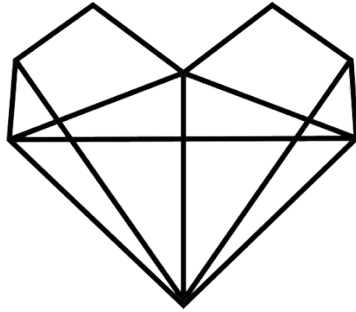


ROCK RIVER COMMUNITY CHURCH



ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS

**First Assembly of God, Inc.
DBA: Rock River Community Church
Luverne, Minnesota**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION	Page
Article 01 Name.....	3
Article 02 Registered Office.....	3
Article 03 Membership.....	3
Article 04 Purposes.....	3
Article 05 Management.....	3-4
Article 06 Affiliation.....	4
Article 07 Non-Profit.....	4
Article 08 Existence.....	4
Article 09 Declaration of Faith.....	5
Article 10 Ordinances.....	5
Article 11 Other Ministries.....	5
Article 12 Property.....	5-6
Article 13 Finances.....	6
Article 14 Board of Trustees.....	6
Article 15 Amendments.....	6
Forms Certificate, Acknowledgment.....	7
Exhibit A Statement of Fundamental Truths.....	8-10
RESTATED BYLAWS	
Article 01 Membership.....	11-13
Sec. 1 Qualifications.....	11
Sec. 2 Members Lifestyle Guidelines.....	11
Sec. 3 Types of Memberships.....	11-12
Sec. 4 Reception of Members.....	12
Sec. 5 Revision of Membership Roll.....	12-13
Article 02 Officers.....	13-15
Sec. 1 Pastor.....	13-14
Sec. 2 Pastor's Assistants.....	14
Sec. 3 Deacons.....	14-15
Sec. 4 Trustees.....	15
Sec. 5 Secretary.....	15-16
Sec. 6 Treasurer.....	16
Article 03 Discipline.....	16-17
Sec. 1 Members.....	16
Sec. 2 Deacons.....	16-17
Sec. 3 Pastor.....	17
Article 04 Finances.....	17
Article 05 Departments.....	17
Article 06 Property.....	17-18
Article 07 Official Meetings.....	18-19
Sec. 1 Business Meetings.....	18-19
Sec. 2 Board Meetings.....	19
Article 08 Relationship.....	19
Article 09 Amendments.....	19
Exhibit A Remedial Procedures.....	20
Definitions.....	21

PURPOSES

The purpose of this corporation shall be to establish and maintain a Missionary and Evangelistic church for the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both in our homeland and in foreign lands, and to provide a place of worship of the Almighty God, our heavenly Father, and to provide for Christian fellowship of those of like faith, where the Holy Ghost may be honored according to our distinctive testimony. The purposes of this corporation shall be charitable, religious, educational or scientific in nature.

ARTICLE 01 NAME

The name of the corporation shall be: First Assembly of God, Inc. DBA: Rock River Community Church, Luverne MN.

ARTICLE 02 REGISTERED OFFICE

The location and post office address of the registered office of this corporation shall be, 1075 110th Ave, City of, Luverne, County of, Rock, State of Minnesota. The name of the registered agent at this address is _____ Corporate Secretary.

ARTICLE 03 MEMBERSHIP

Any person who gives scriptural evidence of the saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, subscribes to the Tenets of Faith as set forth in the attached Exhibit "A", adopted by the corporation, and agrees to be governed by its bylaws as stated here, shall be eligible for membership in this corporation.

ARTICLE 04 PURPOSES

The purpose of this corporation shall be to establish and maintain a Missionary and Evangelistic church for the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both in our homeland and in foreign lands, and to provide a place of worship of the Almighty God, our heavenly Father, and to provide for Christian fellowship of those of like faith, where the Holy Ghost may be honored according to our distinctive testimony. The purposes of this corporation shall be charitable, religious, educational or scientific in nature.

ARTICLE 05 MANAGEMENT

- A. **OFFICIAL MEETINGS:** All meetings of the corporation membership shall be held at the registered office of the corporation, or as otherwise directed by the Board, in the City of Luverne, County of Rock, State of Minnesota.
- B. **ANNUAL MEETING:** The annual meeting of the corporation shall be held as directed and authorized by its bylaws.
- C. **BYLAWS:** This corporation is authorized to adopt and establish bylaws, and to make all rules and regulations deemed necessary and beneficial for the management of its affairs in accordance with its bylaws at a duly called meeting of the members.
- D. **BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** The management of this corporation shall be vested in a Board of Trustees as outlined in its bylaws consisting of at least three (3) members, and not more than seven (7) members in addition to the pastor.
- E. **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:** The officers of this corporation shall be a President, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall, by virtue of office, be members of the Board of Trustees, unless otherwise provided by the bylaws of this corporation. The terms of office shall be a period as designated by the bylaws.

