing level. This oversight extends to application for re-instatement of credential. The Regional Presbytery is the Credentialing Committee for the Ministry Network.
- p. To respond to issues in a timely manner.
- q. To collaborate with Sectional Presbyters in the region when responding to issues within churches.
- r. To represent the Superintendent, by carrying and facilitating the missional vision for the Ministry Network. A Regional Presbyter must steward the trust and express the heart of the Superintendent to churches and ministers.
- s. To attend combined Regional Presbytery and Executive Presbytery meetings when called by the Superintendent.
- t. To delegate necessary matters appropriately and timely.
- u. To respect confidentiality.
- v. To keep no confidentiality from the Superintendent or Executive Officers.
- w. To serve in a spirit of excellence and with humility – honoring the Superintendent.

## **Section 7 Duties of Sectional Presbyters**

- a. To serve as members of the Ministry Network Presbytery (Constitution Article IX Section 4).
- b. To promote growth, development, and health of ministers in the section.
- c. To extend the heart and care of the Ministry Network and Superintendent to the ministers in the section.
- d. To connect with ministers in the section. Should a unique need arise in the life or family of a minister, the Sectional Presbyter shall immediately extend support, care, prayer, and assistance. Such needs will be communicated to the Superintendent in a timely manner.
- e. To cultivate a culture of care, support, and encouragement in the section.
- f. To be a resource to the Regional Presbyter when needed.
- g. To adhere to South Texas Ministry Network policies.
- h. To respect confidentiality as a member of the Ministry Network Presbytery.
- i. To select an appropriate number of ministers in the section to serve as Sectional Committee to assist in creating a culture of care and encouragement for all section ministers with one being a minister with an emphasis on youth or children.
- j. By virtue of this office, to serve as a committee person to the Regional Presbyter in the region the section is located.

## **Article VI. Liabilities of Officers and Presbyters**

### **Section 1. Ministry Network Liability**

The Ministry Network authority with regard to ministers is limited to those ecclesiastical matters specified in these constitution and bylaws, and in no event shall extend to non-ecclesiastical activities. Accordingly, no minister shall be considered to be an employee of the Ministry Network other than those who serve and are employees on the South Texas Ministry Network Office staff.

## **Section 2. Indemnification of Officers and Presbyters**

The Corporation can choose to indemnify any and all persons who may serve or who have served at any time as directors or officers, against any and all expenses, including amounts paid upon judgments, counsel fees, and amounts paid in settlement (before or after suit is commenced) actually and necessarily incurred by such persons in connection with the defense or settlement of any claim, action, suit, or proceeding in which they, or any of them, are made parties, or a party, or which may be asserted against any of them or any of them, by reason of being or having been directors or officers or a director or officer of the Corporation, except in relation to matters as to which any such director or officer of former director or officer shall be adjudged in any action, suit, or proceeding to be liable for his own negligence or misconduct in the performance of his duties. Such indemnification can be in addition to any other rights to which those indemnified may be entitled under any law, bylaw, agreement, or otherwise. Indemnification can be granted by action of the Executive Presbytery. Non-indemnification does not suggest, nor imply, nor infer, nor admit, nor state, nor acknowledge any responsibility or liability by any party.

## **Article VII. Terms of Office and Vacancies**

### **Section 1. Ministry Network Officers, General Council Presbyters, Executive Presbyters, and Regional Presbyters.**

- a. The terms of office for the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Secretary-Treasurer, General Council Presbyter and Executive Presbyters, Regional Presbyters, and Sectional Presbyters are stated in the Constitution Article IX.
- b. If a vacancy occurs, the vacant office will be filled by the established method for elections at either the annual meeting or a Special Session meeting.
- c. To ensure the business matters of the Ministry Network continue, the Executive Presbytery is authorized to make temporary arrangements for an Executive Officer vacancy, until the election of a new officer.
- d. To ensure the regional matters of the Ministry Network continue, the Superintendent and Regional Presbytery are authorized to make arrangements for a Regional Presbyter vacancy until election of a new Regional Presbyter.