ARTICLE 06 AFFILIATION

While maintaining its inherent rights to autonomy in the conduct of its own affairs, this corporation shall be in cooperative fellowship and affiliation with and a member of the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and affiliated with and a member of The General Council of the Assemblies of God with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri. It shall have the right of representation at the meetings of The General Council and/or Minnesota District Council by a delegate appointed by the church board.

ARTICLE 07 NON-PROFIT

There shall be no capital stock issued and this corporation is not organized for profit, nor shall any person or member derive any benefit whatsoever, nor shall any monetary profit or benefit inure to the members of this corporation, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to reasonable compensation for services tendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article 04 of this document.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation, or is not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

There shall be no personal liability of members for corporate obligations.

ARTICLE 08 EXISTENCE

The duration of this corporation shall be perpetual until the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, for the rapture of His Church.

ARTICLE 09 DECLARATION OF FAITH

The Bible shall be the rule and guide of faith as set forth in the Statement of Fundamental Truths of The General Council of the Assemblies of God of which this corporation is a member, and whose Declaration of Faith it hereby adopts. (See attached Exhibit "A")

ARTICLE 10 ORDINANCES

- A. The ordinance of Baptism in water (Matthew 28:19) shall be administered to all those who have repented of their sins and who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls, and who give clear evidence of their salvation. (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12).
- B. The ordinance of the Lord's supper shall be observed regularly as ordered in the Scriptures. (Luke 22:19, 20, and I Corinthians 11:23-26).

ARTICLE 11 OTHER MINISTRIES

- A. Infants and children may be dedicated to the Lord upon request. (Mark 10: 13-16; Luke 18:15-16).
- B. The sick shall be ministered unto according to Mark 16:18, and James 5:14.

ARTICLE 12 PROPERTY

This religious, non-profit corporation shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, inheritance or otherwise, either directly or as a trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of any real estate or possessions as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes, all in accordance with its bylaws, or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

- A. DIVISION:** In the event of a split or division of the membership of this religious corporation, all property, real, personal or mixed, shall belong to the members who hold to the original tenants of faith and maintain fellowship and affiliation with the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God.

- B. DISSOLUTION:** In the event the corporation should cease to exist as a church and ceases to use its property for church purposes, then in that event the property, real, personal or mixed, shall revert to and become the property of the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God, a non-profit corporation with headquarters in Minneapolis, Minnesota, with full authority to sell this property or use it in any way it sees fit for the cause of Christ. In the event the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God is unwilling or unable to accept the assets at the time of dissolution, it shall become the property of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, With headquarters in Springfield, Missouri. In the event that The General Council of the Assemblies of God is unwilling or unable to accept the assets at the time of dissolution, it shall be distributed for exclusively religious and charitable purposes, to corporations as shall at the time qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

- C. DISAFFILIATION:** In the event the corporation should disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God, then in that event, the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God has the right to assume or not to assume the assets of said corporation, at the District's discretion.

ARTICLE 13 FINANCES

All funds for the maintenance of the corporation shall be provided by voluntary giving of tithes and offerings by the members and friends of the corporation. Offerings shall be received, disbursed, and transactions properly recorded by the corporation at such times and in such manner as authorized by the Board of Trustees, and shall be administered by the treasurer under the direction of the Board. (Malachi 3:10, Luke 6:38, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, 11 Corinthians 9:6-8).

**ARTICLE 14
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The incorporators, which constitute the first Board of Trustees of this reorganized corporation, are:

Reverend _____, MN

Secretary _____, MN

Treasurer _____, MN

_____, MN

_____, MN

_____, MN

_____, MN

**ARTICLE 15
AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to these Articles of Incorporation may be made by a two-thirds vote of members attending, subject to a quorum being present, at any regular or special business meeting. Such amendment shall have been posted in a conspicuous place, in the place of worship for four consecutive Sundays directly preceding such meeting, and that due notice of the date, time, and place of such meeting to amend the Articles of Incorporation shall be made during the regular Sunday services for four consecutive Sundays directly preceding such meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: the undersigned have hereto set their hands and seals at, _____, Minnesota, this (___th) day of 20___.

CERTIFICATE

(STATE OF MINNESOTA)

)ss

COUNTY OF _____

We, the undersigned incorporators of _____ CHURCH OF GOD, do hereby certify:
That on____, __ 20__, at ____PM, a meeting was held of the incorporators and members of the congregation of _____ CHURCH OF GOD located at _____, _____ Minnesota:

That all of the incorporators were present pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 317A of the Minnesota Statutes Annotated, and we, the undersigned incorporators, did associate ourselves as a body corporate, and did adopt the Articles of Incorporation and by-laws as attached hereto; That we further certify that the resolutions adopting the Articles of Incorporation and the attached by-laws were voted upon and were unanimously approved and adopted during the above scheduled meeting.

In Testimony thereof, we the incorporators have hereunto set our hands and our seals this _____ (____th) day of _____, 20____.

(STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF _____

On this day of _____, 20____, before me, a Notary Public within and for said County and State, personally appeared: Rev. _____, Secretary _____, Treasurer _____, _____, _____, _____ and _____, to me personally known to be the persons named in and who executed the foregoing Certificate of Incorporation, and each acknowledged that they executed the Articles of Incorporation as his free act and deed, for the uses and purposes therein expressed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: the above signed have hereto set their hands and seals at _____, Minnesota, this (____th) day of, 20____.

(NOTARY SEAL)

Wesley Duane Vagle
Notary Public, Dakota County
Burnsville, Minnesota
My Commission Expires:

EXHIBIT "A"

GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD 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.

01. THE BIBLE

The Scriptures are Inspired by God and declare His design and plan for mankind. (II Timothy 3:15-17; I Thessalonians 2:13; II Peter 1:21).

02. THE ONE TRUE GOD

There is only One True God—revealed in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (commonly known as the Trinity). (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28: 19; Luke 3:22).

03. THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST

As God's son, Jesus was both human and divine.

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; I 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).

04. THE FALL OF MAN

Though originally good, man willingly fell into sin—ushering evil and death, both physical and spiritual, into the world. (Genesis 1:26,27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19).

05. SALVATION

Every person can have restored fellowship with God through salvation (trusting Christ, through faith and repentance, to be our personal Savior).

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 Ghost, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

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).

06. ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

Water Baptism: Immersion after repenting of one's sins and receiving Christ's gift of salvation.

(Matthew 8:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47,48; Romans 6:4).

Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper): a symbolic remembrance of Christ's suffering and death for our salvation. (II Peter 1:4; I Corinthians 11:26; I Corinthians 11:26).

07. BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a special experience following salvation that empowers believers for witnessing and effective service, just as it did in New Testament times. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; I Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Ghost come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word, and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

08. SPEAKING IN TONGUES

The initial physical evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is 'speaking in tongues,' as experienced on the day of Pentecost and referenced throughout Acts and the Epistles. (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (I Corinthians 12:4-10,28), but different in purpose and use.

09. SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification initially occurs at salvation and is not only a declaration that a believer is holy, but also a progressive lifelong process of separating from evil as believers continually draw closer to God and become more Christlike. (Romans 12:1,2; I Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12).

10. THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

The church has a mission to seek and save all who are lost in sin. We believe 'the church' is the body of Christ and consists of the people who, throughout time, have accepted God's offer of redemption (regardless of religious denomination) through the sacrificial death of His son Jesus Christ.

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; Ephesians 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

11. THE MINISTRY

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the threefold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20), (2) worship of God (John 4:23,24), and (3) building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11,16).

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

Jesus will rapture His church prior to His return to earth (the second coming). At this future moment in time all believers who have died will rise from their graves and will meet the Lord in the air, and Christians who are alive will be caught up with them, to be with the Lord forever. (I Thessalonians 4:16,17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; I 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; 10:1-6). 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

A final judgment will take place for those who have rejected Christ. They will be judged for their sin and consigned to eternal punishment in a punishing lake of fire. (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

16. NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH

We look forward to the perfect New Heavens and New Earth that Christ is preparing for all people, of all time, who have accepted Him. We will live and dwell with Him there forever following His millennial reign on earth. 'And so shall we forever be with the Lord!' (II Peter 3:13; Revelation 21,22).

CHURCH BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 01 | MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Qualifications (updated 4.2021 at business meeting)

Those eligible for membership in this Church must:

- a. Have a testimony of an experience of a "new birth". (John 1:12,13; 3:3-8; I Peter 1:18-25).
- b. Be baptized in water by immersion except where deemed physically impossible. (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47,48; Romans 6:4-6).
- c. Evidence of a consistent Christian life in line with moral principles of Scripture (Exodus 20:1-17; Matthew 5,6,7; Romans 6:4;8:1-4;13:13,14;I Corinthians 6; Galatians 5:19-25; Ephesians 4:17-52; 1 John 1:6,7)
- d. Attend a Membership (Next Steps) Class.
- e. Refrain from being a stumbling block or an offence or an occasion of falling to a weaker Christian (Romans 14:1-15; 1 Corinthians 8; 10:14-11:1)
- f. Contribute regularly to the financial support of this Church with tithes and offerings. (Proverbs 3:9, 10; Malachi 3:8,-11; I Corinthians 16:1, 2; Lev. 27:30-32).
- g. Fully subscribe to all the Tenets of Faith as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation, Exhibit A.
- h. Be at least eighteen years of age.
- i. Not be living in a common-law state of matrimony or living in a homosexual relationship. (Lev. 18:22; Romans 1:21-27; I Corinthians 6:9,10; I Timothy 1:9-10)
- j. Regularly attend the services. (Hebrews 10:25)

Section 2. Members Lifestyle Guidelines:

We acknowledge that every believer is in the process of sanctification. The Bible clearly teaches that there are certain practices-that are not becoming a believer and should be avoided. It is to be the goal of all members of this Church to strive to live by these Biblical standards.

The Bible prohibits specific acts such as stealing, all forms of dishonesty, profane language, gossip, sexual abuses (such as premarital sex, adultery, and homosexual behavior), physical abuse, and occult practices. The Word of God teaches the sacredness of human life and therefore opposes abortion. Scripture encourages openness, trust, patience, generosity, courage and a forgiving spirit. Given the atmosphere where such attitudes prevail, destructive forces such as resentment, hypocrisy, and harmful discrimination (based on race, sex, or economic, status) are overcome. We know that finally we are responsible to God as individuals to control our actions and attitudes in ways consistent with His righteousness and love.

Section 3. Types of Membership

- a. Active:** Members are those who are regular attendees that commit themselves to the active life of the church. They are required to make themselves available to serve where possible and practical. They attend a majority of the primary services of the church. Active members, in good standing for at least three (3) months, are able to vote on matters of the church.
- b. Youth:** Be at least thirteen (13) years old and fulfil all qualifications for membership except the age requirement. A youth member must request active membership status when reaching the age of eighteen (18) to receive voting privileges.
- c. Inactive:** Members who:
- Shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of the Church for a period of three or more consecutive months.
 - Fail to contribute to the support of the Church.
 - May have a spirit of insubordination or be out of harmony with the teachings or ministries
 - Shall be under charges for misconduct.
 - May have fallen under condemnation through sinful or worldly practices. These members shall be considered inactive and shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to the fellowship. Their standing to be established by definite action of the Board of Deacons
- d. Honorary:** Those members who have entered into the ministry either as District Officers, Pastors, Evangelists, Missionaries, Religious Educators, etc. together with those who are serving in the armed forces or attending college away from home which makes it impossible to serve as active members. Also, shut-ins and members in good standing who have moved from the area. Honorary membership shall continue as long as the member maintains a cooperative attitude toward the home Church. Voting privileges may be granted at the discretion of the Board of Deacons.

Section 4. Reception of Members

- a.** Persons desiring to become a member of the Church shall make it known to the Pastor, Deacon, or designated committee.
- b.** After an interview and attending the membership class, the Pastor shall present the names of those who apply for membership along with recommendations to the Board of Deacons, who shall render a decision. Persons who have met the membership requirements and have been approved by the Board of Deacons shall have their names added to the membership list.

Section 5. Revision of Membership Roll

The Board of Deacons shall be authorized to revise the membership roll of the Church periodically and to remove from the list of active members all names of those who may have become deceased since the last revision, together with the names of those who have withdrawn from the fellowship, or who may have fallen into sin and whose lives may have become inconsistent with the standards and teachings of the Church. If a member's name is to be removed for cause, the procedure described in Article 03, Sec. 1. must be followed.

- a. Transfer or Withdrawal:** Members in good standing, who may wish to sever their relationship with the Church, may apply for a letter of transfer or withdrawal signed by the Pastor or Secretary. Such a letter shall be granted upon request and shall be addressed to the Pastor or Secretary of the receiving Church and shall state whether or not the member is in good standing. If the member is not in good standing, reasons shall be given.
- b. Absenteeism:** Any member of the Church who shall willfully be absent from the regular services for a period of three (3) consecutive months, shall be subject to being removed from the Active Membership list. When a name is to be removed from the Active Membership list, the member must be notified in writing of the action at least 15 days prior to making this move. The member may then consent to the action or may give reason orally or in writing why the action should not be taken. An absentee's name may be retained by special request under unusual circumstance.
- c. Conduct:** When a member's name is removed for unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the Tenets of Faith held by this Church, the procedure outlined in Article 03, Sec. 1. must be followed.