### **Section 2. Sectional Presbyters**

- a. Sectional Presbyters shall be elected for a term of two years.
- b. In the event a vacancy shall occur in the office of the Sectional Presbytery, the vacancy shall be filled in a timely manner according to Article IV Section 5 of these bylaws. Each election is for a two-year (2) term.

### **Section 3. Transition of ~~District~~ Network Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer**

The outgoing Superintendent or Secretary-Treasurer shall remain in office for a period of thirty (30) days after election of a new Executive Officer. In order to familiarize themselves with the routine of the administrative offices, the incoming officers shall begin their official service one week prior to the termination of the services of the outgoing officers. The South Texas Ministry Network Operation Manual outlines specifics of such transition.

#### **Section 4. Removal for Cause**

The Executive Presbytery by two-thirds vote may recommend the removal of a Ministry Network officer 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 General Council Bylaws, that renders the officer unfit for office and compromises the mission of the Ministry Network. This recommendation by the Executive Presbytery shall be presented to the Regional Presbytery and requires a two-thirds vote to remove the Ministry Network Officer. A representative from the General Council may be present for guidance, oversight, and serve as chair person in meetings which may result in the removal of a Ministry Network Officer.

### **Article VIII. Committees**

#### **Section 1. Standing Committees**

Standing committees shall be established or appointed as necessity may indicate. They shall be appointed by the Superintendent or Executive Presbytery, who will determine their term of office.

#### **Section 2. Special Committees**

Special committees may be created by the Ministry Network in session or by the Superintendent or Executive Presbytery as may be required. All special committees called for by the Ministry Network in session shall be appointed within 90 days of said session.

### **Article IX. Ministry**

#### **Section 1. General Council Credentials**

Provisions for ministry including qualification, credentialing, classifications, relations, cooperation, doctrinal standards, and discipline are outlined in Articles VII, IX and X of the General Council Bylaws.

#### **Section 2. Ministerial Relations**

Recognizing the importance of healthy and cooperative relationships among ministers and congregations for building the kingdom of God, the following necessary standards are set forth:

- a. All ministers shall be amenable to the Ministry Network in matters of doctrine and polity (Hebrews 13:17).
- b. All ministers moving into this Network from another district or network to reside shall be required to file with the Secretary a transfer from the former district or network within sixty (60) days.
- c. All members of the Ministry Network are co-workers in God's service and as such will strive to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (1 Corinthians 3:9; Ephesians 4:3). Moreover, to maintain our testimony of the gospel and to honor our Lord, members shall follow scriptural guidelines in communications, disagreements, attitude, and polity.
- d. All ministers shall endeavor to safeguard the churches from unreliable and unsafe teachers and ministers who seek entry into the churches (1 Timothy 1:3-7).
- e. That no minister shall serve on the board of any church of which he is not the Pastor unless such restriction is waived by the Regional Presbyter.

## **Article X. Finances**

### **Section 1. Supervision of Finances**

All finances shall be under the immediate supervision of the Executive Presbytery.

### **Section 2. Ministry Network Support**

- a. The Ministry Network shall be supported by a monthly offering of at least three-fourths (75%) of the tithes of every minister (except Senior-Retired Ministers and World and U.S. Missionaries) from both secular and ministerial income.
- b. Pastors of smaller churches may request through the Regional Presbyter that a portion of the tithe sent to the Ministry Network be returned to the church for a season.
- c. It is recommended that the Ministry Network shall be supported by one percent (1%) of the monthly general fund income of each of the churches of the South Texas Ministry Network.

### **Section 3. Regional Support**

There shall be a Regional Fund to resource the ministry of the Regional Presbytery. The Regional Fund will be administered by the Network Secretary and Treasurer and included in the report to the members in the annual meeting. The management and policy guidelines for this fund is under the Executive Presbytery and outlined in the Ministry Network Operations Manual (Article X, Section 1).

## **Article XI. Local Assemblies**

### **Section 1. Guidelines**

Guidelines for all churches in the South Texas Ministry Network, whether General Council affiliated or Network affiliated, are included in Article XI of the Constitution of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and article VI of the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

**a. Network Affiliated New Work – requirements for affiliation:**

A Network Affiliated New Work Assembly (NANW) is one that has applied for and has received approval to form a new work.