ARTICLE 02 | OFFICERS

Section 1. Pastor

- a. Qualifications:** The Pastor of this Church must be a member in good standing with the General Council and the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God. (1 Tim. 3:2-7; Titus 1:6-9; I Pet. 5:2,3).
- b. Responsibilities:** The Pastor is called by God to be a minister and a servant of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Church finds its direction from the Lord Jesus Christ under the leadership of the Pastor as overseer and shepherd of the Church.

The Pastor shall:

1. Equip the Church for the work of the ministry, through training and discipleship, by the preaching and teaching of the Word of God.
2. Be the president of the corporation and shall act as chairman of the business meetings of the Church and of the Board of Deacons/Trustees.
3. Be an ex-officio member of all committees and departments.
4. Approve of all those who are invited to speak or lead in any ministry of the Church, considering the needs and wishes of the Church.

c. Vacancy: In the event a vacancy occurs in the pastorate, the Board of Deacons should seek the counsel and help of the district officials. The pulpit ministry shall be under the supervision of the Board of Deacons until a Pastor is elected by the Church.

d. Elections: When there is a vacancy in the pastorate, the Board of Deacons shall act as a nominating committee. When a candidate they can recommend is found, they shall present the name of the one (1) candidate to the Church to be voted upon. When the candidate receives a two-thirds majority of the votes cast the candidate is elected.

1. Only one nominee shall be considered at any one business meeting. This meeting may be a special meeting or the annual business meeting.
2. All elections shall be by secret ballot.

e. Term of Office: The first term of office shall be for three (3) years. At the expiration of the first term of office, an election shall be held to determine if the pastor shall continue to serve. He shall be elected for an indefinite period of time if he carries a majority of the votes cast. If the pastor is not re-elected to office, the pastor shall receive salary and benefits for up to sixty days or until a new pastorate is located, whichever occurs first.

f. The Pastor and spouse by virtue of office: shall be considered members of the church they serve during the tenure of their ministry and be afforded with the rights, privileges, as well as responsibilities of said membership.

Section 2. Pastor's Assistant(s)

a. Definition: .A Pastor's Assistant includes a staff member that is assigned a ministerial responsibility, but does not include secretarial, clerical, janitorial, or most forms of volunteer help.

b. Qualifications: The Pastor's Assistants shall have the same qualifications as the Pastor as set forth in Sec. 1. (a).

c. Responsibilities: The responsibilities and duties shall be assigned by the Pastor in cooperation with the Board of Deacons.

d. Appointment: The Pastor's Assistants shall be appointed by the Pastor with the approval of the Board of Deacons.

Section 3. Deacons

- a. Qualifications:** A Deacon shall be at least twenty-one (21) years old and shall have been a member of the Church for at least the nine (9) preceding months. Each Deacon shall be full of faith and the Holy Spirit with lives and conduct that conform as closely as possible to the Scriptures. The Board of Deacons shall consist of at least one male and one female. No single gender can make-up the Board of Deacons, not including the Pastor. (Acts 6:3; I Tim. 3:8-13).
- b. Limitations:** No person shall be eligible to serve as Deacon while another immediate family member is serving as Deacon or staff member.
- c. Number of Deacons:** The number of Deacons of this Church shall be at least three (3) but not exceeding (7).
- d. Responsibilities:** The Deacons are to provide counsel and mutual assistance to the Pastor in the administration, business, and work of the Church. As a body, they shall:
1. Act in cooperation with the Pastor in providing counsel in matters pertaining to the spiritual life of the Church and the ministry of its ordinances.
 2. Review all applicants for membership.
 3. Assist in the administration of discipline of members of the Church. See Article 03, Sec. 1.
 4. Perform all the duties of Trustees when a Trustee Board does not exist as a separate board.
 5. Oversee the finances of the Church. Salaries and wages shall be reviewed at least annually.
 6. In the event the Church is without a Pastor, the Board of Deacons shall provide their own Chair from their membership in order to transact business for the Church.
- e. Vacancies:** A vacancy occurs when:
1. A member of the Board of Deacons term is completed.
 2. A member becomes deceased.
 3. A member resigns.
 4. It is determined, by the Board of Deacons, that a member is unable to fulfill the responsibilities of the office because of health or because of a move to a different geographical location.
 5. A Deacon is removed for disciplinary reasons as outlined in Article III, Sec. 2. A special vote may be held to complete an unexpired term at the next regular business meeting or a special meeting may be called to replace the Deacon for the unexpired term. A special meeting may be called at the discretion of the remaining members of the Board of Deacons.

- f. Nominating Committee:** Shall be appointed annually by the Board of Deacons to provide a list of qualified candidates to fill all vacancies. This nominating committee shall consist of at least four (4) but not more than six (6) members in addition to the Pastor who shall be an ex-officio member of the committee. At least one (1) but not more than two (2) members of this committee shall be from the Board of Deacons. Nominating Committee members' names shall be announced and posted for two (2) weeks before nominees are selected to allow input from interested members of the Church. There shall be no nominations from the floor.
- g. Term of Office:** The term of office shall be for three (3) years and if possible, shall be arranged so that one-third (1/3) of the terms shall expire each year. A deacon may serve two (2) consecutive terms, but shall permit his/her name to stand for ratification for at least one-year form the expiration of his/her second term.
- h. Selections:** All qualified and approved nominees shall be elected by majority of votes by members of the church at the annual or during a special business meeting.

Section 4. Trustees

- a. The Board of Deacons:** will serve as Trustees of the Corporation unless a separate Board of Trustees is selected. When a separate Board of Trustees is selected, Sec. 3 will apply for selection, term of office, and vacancies.
- b. Qualifications:** Members of the Board of Trustees shall be members in good standing.
- c. Responsibilities:** The Board of Trustees shall:
 - 1. Serve the Church in the selling or acquiring of property as outlined in Article 07.
 - 2. Be custodians of all property of the Church.
 - 3. Be responsible for its maintenance and cleanliness for the comfort of the congregation.
- d.** In the event the membership of the Board of Trustees falls below the number of three (3) required by law, the Pastor may appoint a Trustee to serve until an election can be held.

Section 5. Secretary

- a. Qualifications:** The Secretary should be one with clerical ability, faithfulness in character, and possessing a spirit of cooperation.
- b. Responsibilities:** The Secretary shall:
 - 1. Keep the minutes of all board meetings.
 - 2. Keep the minutes of all business meetings of the Church.
 - 3. Keep a record of the membership of the Church.
 - 4. Have charge of all legal documents.
 - 5. Have responsibilities for all clerical work necessary for these duties.

c. Selection: The office of Secretary shall be filled from the members of the Board of Deacons or Board of trustees by consensus at the first meeting of the Board of Deacons following the annual meeting. if such a person is not available from the Board the Board may appoint an assistant to the Secretary to perform the clerical tasks.

d. Term of Office: The term of office shall be for one (1) year.

Section 6. Treasurer

a. Qualifications: The Treasurer should have a good financial understanding, faithful in character, and possessing a spirit of cooperation.

b. Responsibilities: The Treasurer shall:

- a. Keep an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements.
- b. Provide a financial statement or report at all regular meetings of the Board of Deacons and Board of Trustees.
- c. Provide a summarized statement at the annual business meeting.
- d. Other treasurers may be appointed for special fluids or departments.

c. Selection: The office of Treasurer shall be filled from the members of the Board of Deacons or Board of Trustees by consensus at the first meeting of the Board of Deacons following the annual meeting. If such a person with financial capabilities is not available, a Financial Secretary may be appointed to assist the Treasurer.

d. Term of Office: The term of office shall be for one (1) year.

ARTICLE 03 | DISCIPLINE

Section 1. Members

a. Purpose. In accordance with Article 01, Sec. 4, (c), this Church is committed to uphold its standards of faith and conduct considered to be acceptable and to keep under control unacceptable doctrines and conduct. It is important that members comply with these standards. A remedial process has been adapted by this Church to deal with the violations in accordance with the scriptural procedures hereinafter set forth.

b. A member's name may be removed from the Active Membership list for cause. However, no such action shall be taken until patient and persistent effort has been made to win such member back to the standard of faith and conduct upheld by this Church. (Gal. 6:1)

c. Remedial Procedures (To comply with Minnesota Statutes Annotated 317k411 or as thereafter amended) See Exhibit "A".

Section 2. Deacons

A vacancy in any office of the church (Deacon, Secretary, or Treasurer) may be declared whenever the incumbent has been disqualified by unscriptural conduct, by a spirit of insubordination, or by a change in belief contrary to the Tenets of Faith Such action shall require at least a sixty percent (60%) majority vote of the other members of the Board of Deacons.

The accused office holder may by request appeal to the congregation. When requested, a special business meeting shall be called to be held within 30 days of the time the appeal is made. Said meeting time and purpose to be announced at least three (3) consecutive Sundays immediately prior to the meeting. A Deacon's office may be declared vacant by a sixty percent (60%) majority of the active voting members present at such a meeting.

Section 3. Pastor

If at any time a situation should arise, where due to unscriptural conduct a change in doctrinal views, or inefficiency, the Board of Deacons believes a Pastor can no longer serve the Church acceptably, it shall be the duty of the Board of Deacons by board action, or upon exercise of the right of initiative by the Church, to call a special meeting of the Church, duly announced at least three (3) consecutive Sundays. The Office of Pastor may be declared vacant by a sixty percent (60%) majority of the active voting members present at such a meeting.