Churches desiring to be affiliated with The South Texas Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God shall meet the following requirements. They shall:

- (1) Accept the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God;
- (2) Adopt a standard of membership that may be determined either by the local assembly or by agreement with the Ministry Network;
- (3) Make provision for a pastor who is a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council and South Texas Ministry Network; and
- (4) Demonstrate a willingness to contribute to Assemblies of God missions.

**(a). Relationship to and support of the General Council and Ministry Network**

A NANW church should cooperate in the work and support the mission and ministry of the General Council and Ministry Network.

**(b). Governance.**

Network Affiliated New Work churches shall be offered care, spiritual support, counsel, and general supervision from the Regional Presbytery. Assistance, if needed, to appoint the necessary officers, etc. is available until such time as the new work congregation gives evidence of sufficient maturity. Churches shall become Network Affiliated Sovereign assembly upon request or directive of the Regional Presbyter.

**(c). Subordinate in matters of doctrine and polity.**

A South Texas Network Affiliated New Work assembly shall recognize that the Ministry Network and The General Council of the Assemblies of God has the right to approve scriptural doctrine and polity and to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and polity and the authority to withdraw its Certificate of Affiliation if deemed necessary. (See Article XI, Section 1, paragraph d. of the General Council Constitution.)

**(d). Right of appeal.**

When in need of counsel or advice, the South Texas Network Affiliated New Work assembly may appeal to the Regional Presbyter for help. It may appeal a decision by the Regional Presbyter to the Regional Presbytery of The South Texas Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God when there is a question whether or not the assembly has received proper help. A further appeal may be made to the Executive Presbytery whose decision shall be considered final.

**b. Network Affiliated Sovereign – requirements for affiliation:**

A Network Affiliated Sovereign assembly is one that has applied for and received official recognition from the Ministry Network and is added to the official list of Network Affiliated Sovereign Churches.

Churches desiring to be affiliated with the Ministry Network shall meet the following requirements. They shall:

- (1) Accept the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God;
- (2) Adopt a standard of membership that may be determined either by the local assembly or by agreement with the Ministry Network;
- (3) Have an active voting membership who shall accept responsibility to maintain scriptural order in the local body, and has demonstrated the capacity for self-governance;
- (4) Adopt Articles of Incorporation, a constitution or bylaws compatible with models recommended or approved governance models that provide for adequate accountability, amenability, and safeguards so that a pastor and/or governing body cannot directly or indirectly exert dictatorial control over a church;
- (5) Provide an adequate number of spiritually qualified individuals to fill the offices of the church called for in its constitution or bylaws; and
- (6) Make provision for a pastor who is a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council and The South Texas Ministry Network; and

(7) Demonstrate a willingness to contribute to Assemblies of God missions.

**(a). Relationship to and support of the General Council and Ministry Network.**

A Network Affiliated Sovereign assembly should cooperate in the work and support the programs of the General Council and Network; these churches have the privilege of sending a delegate to the annual Network meeting.

**(b). Right of self-government (sovereign rights).**

A Network Affiliated Sovereign church has the full 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. The fact it is affiliated with The South Texas Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God shall in no way destroy its rights as above stated or interfere with its sovereignty.

**(c). Subordinate in matters of doctrine and polity.**

A South Texas Network Affiliated Sovereign church shall recognize that the South Texas Ministry Network and The General Council of the Assemblies of God has the right to approve scriptural doctrine and polity and to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and polity and the authority to withdraw its Certificate of Affiliation if deemed necessary. (See Article XI, Section 1, paragraph d. of the General Council Constitution.)

**(d). Right of appeal.**

When in need of counsel or advice, the Network Affiliated Sovereign church may appeal to the Regional Presbyter for help. It may appeal a decision by the Regional Presbyter to the Regional Presbytery when there is a question whether or not the assembly has received proper help. An appeal may be made to the Executive Presbytery whose decision shall be considered final.

**Section 2. Parent Affiliated Assemblies**

Provision shall be made for Parent Affiliated Churches which shall be under the supervision of a parenting church, in accordance with the parenting churches constitution and bylaws.

**Section 3. Cooperating Assemblies**

Provision may be made by the Ministry Network and the General Council Executive Presbytery for the status of a cooperating assembly, which would allow churches that subscribe to Article V. Statement of Fundamental Truth of the General Council Constitution to enter into a cooperative status with the Ministry Network and the General Council on a temporary basis (4-year term, renewable by the request of the local church congregation, at the discretion of the Ministry Network, in cooperation with the General Council Executive Presbytery) before officially affiliating with the Ministry Network and the General Council.

#### **Section 4. Reversion of Property**

The Ministry Network recommends that a reversionary clause be placed in the charter and/or constitution of each church affiliated with the Ministry Network. The following serves as an example:

"In the event this assembly ceases to operate as a church, or ceases to abide by the Tenets of Faith of the Assemblies of God, or ceases to operate in affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc. or the South Texas Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God, then the property shall automatically revert to and be transferred to the South Texas Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God, or its successor in interest, without trust limitations imposed."

### **Article XII. Departments**

#### **Section 1. Authorization**

The departments of the Ministry Network shall be established by the Executive and Regional Presbytery and identified in a Ministry Network Operations Manual approved by the Executive Presbytery. This manual shall set forth the policies, procedures, guidelines, and parameters relating to the operation and structure of all departments and ministries of the Network.

#### **Section 2. Qualifications and Duties of Departmental Ministry Directors**

The qualifications and duties of departmental ministry directors shall be provided for in the Ministry Network Operations Manual approved by the Executive Presbytery. The selection of departmental directors and staff shall be guided by processes defined in the Operations Manual.

### **Article XIII. Pleasant Hills Children's Home**

#### **Section 1. Authorization**

The South Texas Ministry Network shall participate in the regional operation of the Pleasant Hills Children's Home; Fairfield, Texas in cooperation with other districts of the region.

#### **Section 2. Delegation of Authority**

The South Texas Ministry Network delegates its Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and Secretary-Treasurer to serve as trustees or members of the Board of Directors of Pleasant Hills Children's Home.

### **Article XIV. Southwestern Assemblies of God University**

#### **Section 1. Authorization**

The South Texas Ministry Network shall participate in the regional operation of Southwestern Assemblies of God University (SAGU) in Waxahachie, Texas in cooperation with other districts of the region.

#### **Section 2. Delegation of Authority**

The South Texas Ministry Network delegates its General Council Presbyters and one lay representative appointed by the Executive Presbytery to serve as trustees or members of the Board of Regents of SAGU. The lay representative shall be appointed for a two-year (2) term.

The lay representative who serves on the Board of Regents shall also serve on the SAGU Executive Committee of the Board of Regents, along with one of the General Presbyters who has been appointed by the Network Presbytery. Their term on the SAGU Executive Committee shall be for two (2) years.

## **Article XV. Regional Boundaries**

### **REGION 1. — (Formerly San Antonio Section)**

Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, Wilson, Karnes, Atascosa, Medina, Frio, LaSalle, Uvalde, Zavala, Dimmit, Kinney, Maverick, Kendall, Kerr, Bandera, Real, and Edwards Counties

**Brush Country Section:** First A/G, Carrizo Springs; Discover Church, Castroville; Bethel A/G, Devine; First A/G, Karnes City; Hope Church, La Vernia; Grace Bible Church, Lytle; Gateway Fellowship Church, Natalia; First A/G, Pearsall; Living Water Fellowship, Pleasanton; Quemado A/G, Quemado; First A/G, Stockdale

**San Antonio East Section:** Living Hope Church, Boerne; Church in the Wildwood, Canyon Lake; Discovery Church A/G, Cibolo; Revelation Church San Antonio, Garden Ridge; Real Life Community Church, New Braunfels; AGORA Ministries Mission Center, San Antonio; Calvary Temple A/G, San Antonio; Camelot Christian Center, San Antonio; First A/G, San Antonio; Heart of Praise Worship Center, San Antonio; Northwest A/G, San Antonio; Baruch Hashem Congregation, San Antonio; Southeast A/G, San Antonio; Hillcrest A/G, Seguin; Victory A/G, Universal City