Such action on the part of the Church is not to be considered as affecting the standing of the Pastor with the General Council fellowship.

ARTICLE 04 | FINANCES

Section 1. General

The Church shall be financed by the scriptural system of tithes and offerings. A Treasurer or Financial Secretary shall keep a written account of all finances. Malachi 3:10, Luke 6:38, 1 Cor. 16:1,2.

Section 2. Missions

The Church will support World Missions through regular Mission offerings.

ARTICLE 05 | DEPARTMENTS

Section 1. General

There shall be a Christian Education Department and a Youth Department. Other Departments (Women Ministries Department, Men's Ministries Department, etc.), may be added as needed.

ARTICLE 06 | PROPERTY

Section 1.

The Board of Deacon, as Trustees, shall have the oversight of all real and personal property of the Church.

Section 2.

All property, real or personal, shall be held in corporate name.

Section 3.

Personal property of the Church may be acquired, sold, leased, exchanged, mortgaged, encumbered, or otherwise assigned or transferred by the officers of the Board of Deacons, as Trustees, with authorization from the Board of Deacons.

Section 4.

No real property shall be acquired, sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated until:

1. The Board of Deacons, as Trustees, shall have approved a resolution recommending the sale, exchange, mortgage, encumbrance, or other disposition of real property.
2. Such resolution is submitted for adoption by the members at an official business meeting with due notice for three (3) successive Sundays immediately preceding the meeting by church publication and announcement. Notice of said meetings shall state the purpose for such meeting.
3. The resolution is recommended by a vote of at least two-thirds of the voting members present.

Section 5.

Upon passing of the above resolution, the Board of Deacons, through its elected officers, as Trustees, shall complete the documents necessary to fulfil the wishes of the Church.

Section 6.

Use of the Church Facilities (added 3/20/12)

The use of the church facilities shall be available only to the members of the church and only for the purposes consistent with the doctrine, beliefs, and mission of the church. Consequently, uses and activities that are contrary to the church's historical and established understanding of biblical precepts and teachings will not be permitted. Therefore, marriage ceremonies that involve non-members, unbelievers, homosexuals, lesbians, and any civil union between same sex gender persons, whether or not permitted by civil law, are contrary to the church's religious beliefs and convictions and are expressly forbidden. The pastor and the board of deacons shall have sole and exclusive discretion on all decisions regarding request for church use.

ARTICLE 07 | OFFICIAL MEETINGS

Section 1. Business Meetings

- a. The annual business meeting** shall be held in the month of March at such time and place as the Board of Deacons shall decide, for the election of officers as well as other matter pertaining to the business of the Church. Due notice of said meeting shall be given for at least three (3) successive Sundays immediately preceding it, by church publication and by announcement.
- b. Special business meetings** may be called by the Pastor, the Board of Deacons, or any ten (10) members of the Church who sign a petition and place it in the hands of the Pastor or Secretary of the Board of Deacons. Special meetings called by petition must be scheduled between fourteen (14) and forty (40) days of its receipt. Due notice shall be given for three (3) successive Sundays immediately preceding the meeting by church publication and announcement. Notice of said meetings shall state the purpose for such meeting.
- c. Quorum:** The active voting members of the Church present at a business meeting shall constitute a quorum.
- d. Absentee Voting** (added 3/20/2012)
Absentee voting will be extended to active members, who request an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots will be submitted in a sealed envelope before the actual voting day.
- e. The business** of the Church shall be decided by a majority of the voting members present at any of its regular or special meetings except as specified herein.
- f. Business meetings** of the Church (Church Corporation) shall be governed by the acceptable rules of parliamentary procedure in keeping with the spirit of Christian love, and fellowship.

Section 2. Board Meetings

- a. The Board of Deacons shall meet at least once a month at such time and day as agreed upon.
- b. A majority of the Board of Deacons being present at any of their meetings shall be considered a quorum.

Section 3. Private Meetings

No member, or any number of members, shall conduct any private meeting with divisive intent (Rom. 16:17,18; Titus 3:10,11)

ARTICLE 08 | RELATIONSHIP

This Church shall be in cooperative fellowship with the General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God as stated in the Articles of Incorporation.

ARTICLE 09 | AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended at any regular or special business meeting of the Church by a majority vote of the membership present.