**San Antonio West Section:** Gateway Fellowship Church, Bandera; First A/G, Kerrville; Gateway Fellowship Church, Kerrville; Living Waters A/G, Kerrville; Bethel Covenant A/G, San Antonio; City on a Hill A/G, San Antonio; Faith A/G, San Antonio; Gateway Fellowship Church, San Antonio; Gateway Fellowship Espanol, San Antonio; Gateway Fellowship Church Farwest, San Antonio; Gateway Fellowship Church Highlands, San Antonio; Gateway Fellowship Church Westside, San Antonio; Life Church A/G, San Antonio; Motion Church, San Antonio; New Harvest A/G, San Antonio; THREE: 16 Church, San Antonio; Westover Hills A/G, San Antonio; Westover Hills Espanol, San Antonio;

### **REGION 2. — Formerly Corpus Christi & Rio Grande Valley Sections)**

McMullen, Live Oak, Bee, Refugio, Aransas, San Patricio, Nueces, Webb, Duval, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Jim Hogg, Brooks, and Kennedy Counties, Zapata, Starr, Hidalgo, Willacy, and Cameron Counties

**Corpus Christi Section:** First A/G, Alice; Crossroads Church, Aransas Pass; Christian Worship Center, Beeville; Bethel A/G, Corpus Christi; Church of Hope, Corpus Christi; Gateway Christian Center, Corpus Christi; Glad Tidings A/G, Corpus Christi; Grace Temple A/G, Corpus Christi; Spirit Life Fellowship, Corpus Christi; The Lord is Peace Worship Center, Corpus Christi; The NET Fellowship, Corpus Christi; Trinity Worship Center, Corpus Christi; Maranatha A/G, Falfurrias; Victory Fellowship A/G, Gregory; First A/G, Ingleside; King's Way Family Church, Kingsville; First A/G, Mathis; Portland Revival Center, Portland; First A/G, Refugio; First A/G, Rockport; Grace Church A/G, Sinton; Open Fields A/G, Taft; First A/G, Three Rivers



**Laredo Section:** First A/G, Laredo; Gateway A/G, Laredo; Global Impact Prayer House, Laredo; Lighthouse A/G Church, Laredo; New Creation Family Church, Laredo; New Life A/G, Laredo; Pan De Vida Asamblea de Dios, Laredo; Victory Faith Center A/G, Laredo; Rio Bravo Church, Rio Bravo

**Rio Grande Valley Section:** Hosanna A/G, Brownsville; Faith A/G, Combes; Life Ministries Church, Edinburg; Harvest International Church, Edinburg; Redemption Valley Fellowship, Edinburg; Limitless Church, Harlingen; First A/G, McAllen; Rock of Ages A/G, Pharr; Lighthouse A/G, Port Isabel; First A/G, Raymondville; Labors of Love and Hope Church, Weslaco; Mid-Valley A/G, Weslaco

**REGION 3. — (Formerly Victoria & Gulf Coast Sections)**

Fayette, Gonzales, Lavaca, DeWitt, Colorado, Goliad, Victoria, Jackson, Wharton, and Calhoun Counties  
Brazoria, Galveston, and Matagorda Counties

**Brazoria Section:** Faith A/G, Alvin; Faith Family Fellowship, Alvin; Central A/G, Angleton; First A/G, Angleton; Family Worship Center, Bay City; First A/G, Brazoria; Destination Church, Clute; First A/G, Freeport; Jones Creek A/G, Jones Creek; Shady Oaks A/G, Lake Jackson, Access Church, Pearland; Life Point Church, Pearland; His Grace A/G, Sweeney, Gulf Coast Christian Center A/G, West Columbia

**Galveston Section:** Faith A/G, Bacliff; Dominion Church, Dickinson; West Bay A/G, Dickinson, Lighthouse Family A/G, Galveston; New Life Fellowship, Galveston; Mainland A/G, Hitchcock; Living Faith A/G, La Marque; Faith A/G, League City; His Touch A/G, San Leon; Day Spring Church, Santa Fe; Maranatha Christian Center, Santa Fe; First A/G, Texas City; Glad Tidings A/G, Texas City

**Victoria Section:** Tree of Life Church, Bloomington; Live Oak A/G, Columbus; Cuero A/G, Cuero; River of Life The New Beginning, East Bernard; First A/G, Edna; New Life A/G, El Campo; Gateway Fellowship Church, Gonzales; Hallettsville Community Church, Hallettsville; Gospel Lighthouse, La Grange; Nixon A/G, Nixon; New Beginnings, Palacios; New Beginnings A/G, Port Lavaca; Six Mile A/G, Port Lavaca; Fisherman's Chapel, Port O'Connor; First A/G, Seadrift; First A/G, Victoria; Abundant Life Christian Fellowship, Wharton; Faith Christian Fellowship A/G, Yorktown

**REGION 4. — Formerly San Jacinto & Houston Sections**

Washington, Waller, Austin, and Fort Bend Counties, and all that portion of Harris County lying west of the Santa Fe Railroad (along Mykawa Road) H.B. & T. Railroad, and Rock Island Railroad, the portion of Harris County lying east of Santa Fe Railroad (along Mykawa Road), H.B. & T. Railroad, and the Missouri Pacific Railroad and the portion of Liberty County lying South of the Missouri Pacific Railroad and west of the Trinity River, and the portion of Chambers County lying west of the Trinity River

**Northwest Houston Section:** Cornerstone Christian Center, Brenham; The Ark Fellowship, Cypress; Harvest Family Church, Cypress; Iglesia Nueva Vida, Cypress; New Life Church, Cypress; Champion Cowboy Church, Hockley; Divine Mercy A/G, Houston; Faith Assembly Church, Houston; Discover Church, Cypress; Iglesia Fuente De Agua Viva, Houston; Lindale A/G, Houston; The Pursuit Church, Houston; Real Life Church, Houston; Christian City Fellowship, Sealy; Iglesia Esperanza Viva, Tomball; Local Church A/G, Tomball; Tomball A/G, Tomball

**Houston South Section:** Alpha and Omega Assembly, Houston; Amazing Grace Assembly, Houston; Braeswood Church, Houston; Braeswood Church West Campus, Houston; Emmanuel A/G, Houston; Fountain of Life Christian Center, Houston; Gloryland A/G Church, Houston; Living Word Tabernacle, Houston; New Song Fellowship, Houston; Space City Church, Houston; Family Life A/G, Katy; Brave Church, Missouri City; The Source Church, Needville; Friendship Church A/G, Richmond; Embassy Church, Rosenberg; Legacy Church, Stafford; New Pointe Church, Stafford; Firebrand A/G, Sugarland; Victory A/G, Sugarland

**North San Jacinto Section:** First A/G, Channelview; East Houston Revival Center, Channelview; First A/G, Dayton; Old River A/G, Dayton; First A/G, Highlands; Cathedral of Praise, Houston; Coat of Many Colors, Houston; Crossroads Fellowship, Houston; LifeStream Church, Houston; Seeker Hill, Houston; Mercy Gate, Mont Belvieu;

**South San Jacinto Section:** Bayway Drive A/G, Baytown; The Lighthouse, Baytown; New Life Ministries Int'l, Baytown; Trinity Assembly, Baytown; Anchor Church, Deer Park; Faithbridge Church, Deer Park; Galena Park A/G, Galena Park; Christ's Church, Houston; Ebenezer A/G, Houston; Gulf Palms A/G, Houston; First A/G, La Porte; Iglesia Gracia Divina, La Porte; Calvary Chapel A/G, Pasadena; Connect Community Church, Pasadena; Faith A/G, Pasadena; Living Springs A/G, Pasadena; Reach Church, Webster

#### **REGION 5. — (Formerly North Houston Section)**

Walker, Grimes, San Jacinto, and Montgomery Counties, and all that portion of Harris and Liberty Counties north of Rock Island Railroad, H.B. & T. Railroad, and Missouri Pacific Railroad