EXHIBIT "A" Remedial Procedures

(To Comply with Minnesota State Statute Annotated 317.411)

1. "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over." (Matt. 18:15) The information will be kept in strict confidence and the Pastor may assist.
2. If the alleged violation continues, another warning of such violation should be given him in the presence of two (2) other witnesses.
3. If the member continues in the alleged violation after steps (1) and (2) have been taken, a complaint shall be filed with the corporate Secretary, requesting a hearing of this matter by the Board of Deacons. If after investigation, the Board does not deem the evidence conclusive, the Board may exercise its discretion to dismiss the action. See Man. 18:17 and Bylaws Article 02. Sec. 3, (d).
4. The Board of Deacons, having officially received the complaint, shall schedule a hearing for the purpose of resolving the issue of violation and membership.

- 5.** The Secretary shall mail a notice of the hearing not less than 15 days from the date of the hearing to the complainant and the alleged violator. The notice shall set forth the date, time, place, and purpose of this hearing. The notice should instruct the parties to be fully prepared with their evidence and witnesses relating to the issues. The alleged violator may be heard orally or in writing.
- 6.** Hearing
 - a.** The Pastor is the Chairman who conducts the hearing.
 - b.** Standards are found in the Articles of Incorporation, Tenets of Faith and Bylaws. Guidelines from the Scriptures include Matt. 18:15-18; Rom. 16:17,18; I Cor.5:1-5, 11; II Cor. 2:6, 7; II Thess.3:11-15.
 - c.** Each party has the right to ask questions of the other party in the order directed by the Chairman of the hearing.
 - d.** After receiving all of the evidence during a fair hearing wherein the proof of the allegations were presented, the Board of Deacons, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its members present, may remove the name of a member from the membership record. Such removal of the name is effective seven (7) days after the Board decision has been issued. If an appeal is made, such member shall be temporarily suspended from active voting membership pending the action of the Church.
 - e.** The decision of the Board of Deacons shall stand unless reversed by a majority vote of the membership present at a Church (corporation) business meeting.
- 7.** The disciplined party has a right of such appeal to the membership of the Church. Such application for an appeal hearing shall be filed with the Secretary within seven (7) days from the date the Board of Deacons issued its decisions to remove the name of the disciplined member from the membership record. The Church has no jurisdiction to hear the matter if the time for appeal by the disciplined party has expired, and the action of the Board of Deacons will stand.
- 8.** A special meeting of the Church to conduct this appeal hearing must be called within thirty (30) days from the date the appeal is filed. A decision by the majority vote of the members present at such a meeting shall be final with no further appeal.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. **Articles of Incorporation:**

Articles of Incorporation is a document filed with the State of Minnesota by the Church electing to be governed by the Minnesota Corporation Law, which empowers the Church to act as a legal entity, allowing it to transact business like a natural person. (See Article 01, Sec. 1, (g).

2. **Board of Directors:**

The Board of Directors consists of the Pastor and duly elected Directors. Directors shall act in an advisory capacity and work in cooperation with the Pastor in all matters pertaining to the Church in its spiritual life and in the ministry of its ordinances. (See Article 02, Sec. 3.)

3. **Board of Trustees:**

The Board of Directors shall be the Board of Trustees and shall manage all of the affairs, property, and business of the church corporation. (See Article 02, Sec. 4.)

4. **Bylaws:**

Corporation provisions relating to the management or regulation of the affairs of the corporation consistent with the law and the Articles of Incorporation.

5. **Church:**

A congregation incorporated under the religious (MSA 315) or non-profit (317A) corporation statutes of the State of Minnesota, and affiliated with the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God. (See Article 01 Sec. 1.)

6. **Common Law State of Matrimony:**

In the State of Minnesota, a Common Law Marriage occurs when contracted without a marriage license; and not contracted in the presence of two witnesses; and not solemnized by one authorized by the laws of the State. Such marriages are null and void in Minnesota. (See Article 01, Sec. I, (j).

7. **Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God:**

Legal and corporate name for the association of churches and ministers that make up the Minnesota District is the Minnesota District Council of the Assemblies of God. (See Article 02, Sec. 1, (a).

8. **Ex-officio Member:**

A member by virtue of office or position. (See Article 02, Sec. 1, (b), (4).

9. **General Council of the Assemblies of God:**

The legal, corporate name of the central governing body of the United States affiliates of the Assemblies of God ministers and churches, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri. (See Article 02, Sec. 1, (a).

10. **Membership Roll:**

Any person eighteen (18) years of age, or more, whose name has been submitted to the Board of Directors of this church corporation for its consideration and approval, and has been received into the Church publicly shall be included in a record known as the membership roll. (See Article 01, Sec. 4.)

11. **Ordinances:**

A religious rite or ceremony. (See Article 02, Sec. 3, (c), (1).