**Conroe Section:** All Nations' Worship Center, Conroe; Capstone International, Conroe; Cornerstone Church, Conroe; First A/G, Conroe; Living Word, Conroe; Sole Mission/The Resource Center, Conroe; Lone Star Cowboy Church, Montgomery; The River A/G, The Woodlands; One Place, (PAC) Willis; City Church, Houston; The Bridge Church, Houston; First A/G, Huntsville; New Birth A/G (PAC), Huntsville; The Journey Fellowship, New Waverly

**Humble/Cleveland Section:** Bethel A/G, Cleveland; Cross Church, Cleveland; Hi-Way Tabernacle, Cleveland; Lifestyle Community Church, Cleveland; Peace Tabernacle A/G, Cleveland; Simmons Bottom A/G, Dayton; First A/G, Humble; New Life Church on Northpark, Kingwood; Embrace Fellowship Church, New Caney; New Life A/G, Patton Village; Dayspring Church, Porter; Family Deaf A/G, Porter; Grand Parkway Church, Porter; First A/G, Romayor; First A/G, Shepherd; Plum Grove A/G, Splendora; Splendora First A/G, Splendora

**Spring Section:** High Calling Church, Houston; Imperial Valley A/G, Houston; North Side A/G, Houston; Grace Chapel A/G, Magnolia; Life Point Church, Magnolia; Living Waters A/G, Magnolia; Real Church, Pinehurst; Fusion Church A/G, Spring; North Central Church, Spring; Northwood A/G, Spring; Praise and Worship Center of Spring, Spring; Spring First Church, Spring; Springs of Living Waters, Spring; Spring Creek Fellowship Church, Tomball

## **REGION 6. — (Formerly Beaumont & Neches Valley Sections)**

Orange and Jefferson Counties and that portion of Liberty and Chambers Counties lying east of the Trinity River, Tyler, Jasper, Newton, and Hardin Counties

**Beaumont East:** Once City Church, Beaumont; New Birth A/G, Beaumont; Redemption Church, Beaumont; First A/G, Bridge City; Encounter Church, Groves; New Hope Church, Nederland; Community Church, Orange; Encounter Church – Orange County Campus, Orange; Faith Harbor A/G, Port Arthur; Glad Tidings A/G, Port Arthur; The Rock Outreach Center, Port Arthur; Magnolia A/G, Port Neches; Faith A/G, Vidor; River of Life Worship Center, Vidor

**Beaumont West:** Satellite Campus of Cornerstone Community Church, Anahuac; Harvest Church, Daisetta; Bethel A/G, Liberty; Moss Hill A/G, Moss Hill; Cornerstone Community Church, Winnie

**Neches Valley Section:** New Life Church, Batson; Lakeside Christian Fellowship, Brookeland; First A/G, Buna; First A/G, Colmesneil; New Beginnings Church, Evadale; Hillister A/G, Hillister; First A/G, Jasper; First A/G, Kirbyville; Victory A/G, Kirbyville; First A/G, Kountze; Honey Island A/G, Kountze; Little Rock A/G, Kountze; Faith A/G, Lumberton; Mauriceville A/G, Mauriceville; First A/G, Newton; First A/G, Saratoga; Caney Head A/G, Silsbee; First A/G, Silsbee; New Covenant A/G, Silsbee; Oak Grove Harvest A/G, Spurger; Abundant Life Fellowship, Woodville; Grace Community Church, Woodville; Trinity A/G, Woodville

## **Article XVI. Amendments**

### **Section 1. Authorization**

Amendments to the bylaws may be made at any regular meeting of the South Texas Ministry Network. Amendments to be adopted shall require two-thirds of all votes cast.

## **Article XVII. Network Name**

The South Texas Ministry Network functions by a DBA, formerly The South Texas District of the Assemblies of God, Incorporated.

## **Article XVIII. Terminology**

The terminology of the Constitution and Bylaws are intended to express the mission of Jesus Christ, comply with scriptural teachings, and adhere to the Pentecostal distinctive of the Assemblies of God. If any wording, phraseology, or meaning is in question, the intended meaning will always comply and align with the Bible as well as the doctrines and practices of the General Council of the Assemblies of God. These constitution and bylaws are subordinate to the Bible and the General Council of the Assemblies of God.



